

## AT HOME AND ABROAD.

New York, Feb. 18.—Miss Frances E. Willard, president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, died shortly after midnight this (Friday) morning at the Hotel Empire, this city. At the bedside of Miss Willard at the time of her death were her nieces, Mrs. W. W. Baldwin, Mrs. L. M. Stevens, vice president of the W. C. T. U.; Miss Anna M. Gordon, Miss Willard's secretary, and Dr. Alfred K. Hill. Miss Willard had been ill for about three weeks. Dr. Hill made the following statement tonight:

Chicago, Ills., Feb. 19.—For thirty minutes today the wheat market was the scene of more excitement than has been witnessed since the bull campaign in wheat started some months ago. May wheat opened at 103½ @ 104, and at one time sold at 109, the highest point reached during the recent December squeeze, and an advance of 5½ over yesterday's figure. July showed equal strength, bringing 94½, when May was at its highest point.

The market was strong from the start on confirmation of the reported sales in Europe of 4,000,000 bushels of Leiter's wheat and on reports of the shipment of 500,000 bushels Leiter wheat at Duluth all rail to the seaboard.

About an hour from the close an attempt to protect weekly "calls" brought out the fact that the market was practically bare of offerings. Prices began to advance rapidly under anxious bidding. At the same time Allen and Grier, Leiter's brokers, crowded July. Call for margins came in and the pit from a condition of comparative quiet became a perfect bedlam.

It was impossible to buy wheat, and prices jumped ½ a cent at a time as shorts tried to cover. At the top longs realized heavily and prices broke sharply, but shorts had been so thoroughly frightened that fluctuations were rapid and violent to the close. May wound up at 106 bid, an advance of 2½ cents. July closed 3½ cents higher at 92½.

Chicago, Feb. 19.—The Journal today says: It is pretty well established in inside circles about the board of trade that within the past ten days there has been turned into cash in two Chicago banks on La Salle street about \$6,000,000 for Joe Leiter's account. This is confirmation of the sale of the wheat within 48 hours ocean tonnage has been taken at a very low rate on four million bushels to the leading English ports. Favored people, who had the tip on the heavy deposits with the banks, were getting all the wheat possible on soft spots yesterday.

Montreal, Feb. 19.—Joseph A. Mercer, brother of the late premier, backed by immense capital has just concluded a deal with the government by which he has the sole right to dredge 240 miles of rivers in the heart of the Klondike district.

The arrangement is from five to eight miles on each side of the river in the Klondike district. An immense sum of money has been paid for the privilege, but the present owners of these have no intention of operating them themselves. The idea is simply to launch the scheme on the London and American markets, and Mr. Mercer says that while for the present the names of the men interested are not to be made public, they are mostly New Yorkers, and it will undoubtedly be mostly New York money that will handle the deal for the present. A cable from London says Londoners approve the scheme, as it is known there that gold lies in the beds of all the rivers, but the English require further particulars before investing their money.

"That means," said Mr. Mercer,

"that American capital will control fully two-thirds of the undertaking."

It is estimated that between \$500,000 and \$600,000 will be paid for the lease before the actual dredging commences.

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 19.—The final step in the program of the sale of the Kansas Pacific railroad was taken today when the entire line from Kansas City to Denver was sold under the consolidated mortgage for \$8,000,000. Judge W. D. Cornish read the decree and offered the property for sale. Mr. Alvin W. Kech bid it in for \$8,000,000.

But few people outside of railroad men and attorneys interested in the matter were present at the sale today. The party arrived at the Union Pacific depot a few minutes before 11 o'clock, and just at the hour Judge Cornish started to read the decree of foreclosure under the consolidated mortgage. When he finish, Mr. Kech offered the sum of \$8,000,000 for the reorganization committee, and the matter was ended. This completes the sale of the Kansas Pacific road and all liens against the property, government and otherwise, are now wiped out.

The attorneys and railroad men will leave Topeka for their respective homes this afternoon.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Feb. 19.—Instead of closing the commonwealth side of the Lattimer case today, as had been expected, District Attorney Martin was obliged to ask the court to adjourn until Monday. He said that attachments had been issued for two important witnesses, that they could not be found, and probably would not be produced until Monday. Only two witnesses were heard this morning, John A. Quazzo, who was shot in the foot at Lattimer, and Mrs. Cary Gallagher, the mother of Miss Grace B. Coyle, the school teacher. Their testimony was not important.

London, Feb. 19.—The Saturday Review confirms the report that the Chinese loan will, after all, be made by Great Britain and says:

"We are informed that the preliminary contract has actually been signed. The delay in the fulfillment is caused by the Chinaman's joy in dallying over a bargain."

The foreign office does not confirm the statement of the Saturday Review.

Lima, Peru, via Galveston, Feb. 19.—The press of Buenos Ayres says the complaints as to the inefficiency of the Chilean army published in the Chilean newspapers are intended as a ruse to deceive the Argentine government.

Vice President Billingshurst of Peru has left Valparaiso for Vinamar and there is considerable anxiety to ascertain if the disputes between Peru and Chili have been satisfactorily adjusted.

London, Feb. 21.—Great activity is manifested by the colonial office, the West African department, and among the high military officers who are going out to the Lagos Hinterland. The latter are inclined to discredit the news which reached Akassa Niger coast protectorate yesterday, to the effect that two French expeditions are advancing towards Sokoto, capital of the sultanate of that name, which is within the British sphere of influence, but adds that if the news should be confirmed it must be followed by a declaration of war.

The St. James Gazette, commenting on the subject, says:

"If the invasion of Skoto is directed from Paris it admits but of one interpretation and the seriousness of the situation is increased when it is remembered that these invasions of British territory must have been planned weeks ago, before the present ferment in Paris over Dreyfus. It would appear

that the French cabinet, foreseeing the revelations which would be caused by the trial of M. Zola, had determined to bring affairs in Africa to a crisis to secure a renewal of its popularity.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 21.—In the case of William Grice and others under indictment in Texas for violating the anti-trust law of that state, the U. S. Supreme court today held that the federal circuit court had interfered in granting a writ of habeas corpus when no proper exigency arose for such interference, and therefore reversed the decision, remanding the prisoners to the custody of the state officials. The court did not enter upon the merits of the anti-trust law.

St. Louis, Feb. 21.—A special to the Globe-Democrat from Montrey, Tex., says:

The new wharf at Tampico, constructed by the Central Railroad under government supervision, was totally destroyed by fire Sunday.

The fire started in a box car on the east end of the wharf and quickly spread to the sheds. The cause of the fire is unknown. The Ward Line steamer Yumuri was along side the wharf and turned the first stream on the fire, but without avail, and to escape the flames she had to steam up the river. T. C. Robinson, the engineer in charge, while fighting the fire was injured by falling timbers and will probably die. The construction of the wharf was commenced in July, 1896, and it was to be one of the finest on the Spanish coast. Its length was 2,576 feet, and all is burned.

The custom house, under construction and nearly completed, was damaged to the extent of about \$800,000.

The total loss on wharf, custom house and merchandise is nearly \$2,000,000, fully insured.

New York, Feb. 12.—The World says: Rear Admiral Francis M. Bunce U. S. N., commandant of Brooklyn navy yard, and until a few months ago commander-in-chief of the North Atlantic squadron, to which the Maine was attached, studied pictures of the wreck of the Maine with interest.

"Can you tell from the pictures whether a mine or magazine explosion caused the wreck?" he was asked.

"No," he replied. "We don't want to know what there is above the water line. What we want to know is what is below the line."

"Do you think that the cause of the accident will be known as soon as the divers have been sent down?"

"I think it will be necessary to raise the Maine before they can ascertain the cause of the explosion. he water in the bay of Havana is unusually dark. I don't think a diver could see very far under water; certainly he could not see well enough to be able to tell what caused the explosion."

"Electric lights might be used; but I don't think they will furnish sufficient light to enable the diver to see as well as he should raise in order to ascertain the cause."

Admiral Bunce said it would be necessary to suspend judgment and to wait until the report of the court of inquiry is completed. Until such time the admiral said nobody can tell how the Maine was blown up.

Other officers who were seen in the navy yard concurred with Admiral Bunce, saying that it would be necessary to wait until the Maine could be raised before forming an opinion as to the cause of the blowing up.

The officers called attention to the fact that divers alone could not tell how the Maine was lost. He said that the divers who were accustomed to working around wrecked steamships had no experience in looking into wrecked warships, especially warships of the modern class.

It was said that it might be necessary for some of the members of