

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9.—Much importance is attached to a communication published in the Official Messenger, which abandons the candidature of Prince George of Greece for the governorship of the island of Crete, threatens all concerned, declines all responsibility for the consequences of further dragging the question and says Russia will not allow any increase in the number of Turkish troops in Crete, or be a party to any coercion of the Cretans.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Feb. 9.—When court opened this morning for the trial of Sheriff Martin and his deputies, Judge Woodward spoke to the jurors about receiving letters bearing upon any point in the trial. He said: "If you receive any letters with reference to the trial, whether anonymous or signed, it is your duty to hand them over to the district attorney, and you must not allow them to make any impression on your mind."

The first witness called today was John Yourshekowitsl, one of the Harwood-strikers. He said that on September 9, the strikers held a meeting at Harwood, and they understood that if they could get the Lattimer miners to join them they would win the strike. They decided not to carry anything having the semblance of weapons and to behave quietly and peaceably. At West Hazelton, he said, they met the sheriff and the deputies, who pushed them around with guns and hit several of them. One man, and the witness pointed out Deputy Aplatt, tore down their flag. At Lattimer, the sheriff stopped them, hit two men in the front rank and tried to fire his revolver. It snapped twice and then exploded. Right away there was a volley of shots from the deputies and many of the strikers fell. On cross-examination, witness said that at West Hazelton the sheriff got hold of his coat and pushed his revolver in his face, saying: "I am the sheriff of Luzerne county, and you cannot go to Lattimer." "I did nothing; I was frightened."

Zanesville, O., Feb. 9.—The meeting of Ohio brick manufacturers held here last night to form a combine to maintain prices at a point which would insure profit on the year's business, was attended by a score of leading manufacturers of the state. Instead of reaching an agreement, however, the meeting broke up in confusion over a fight between John C. Bolen and E. N. Hatcher of this city, who used chairs and flats freely but were not very seriously hurt. The fight was precipitated by the charge that it was useless to form a combine when Zanesville manufacturers were cutting throats. Another meeting will be held some time in the future.

Pretoria, Transvaal, Feb. 9.—Paul Krueger has been re-elected president of the South African republic.

Denver, Colo., Feb. 9.—Judge LeFevre, of the district court, after almost daily consideration of the water rates for the past three months, today rendered his decision fixing the rates to be charged consumers of water by the Denver Union Water Co., under the provisions of its franchise. The schedule fixed is in many instances an increase over that previously in force, the decision being a complete victory for the company. The fixed schedule is the average of the rates charged in Chicago, St. Louis and Cincinnati.

San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 9.—A special cablegram to the Evening Post from San Jose de Guatemala this morning announces that President Barrios has been assassinated, but that calm now prevails.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Senor Lejo Ariga, the Guatemalan minister to the United States, this afternoon received an official cablegram from the minister of foreign affairs of Guatemala announcing the assassination of President Barrios, and the succession to the presidency of Vice President Manuel Estrada Cabrera. No details whatever are given.

Montivideo, Feb. 9.—Dr. Sarenelli, who discovered a serum to prevent yellow fever, has left here for Brazil to conduct extensive experiments in the state of San Paulo and other points where yellow fever is raging now. Before leaving Dr. Sarenelli, in order to fully test his serum made three injections upon himself. According to Dr. Sarenelli, the injections were made to prove that applications of the serum can be made without danger.

La Prensa of Buenos Ayres in commenting upon Dr. Sarenelli's test upon himself, says that although he has never made known the composition of the serum, this act is more significant than any other of the declaration.

There have been great losses to the army of Brazil because of the cholera which has appeared in many places. Advice from Rio Janiero states that a serious collision between students and the police of Rio Janiero has occurred. Many were injured on both sides.

Recently discovered gold fields in Brazil have not been purchased by an English syndicate.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 9.—A special to The Star from Fort Worth, Texas, says:

At 3 o'clock this morning, the largest property loss by fire that ever occurred here took place, the eight-story Hurley office building, the Dreyfus company's mammoth dry goods house, the Farmers' & Mechanics' bank, the general offices of the Fort Worth & Denver City Railway Co., the Worth Cycle Co., and one or two small merchandising companies, being burned to the ground. The firemen were unable to get the fire under control before 9 o'clock this morning. The total loss is estimated at over \$250,000. The Hurley building was the largest in the city and was owned by Wm. Butler, trustee of the Simpson heirs of Boston. It is impossible at this time to ascertain the exact amount of insurance, but it is known that it will fall far short of the loss. Over twenty tenants in the Hurley building lost everything. Flying embers fell ten blocks away. Street car lines are paralyzed; wires cut and no cars are running. It is the worst calamity that ever befell the city.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 10.—The loss of life and destruction of property by the fire at Thirteenth and Pike streets last night was the greatest in the history of Pittsburg. At least fifteen people were killed, over a score injured and property valued at one and a half million dollars was destroyed.

It was just 7:55 o'clock last evening when smoke was seen issuing from the fourth floor of the Union Storage company's building on Pike street near Thirteenth. The building was six stories in height and occupied almost the entire block between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets and Pike street and Mulberry alley. The first floor of the front was occupied as offices of the Union Storage company and the Chautauqua Lake Ice company. The second floor front contained the stables of the Chautauqua company, and in the Twelfth street end they had their ice-making plant which occupied the first three floors.

This was filled with valuable, ice-

making machinery and other property of the Chautauqua company. The balance of the building was occupied by the storage company.

Immediately upon the discovery of the fire an alarm was sent in and responded to promptly but owing to the construction of the building it was practically impossible to fight the fire from without, while the volume of smoke inside the building made it impossible to fight it from within. The only three openings in the fire walls dividing the building were closed by heavy iron doors and these were locked.

For three hours the firemen worked scarcely knowing what they were doing. The iron shutters were impregnable to their attacks. The smoke that found its way out of the building filled Mulberry alley and Pike street, stifling the firemen and rendering them practically sightless. It would clear for a moment or two and they would again endeavor to make some headway, but to no avail.

Finally at 11 o'clock the flames burst out through the roof and shot upward a hundred feet in the air and making that part of the city as light as day.

This was the first note of alarm that started the flight of residents from their homes on Pike, Thirteenth and Twelfth streets. Women and children started forth bare footed and in their night clothes, followed by their husbands, bearing what little they could carry in their arms of their household effects. The police were watchful and the crowds were kept back by fire lines and the fearful heat of the flames.

Suddenly above the roar of the flames and the puffing of the fire engines which were everywhere, came the most powerful noise of the first explosion. The din of falling walls foretold destruction and death in thunderous tones. Those within the fire-lines were seen to fall in all directions. Those outside the lines were not without the reach of danger. The great puff of air created by the explosion seemed to make everything sway and shake. Those not knocked down by the reactionary waves of air as the falling walls created a vacuum that seemed to draw in everything.

It was on the Mulberry alley side where the least danger was anticipated, the greatest volume of smoke and preliminary outbursts of flames having come out of the Pike street side; but the force of the explosion was there most severe and there the greatest number of fatalities took place.

The falling walls crashed in the rear of buildings having fronts on Pennsylvania avenue. The side of Keoeveler building on Pike street was crushed in and entry made for the flames. At the Thirteenth street end of the warehouse, the most terrible effect of the explosion was manifest.

Explosion followed explosion for about half an hour between 12 and 1 o'clock. After each report like the shot of a cannon the fire burst through the wall in all directions. Burned out walls came toppling down and firemen, policemen and spectators were rendered almost powerless to act.

But eight bodies have been recovered. Four persons are missing and the firemen have a number of others still under the ruins.

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 10.—Advice from the Orient report an assault by Japanese artisans on Mr. Sands, secretary of the United States legation at Seoul. The attack was unprovoked and the police did not interfere. Mr. Sands, however, held one of his assailants and compelled the police to arrest him. Afterwards a complaint was lodged by the United States consul, and the Japanese authorities have arrested persons supposed to be engaged in the affair.