

pride and affection that they do the corporate cities, towns and villages. In the army, Fort Douglas is regarded as an extremely desirable residence post because of its beautiful location, its general healthfulness, and its proximity to Salt Lake City. It is not even intimated that there is any intention on the part of the government to abandon the post, as its central location and availability to railroads perhaps render its future safe; yet to be more positively assured of its perpetuation and for the comfort of the officers and men, the post ought to be materially improved. The officers, quarters and the barracks are in a condition of decay from long continued use without improvement, and if you should deem it advisable, I would gladly join you in a memorial to Congress, asking for a suitable appropriation to practically rebuild the garrison and thus secure its permanent anchorage here.

An exposition of all the trans-Mississippi states is to be held at the city of Omaha in 1898. From the latest information at hand, it is learned the capital stock of the enterprise is \$1,000,000, for which \$405,000 is already subscribed and the first assessment paid. Congress has appropriated \$200,000 to assist the exposition, and a bill, in which \$300,000 more is asked, is now pending. The State of Nebraska it is expected will give \$250,000, and the city and county of Omaha \$200,000. Some of the states have made preliminary appropriations and others have promised assistance. The Legislature of Utah, at its last session, adopted a joint resolution, extending encouragement to the project and expressing the belief to the interests of Utah would be especially benefited by such an exposition. If, after a careful examination into our financial future, it should be deemed expedient, a suitable appropriation to present in a creditable manner our great resources at this exposition would, in my opinion, be a profitable advertisement.

I have thus rapidly sketched for your information such matters as will give you a general idea of the condition of the State, and if any foregoing recommendation or suggestion shall aid you in any manner to reach satisfactory conclusions, I shall feel honored.

It is my desire to co-operate with your respective bodies and with your committees and members in the interest of the taxpayers and the people generally, and to this end I cordially invite your consultation, individually and collectively. You are the chosen representatives of the people. Utah has committed her affairs to you. It is an important trust. I have full confidence in your integrity of purpose and believe you will be actuated in the performance of your duty by that patriotic devotion to the public welfare and that love of country which are the heritage of every true American.

HEBER M. WELLS,
Governor.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The Senate today passed the House bill abolishing the death penalty in a large number of cases. The measure is in the line of recent state laws abolishing capital punishment, and applies the same principle to federal offenses, although the change is not extended to a total abolition of the death penalty. The present laws, which have come down from colonial times, have a sanguinary aspect and prescribe death for offenses of various characters.

The bill passed today reduces the offenses to five, viz, treason, rape, murder, and two offenses applicable to

the army and navy. In all other offenses hard labor for life is substituted as the maximum punishment, and even in cases of murder and rape, hard labor may be substituted if the jury states in its verdict "without capital punishment."

The bill providing for free homesteads in Oklahoma for bona fide settlers, which has the right of way as "unfinished business," was laid aside until tomorrow.

Mr. Proctor (Rep., Vt.) gave notice that he would speak Monday on his resolution extending the Presidential term to six years, and fixing the term of members of the House of Representatives at three years.

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—Senator Calvin B. Brice at the head of a syndicate of United States capitalists, has nearly concluded arrangements for the establishment of a monopoly of the railroad, telephone and telegraph systems in China.

Ex-United States Senator William D. Washburn, of Minnesota and Clarence Cary, a New York attorney, who are now in China as representatives of the syndicate, and Mr. Rich, a promoter, formerly living in Washington but for some time having been in China, say only one serious obstacle stands in the way of the success of the work. This obstacle is the opposition of the Russian government which has instructed its representative at Peking to do his utmost to force the Chinese government to defer the final signing of the contracts.

The members of the syndicate, however, are confident that things have already gone too far for the Russian opposition to seriously affect them.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—The hearing on the wool schedule brought many farmers and manufacturers to the ways and means committee room today.

John G. Clark of the Washington county, Penn., Wool Growers' association spoke strongly of the effects the free wool clause of the Wilson law, which he declared prostrated the business of the United States. The experiment of free trade had been a crime. The value of lands had decreased and the shipment in all parts of the country had been driven from business.

Sheepraisers asked only a moderate duty that would enable them to continue the business.

The Democratic members of the committee probed the witnesses for some time. Wheeler, Al., asked if the clothing for workmen had not been cheaper under free wool, to which Clark replied that most of the clothing sold now was shoddy. The importations of shoddy had increased under the law.

An hour was given to Judge Wm. Lawrence, president of the National Wool Growers' association to present the request of that body. The statement was an exhaustive review of the wool industry under different tariff rates during the last half a century. The Wilson law, he declared, stopped a third of the wool growing business and closed half the mills. There had been no adequate protection on wool since 1876.

Lawrence averred that the election of Mr. McKinley had been accomplished by the votes of the wool growers in half a dozen doubtful states,

who would have voted for Bryan and free silver, had they not considered protection on wool more important than free silver. If this protection was not given there would be a free silver Congress two years hence and in four years a free silver President and Congress. The McKinley bill as it came from its author had been moderately protective on wool but the addition of a skirting clause and ad valorem rates made it disastrous. Under the Wilson law the number of sheep of the United States had decreased three million a year with a loss of \$60,000, according to official statistics. Unofficial and more accurate figures proved the loss to the wool growers through the Wilson rates to have been \$178,700,000. Mutton sheep which should be raised in this country, were being imported from Canada. The schedule asked by the wool growers' association was 12 cents a pound on all merino wool, 24 cents on washed and 38 cents on soiled Australian unwashed wool, to be considered as washed. On account of its superior lightness they said the Australian had an advantage over the South American, losing comparatively little weight in washing.

The dropping of the skirting clause was asked, as to secure its advantages parts of the Australian wool imported amounted to only half the fleece. To do away with this clause, it is said, would give employment to five thousand men in the country.

SOUTH NORWALK, Conn., Jan. 6.—The three-masted schooner L. M. Boone, whose port, destination and owners are unknown, was burned to the water's edge on Long Island Sound last night. The steamers Medea and John Howard Lowmes put out to the wreck. The vessel had been abandoned and there is not a trace of the captain or crew. Captain L. Wues succeeded in getting a line to the burning vessel and towed her to the bar on Cockenoe islands, where she is still burning. It is possible that a portion or all of the crew lost their lives, but it is believed they abandoned the ship at some point on Long Island.

ROBerval Lake, St. John, Que., Jan. 5.—The lives of seven Ursuline sisters were lost today in a fire that destroyed the convent, Our Lady Lake, St. John, controlled by the Ursulines of Quebec, a cloistered order, the oldest religious sisterhood in Canada. The dead are Sisters Providence, Ursule Anne, Louise, Antoine de Paul, Dominique and Paul.

The family and Christian names are Miss Eliza Gosseline, St. Jean Chrystotome; Miss Rose Gosseline, St. Jean Chrystotome; Miss Emma Lestourneau, Quebec; Miss C. Garneau, St. John; Miss Hudon, Herbertville; Miss Bouillie, Dechambault; Miss Louise Giatard, Roberval.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—Antonio Aguirre, a member of the Havana produce exchange, arrived here on the steamer Oriaba from Havana. He was a resident of Guanabacoa where, according to recent reports from Havana, atrocities were committed by the Spanish troops under Col. Fundevilla.

Senor Aguirre, when seen last night, said:

The reports which reach the United States of the state of affairs in Guana-