

treasury in exercise of his discretion, may redeem in either gold or silver.

Section 4 makes it unlawful for any national bank to issue bank notes and all acts authorizing all such issues are repealed. It is made the duty of the secretary within twelve months to sell the United States bonds deposited in the treasury by the national banks to secure circulation in case the national banks retire their circulation or go out of business and after redeeming the coin notes hereby authorized, outstanding notes or currency as provided by the national bank act, the surplus is to be also paid in coin notes to the banks owning bonds in the amounts respectively due them.

Section 5 requires the secretary of the treasury to have coined, as fast as possible, the silver bullion held in the treasury purchased under the Sherman act of 1890, including the gain or seigniorage, and this coin is to be used in payment of public expenditures and for the redemption of coin notes authorized by this act.

Section 6 provides that when the revenues of the government are not sufficient to meet its current expenses, the secretary of the treasury shall issue a sufficient amount of coin notes to cover this deficiency, and all laws authorizing the future issue of interest-bearing bonds of the United States are repealed except as otherwise provided. This section also provides that if the gold in the treasury at the time the act shall take effect does not amount to that held to redeem gold certificates, the secretary is directed to sell United States bonds at not less than par of gold coin, not to exceed 3 per cent interest, redeemable after 5 years, but no greater amount of such bonds are to be sold than may be necessary to procure for the treasury the full amount of \$100,000,000 in gold.

Section 7 provides that silver bullion brought to any mint of the United States for coinage shall be received and coined into standard dollars, 412½ grains; but no deposit of silver bullion of less value than \$100 shall be received, nor shall any bullion be received that is so bare as to be unsuited for the operations of the mint.

The director of the mint is to retain as seigniorage and to cover into the treasury the difference between the New York price and the coined price of the bullion, and this is to be paid out by the secretary of the treasury in the current expenditures of the government.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Frank Mason, United States consul at Frankfort, has submitted to the department of state a most interesting report on anti-toxin, the new curative and preventative of diphtheria. He explained that he is impelled to do this because the subject is about to engage the attention of Congress, because of the large number of inquiries for detailed information concerning anti-toxin, and because at Frankfort is the only establishment where it has been produced commercially in quantities adequate to meet the rapid increase in demand. He suggests the early publication of the report.

Mr. Mason gives a clear and detailed description of every step in the process of production of the new remedy, preceded by an accurate history of the discovery and its developments. The

factory at Frankfort to which he refers is the "Farbroerke" at Hoechst-on-Main.

Sheep and goats at first employed to produce the serum, were discarded because their tissues were affected by the various foods they consumed and recourse was had to horses. The establishment now utilizes the blood of seventy-six horses and has a trained corps of more than fifty men employed at this one work, producing at present about 2,000 doses per day, and by the end of this month it will supply the demand. It is absolutely requisite that the horse be young, vigorous and physically perfect and no racing stud was ever better housed, exercised, fed and cared for. The anti-toxin improves with age, at least during the first two months, and the German physicians no longer use it fresh, when it is apt to cause a skin eruption.

An early application, however, is of the utmost importance. In seventy-two cases of children treated within two days of the first appearance of diphtheria, but two cases were fatal and the death rate in such cases is placed at four per cent. In Germany where the fatal cases used to average sixty per cent and not less than 5,000 lives were annually sacrificed to the diphtheria scourge, the mortal list has been reduced to less than one-fourth and it will be still further reduced when the country physicians use it freely. A serious epidemic of diphtheria at Trieste has been practically mastered by anti-toxin.

CHICAGO, Jan. 12.—Postmaster Heesing is now in almost daily receipt of pathetic letters from poverty-stricken people in Nebraska for aid of any kind or for employment which will afford them a means of gaining a livelihood. The crops in western Nebraska were a total failure and the degree of destitution there is beyond comprehension to one who has not actually witnessed it. Here is a specimen letter received:

HAGLER, Neb., Jan. 8.

Dear Ladies:

Not knowing any one person, I will first say ladies. For the first time in my life I ask for help. I am 47 years old and have always been able to manage in some way to clothe myself and family until now. We have but two dollars on our part of the country and are in a very destitute condition. I ask you to kindly assist me by sending anything in the way of clothing or bed clothes, shoes or anything which you may be pleased to send. I have nothing with which to pay you for your kindness but thanks and my very weak prayers. I feel sure that God will reward you let you be whom you may. I live in Northwestern Kansas, but my nearest railroad station is Hagler. Signed

MRS. A. M. CRABTREE.

VICTORIA, B.C., Jan. 13.—Hawaiian advisors are as follows:

A letter suggesting that the government at once send a special annexation envoy to Washington city was presented to President Dole and the executive council on December 31st by the American League. The petition is a strong one and makes several telling points. It sets forth that since the question of the islands was in Congress before, many fresh facts have come to light and many members of the Sen-

ate and House have changed their minds upon the subject. In every instance the alteration of views has been from hostility to friendliness for Hawaii. Even the administration now has ample and justifiable grounds for treating the matter differently and is now in possession of reliable data. In 1893 it acted upon misinformation.

LONDON, Jan. 13.—A terrific gale, accompanied by a heavy snowfall, prevailed throughout the country Saturday night. The cold was intense. The snowdrifts in some places were twelve feet deep. The mail carts were stopped. The drivers who attempted to make their trips suffered terribly. The highways are blocked and railway traffic is delayed. The telegraph lines are down in all directions. All the cross-channel steamers were hours late. The Cunard line steamer Lucania, from Liverpool yesterday for New York, arrived at Queenstown three and a half hours late. Several vessels are ashore on the coast of Wales.

BRADFORD, Pa., Jan. 13.—A 6:45 this morning fire broke out in the Sheehan House, 99 Mechanic street. The cause of the fire is said to have been an overheated stove. When Chief Ripp arrived on the scene, he saw that the conflagration was one that would necessitate the force of the entire department, so a general alarm was sent in and the independent companies arrived quickly. Considerable time was lost in getting water on account of the severe cold weather, which froze some of the drops in the hydrants.

The fire spread rapidly to the adjoining wooden buildings, occupied by Mrs. Peterson, who lived upstairs and was the owner of the property. The two buildings on Mechanic street, the Columbia block, the Nussbaum block, Mr. Rosstein, pawnbroker, and Smith Bros., grocery.

A number of firemen are suffering from frozen hands and feet. The fire raged four hours and it was with the most heroic work of the fire department that it was prevented from spreading. A high wind was blowing and the thermometer registered zero, making it difficult work for the department.

The total losses were about \$75,000, insurance \$35,000. One hundred firemen were frost-bitten.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Jan. 14.—Advices from Australia received today show the Coolgardie gold fields, in isolated western Australia, are at the height of their boom. No less than 120 companies have been floated in London and 2,000 leases have been filed by Australians. There is a craze over stocks and prices are asked which only phenomenal returns can justify. It is a rich man's camp and the poor prospector, unless he was on the field early, stands small show. Despite the fact that camel trains are regularly run across the desert the supply of drinking water is utterly inadequate and boring for artesian water has not been successful. Many prospectors have perished on the desert and even in Coolgardie itself many deaths occurred from thirst. The mercury at this season rises to 120 in the shade and the heat is made more fierce by the absence of trees. The condition of the camp is so alarming that the government will probably be called on to check the rush of gold seekers until the water supply can be increased.