THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL.

Entered at the postoffice at Birmingham, Mich., as second class matter.

STATE NEWS.

Norway's Calamity.

Nearly the entire village of Norway, in upper peninsula, was destroyed by fire on the 9th inst. Forty-eight business houses and a number of residences are in ruins. The fire broke out in the business portion of the town at 3 p. m., and before a force wind raged until 5 p. m., when the storm reached Norway and the ruin had its full force. This enabled the fire-fighters to get control of the flames. All in the track of the flame removed their household goods, but they were greatly damaged by the storm, which proved to be far the heaviest experienced in the section for years.

There are but two stores left in the town and there is a great shortage of food, but the prompt action of the rescue, so that there is no actual suffering. With the exception of one store, which was badly burned by an explosion of gasoline, there were none injured.

The local fire department was on the ground immediately, but the engine gave out before the flames was thrown, leaving the people nothing with which to fight the flames. The Iron Mountain fire department was sent as soon as possible, but before it arrived the storm had done its work and the remainder of the city was saved.

Norway is on the Menominee branch of the Northwestern road. It was the first town started on the iron range and boasted nearly 2,000 inhabitants. The burnt district covers all the business portion of the town. The insurance is very light, while the loss is about $200,000.

Woman Suffragists.

At the annual meeting of the Michigan Equal Suffrage association a platform was adopted favoring the enfranchisement of women; favoring the adoption of a sixteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States giving suffrage to women; condemning the use of semi-nude pictures on placards in advertisements; condemning the recent indifference of Gov. Luce to the immorality of the liquor camps, and calling upon the voters of Michigan to retire Luce to private life; resenting as an insult to womanhood the use of the female form on tobacco, cigar and whisky labels; favoring kindergartens in public schools; favoring the election of men to the legislature who will pledge their influence to secure the ballot for women; that the Rev. Dr. Huckley's reasons for not allowing women seats in the Methodist Episcopal general conference are a relic of barbarism and tyranny that would consign women to a state of slavery and degradation that should meet the condemnation of all right minded people; opposing child labor.

The convention elected the following officers: President, Mrs. Mary L. Doe, Bay City; vice-president, Mrs. Catherine A. F. Stebbins, Detroit; secretary, Mrs. Fanny Holden Fitzhugh, Manistee; treasurer, Mrs. Emily B. Ketchum, Grand Rapids. An executive committee, consisting of one member from each congressional district, was also chosen.

A Double Tragedy.

Henry Meschlauer, a candy maker of Detroit, who kept a little store near the corner of Jefferson avenue and Twelfth street, Detroit, shot and killed his wife, and then killed himself the other night. The couple came to Detroit from Milwaukee about four years ago. While the wife was a quiet and industrious woman, Meschlauer was of a surly and quarrelsome disposition, and their frequent domestic broils have often called for police interference. For some weeks Meschlauer has tried to get his wife to dispose of their little business. This she had persistently refused to do, and her refusal greatly angered Meschlauer. The day before the tragedy he had quarreled with his wife all day, and the evening while the couple were alone, the fearful tragedy was enacted, the only witness being their 7-years-old daughter. Three little children are left to be cared for by public charity, as the family have no relatives in this country.

The Anti-Compact Law Sustained.

The supreme court has rendered a decision denying the mandamus in the case of the Hartford fire insurance company vs. the commissioner of insurance, sustaining the "anti-compact" law prohibiting all contracts preventing free competition in regard to rates and the regulation of insurance companies not organized under the laws of the state, but doing business therein in Michigan. The company complied with the law under protest, and asked for a writ of mandamus to be issued compelling the commissioner to do the same. The case may go to the supreme court of the United States, as it was claimed by counsel for the insurance company that questions arising under the federal constitution are involved, and the point was raised so as to warrant appeal.

Lainsburg in Ruins.

Fire at Lainsburg, Shiawassee county, the other night, started in a vacant frame building on the north side of Grand River street and consumed some seventy-five buildings, all in the heart of the business section, one-half being on each side of the street. The opera hall, telephone office and postoffice were included in the loss. Nothing remains but smouldering ruins. The fire probably sought from brewery stoves which were set off during the evening. Quite a few stores were the property of the Jones family, and at that time a proposition to secure fire protection was defeated.

The total loss is about $75,000. The insurance does not exceed $12,000.

The Monthly Crop Report.

The June crop report indicates a total yield of wheat of 16,450,000 bushels. In the southern counties the condition is 62 per cent. on average crop, a loss of 3 per cent. since May 1; in the central counties, 56 per cent. a loss of 11 per cent.; in the northern counties, 82 per cent., a loss of 4 per cent. Oats average 97 per cent., barley 94, and clover seed this year, 96 per cent. Fruit promises extra well.

Michigan News Briefly Told.

The Caro wooden ware works are in full blast.

George Saunders and Thomas Rafferty of Iron island, have been arrested on a charge of assaulting Mrs. Anna Schaedling. They are out on bail.

Mrs. William of St. Charles, the woman who was shot and wounded by her husband (who also killed himself) because she insisted on becoming a member of the Advent church, is recovering, and will soon become able as a Christian missionary.

The safe in Leonard's crockery store in Grand Rapids was cracked the other morning and $125 taken.

Norman Dwight of Scio township, Washtenaw county, died recently on the farm which has been his home over 50 years. He was buried from the Webster Congregational church, of which he has been an active member for half a century.

Thomas Brown, alias Johnson, was arrested in East Saginaw the other night on a policion of being the man who stole a team from the farm of Nicholas Pratt near St. Louis., One horse was found and this with the man answers closely the description sent out.

Allegan township has had to pay $1,420 for the death of Joseph Falk, which was caused by a defective roadway, by which he was thrown from a load two or three years ago. Suit was brought by Daniel Ellinger, administrator of his estate.

The Jackson condensed milk company of Lansing uses $100,000 worth of refined sugar per annum.

June 1 was children's day among the grangers.

Ten companies of the state militia will be in Lansing July 4.

A vein of copper ore has been found near the new state prison at Marquette. At a depth of 32 feet it is over 30 feet wide.

A Bay City contractor will bore an oil well at Kalamazoo this summer.

Col. George B. Briggs of Grand Rapids has been made one of the directors of the Gettysburg memorial association.

Miss Ethel Kraver, an Esquimaux, has been visiting in Flint.

Farmers about Northport wintered thousands of bushels of potatoes in anticipation of receiving $1 per bushel this spring. Last fall they could have sold for 65 cents and early in the spring could have taken 90 cents. They are now selling for 60 cents.

Charles Armstrong, while working in a well at Prairieville, Barry county, was buried by a cave-in. The body was recovered several hours later.

Lansing has an Engine works. The original bell, 400 feet long, 8 feet wide and 9 feet high, weighing 16,000 pounds.

The twenty-fourth annual reunion of the Twenty-third Michigan infantry will be held in Midland August 7 next. The citizens express a determination to make it interesting for the "boys" on that day.

Lizzie Murphy, aged 15, the daughter of a farmer in Thomastown, Saginaw county, who excited great interest through fasting seven weeks last winter, after which eating sparingly and remaining a living skeleton, died the other night. She had never been herself since before being taken sick the first time, although then she was a rosy, healthy girl.

The Mineral Range railroad has passed into a receiver's hands for non-payment of the first mortgage bonds, amounting to $600,000 and interest for one year, which matured June 1. This does not affect the Hancock & Calumet railroad which is under the same management. Undoubtedly a settlement will be made, as the bonds are secured by the entire rolling stock and real estate. Chas. A. Wright is receiver.

Capt. T. Stoughton died at Sturgis on the inst., aged 61 years. Gen. Stoughton came to Michigan when a young man and during the war broke out he was United States district attorney for western Michigan. He resigned this position to take the lieutenant colonelcy of the Eleventh Michigan. He was promoted to colonel and brigadier-general and was brevetted major-general for his services. He was a law partner at Stone river. Was attorney-general of Michigan two terms, being first elected in 1867. He served the state in the republican house of the forty-first and forty-second congresses.

Capt. Lottie Jackson of the salvation army of Kalamazoo, has been fined $10 or 10 days in jail for selling pieces of mineral paint that she found near Cheboygan.

A verdict for $1,000 was awarded in the United States circuit court at Lake Superior Brown against Annie Wight and Philip Ketchum, for cutting timber on government land in Isabella county.

The United States court at Grand Rapids John Anderson of Muskegon was convicted of making and uttering counterfeit dimes and nickels and sentenced to the Detroit House of Correction for four years. He leaves a wife and young child destitute. charges upon Muskegon county.

Michigan military academy will graduate 17 young men this month.

According to Prof. Beal's report to the board of agriculture, regarding the progress of experiments with the grain weevil, there are now 80 acres under cultivation at Grayling, eight at Baldwin, eight at Oscoda, eight at Walton and 10 at Harrison, at an expense of $300.

Hon. Nathaniel G. Phillips died in Hancroft a few days ago. He was once a member of the legislature, and the founder of Hancroft.

Constantine has placed its liquor bonds at $6,000.

At the annual Michigan Diocesean convention in Jackson the following officers were elected: Detroit—President, Rev. Samuel Earp. Ann Arbor; Secretary, Rev. E. M. Stires; Treasurer, Rev. J. E. Pittman, Detroit. Saginaw Valley—President, Rev. E. Thompson, Saginaw; Secretary—Rev. T. W. MacLean, Bay City; Treasurer—G. L. Denslow, Flint; Marquette; President—Rev. C. M. Pullen, Houghton; Treasurer—Peter White, Marquette. The convention of 1899 will be held in Bay City.

The report of the state inspector shows the salt inspection for May to have been as follows: Saginaw county, 56,366 barrels; Bay county, 19,597 barrels; Manistee county, 111,003 barrels; Iosco county, 46,540 barrels; Huron county, 24,209 barrels, St. Clair county, 52,000 barrels; Ottawa county, 1,000 barrels; Midland county, 4,944 barrels; total, 434,654 barrels. The total inspection for the year to June 1 aggregates 1,296,159 barrels.

Forest fires in Clare and Gladwin counties have done considerable damage this spring.

Hon. James Harnish of Dorr, Allegan county, gave birth on one day recently to four babies, three boys and one girl. All doing well.

William Campbell and Frank Tucker were drowned at Mount Clemens the other day.

Alvis Lonck died in Burnside township, Lapeer county, the other day, aged 97 years. He was a soldier under Napoleon and witnessed the burning of Moscow. His death occurred suddenly and very difficult to wake up to within a short time of his end he was apparently hale and hearty and surprisingly active for one of his years.

Rev. Algernon Crates of Chattaugua August 25, G. A. R. day.

Orrin Gee, an aged farmer, was run over and killed by the cars near Berlin, Ottawa county, the other morning.

At the convention of the diocese of western Michigan in Grand Rapids, Akely college of Grand Haven was named and the present building was given the title of "Blanche Hall," after the daughter of the founder of the college, Hon. H. C. Akely. A board of 15 trustees were elected. They purpose to open the college this fall.

In the United States court in Grand Rapids all of the counts in the case against F. E. Stevens, ex-cashier of the Paw Paw National bank, have been dropped except the one charging him with making false entries upon the books. Judge Jackson will hear the case next month. Stevens is held in $7,000.

Stafford Knapp, aged 14, of Grand Rapids, was instantly killed the other afternoon at the crossing of the Michigan Central at Ninth avenue. When the engine of a passenger train was within 50 feet of the boy attempted to run across the track, and was literally cut to pieces by the locomotive.

The bishop of Cadet Stanley, who was drowned at Orchard Lake early in May, was recovered on the 10th inst. The remains have been taken to the cadet's home in Cleveland, Ohio, for burial.

A cheese factory of 200 cow power has been established at Ashland.

There are 221 students enrolled at the agricultural college.

A $25,000 school house and library is talked about at East Saginaw.

Luther & Folkert's planing mill at Alpena, burned June 8. Loss $10,000.

The constitutionality of the law which prohibits the sale of liquor within a mile of the state soldiers' home at Grand Rapids will be tested at the present term of the supreme court.

That section of the liquor law which prohibits brewers from becoming sureties for saloon keepers, has been declared unconstitutional by the supreme court.

At the fifth annual encampment of the Sons of Veterans held in Owosso, the following were elected: Division officers for the ensuing year: Colonel, Burt M. Fellows, Bronson; lieutenant colonel, Capt. Rodrick, Saginaw; major-colonel, F. J. Brown, Kalamazoo. Division commanders: A. Rogers, Reading; George E. Tracy, Ithaca; G. M. Williams, Grand Rapids. Staff officers: Chaplain, John H. Hale, Hillsdale; surgeon, Joe Watson, Bronson; judge advocate, George Steere, Stanton; surgeon, F. M. Guier, Pittsburg; quartermaster, Perry Crawford, Bronson; assistant adjutant, C. J. Gaskill, Lake View; inspector, George Hale, Owosso.

"Ratification" meetings are the order of the day in Michigan.

A collision occurred on the Chicago & West Michigan road near Muskegon the other day. Both engineers and firemen reversed their engines and jumped, just escaping death.

Work on the water power canal at Sault Ste Marie will soon begin. The contract is H. J. Clift, one of the earliest settlers in Pontiac, is dead.

Branch county's new court house will soon be ready for occupancy.

Muskegon is threatened with a water famine, and with all Lake Michigan at its front, too.

The Michigan weather service crop report for the week ending June 9, says that the effect of the weather on all crops but corn has been noted as favorable during the past week. Owing to the lack of rain and the low temperature the corn crop is not making much progress.

William Steele of Ionia, owns a hill and a large piece of low land, and although a river runs between the two, he proposes to connect them by a railroad and spread the hill around on the lowland. It is estimated the work will take three years.

It is said that the greenback party will meet in state convention about the 15th that the democrats meet to name a state ticket.

Charles Martinson, a lumberman who does business in Milwaukee, lost a barn at Holes Island near Ishpeming the night before several places and filled with kerosene. The fire was discovered by the night watchman and extinguished before much damage had been done.

Drs. Worcester and Wills of the Kalamazoo asylum have resigned.

Ed. Kennedy has been held to the circuit court for Marquette county on a charge of murder.

A reduction of one cent a day has been made in the price of the entertainment furnished inmates of the Michigan state insane asylum.

You can get good board at any one of the institutions for $3.50 per week, although a man must be crazy to do it.

James I. Mead of Lansing, one of the most prominent workers in the greenback party, died on the 8th inst.

The W. H. Hotton of East Saginaw has brought suit against John Duggan claiming $5,000 damages for injuries received from him. It is claimed Preston called at Duggan's house, 5 o'clock one evening and beat Mrs. Duggan, who was seriously ill, and Duggan ordered Preston out, striking him on the head with a revolver, which he had pointed at him. The suit shows the wound on his head. The doctor left and Mrs. Duggan died shortly after. Duggan is a machinist.

Pentroke S. Grimes, a resident of Kalamazoo since 1839, is dead.

James Mahnan, farmer, and for many years a resident of Tuscola county, died at Vassar while attempting to saw to pieces a buggy owned by one of his neighbors named Thomas Brown. He was caught in the act by Brown.

A summer normal school is to be conducted at Hope college, Holland.

H. W. Sage & Co. of Bay City lost recently over one and a half million of logs by forest fires in their lumber camps.

Patrick Driscoll's 13-year old son died in Houghton from effects of drinking pint of whisky alleged to have been given him by some companions. Boy suffered terribly.

Prof. Orlando Stillwell of Alma, who has been selected to represent America at Yale upon the occasion of the fête in 1899, was born in Rockford, Kent county.

Burglars broke into the office of the D. L. & N. road at Station, and secured about $50 for their pains.

Equal suffrage missionaries are doing effective work in the state.

The Montague basket factory was destroyed by fire the other day. The fire was caused by boys firing fire crackers.

Ishpeming saloon keepers have resolved to sell liquor on the Fourth of July to test the validity of the law.

Great damage was done to mining property by the storm which passed over the upper peninsula the other night.

Calvin Gibbs, the old farmer of Hyron township, Kent county, who died from the effects of the ruin of a young girl, has been sentenced by Judge Montgomery to two years in state prison.

State Senator Westgate denies that he has gone over to the third party.

DETROIT MARKETS.

WHEAT, No. 1	68 @	68½
" Red	90 @	90
CORN, per bu	35 @	36
OATS, "	28 @	28½
BARLEY, "	90 @	1 00
RYE, "	55 @	56
TIMOTHY SEED	2 50 @	2 55
CLOVER SEED, per bag	4 30 @	4 35
FEED, per cwt	90 @	1 00
FLOUR, Patents, per bbl	3 50 @	3 75
Michigan roller	4 25 @	4 50
Minnesota patents	4 50 @	4 75
Minnesota bakers'	3 50 @	3 75
Rye per bu	3 50 @	4 00
APPLES, per bbl	2 50 @	3 45
BEANS, picked	1 40 @	1 45
Unpicked	1 00 @	1 10
BEESWAX	28 @	30
BUTTER	10 @	11
CHEESE, per lb	9 @	9½
DRIED APPLES, per lb	13 @	14
EGGS, per doz	10 @	11
HONEY, per lb	15 @	16
HOPS, per lb	25 @	30
HAY, per ton, clover	12 00 @	13 00
" Timothy	12 00 @	13 50
MALT, per bu	90 @	1 00
ONIONS, per bbl	3 50 @	4 00
POTATOES, per bu	55 @	60
POULTRY—Chickens, live	6 @	7
" Dressed	7 @	8
" Turkeys	8 @	9
" Ducks, per lb	8 @	9
PROVISIONS—Mess Pork	14 75 @	15 00
Hams, per lb	10½ @	10¾
Extra mess beef	6 75 @	7 00
Lard	6 @	6½
Dressed hogs	6 00 @	6 25
" Beef	6 @	7
" Veal	6 @	7
" Sheep	4 @	5
" Lamb	6 @	7
Hams	11 @	12
Extra mess beef	7 @	8
Bacon	10 @	10½
Hogs per lb	3½ @	3¾
HIDES—Green City per lb	5	
Cured	6½	
Calfskins	6½	
Sheep skins, wool	50 @	1 00

CATTLE—Natives strong. $4 10@5 30; cows and mixed, $1 90@3 60; stockers and feeders, $2 25@4 25; Texans $3 25@4 25.

HOGS—Market strong; shorn natives $3 75@3 95; Oregon feeders, $3 80@3 40; Texans $3 75@3 85; Oregon fat hogs $4 25.

SHEEP—Market steady; lightweight $3 75@5 25; Oregon feeders, $3 50@3 40; Texans $3 50@3 75.

The Drovers' Journal special London cablegram quotes a liberal supply of cattle and fair demand for American steers, cattle firm, however, at the per pound, estimated dead weight.

WOOL.—The past week has been dull and slower even than the weeks immediately preceding it, and the only redeeming feature has been the fact that there has been a somewhat better inquiry from manufacturers, who, however, were only looking for small lots, and have been very shy of purchases.

Prices are holding quite steadily, though there are concessions made each week which cause us to shade the prices a little lower for comparison with the basis of present prices, but are not disposed to make low prices for future delivery, as the stocks are quite well worked off and about as low as we can reasonably expect, and the new clips are backward, and even with the present low prices there will be a good deal to be finally cleaned up before any considerable quantity of new Texas or California will arrive.

Fine Ohio and Michigan fleece wools have been quite in the market this week, and prices are slow. There has been a very moderate inquiry for Ohio and Michigan X wool, Michigan X, 20@22c; Michigan fine delaine, 20@22c; Ohio fine delaine, 20@22c; unwashed combing Michigan, 17@20c. Source Detroit Bulletin.

GENERAL NEWS.

Henry Villard confirms the statement that he is about to undertake an expedition to the south pole.

The Oregon election June 5 resulted in a republican victory.

The iron and steel manufacturers of Pennsylvania have agreed upon a reduction of wages all along the line, the condition of trade not warranting a support of the present prices.

Glass manufacturers throughout the country will shut down June 15 for an indefinite period.

Walsh, a Chicago man, who has just left Madrid, is charged with participation in a conspiracy of much the same character as that leading up to the Phœnix Park murder in Dublin. He has escaped to America.

Four children were drowned by the capsizing of a boat in the river at Wiesner, Neb., the other day.

Fire in the lumber district of Burlington, Vt., destroyed lumber and mills valued at $100,000.

The Louisiana legislature has passed a resolution praying for the passage of the Blair education bill.

Pire broke out in the scene room in Tony Pastor's theatre in New York, Saturday afternoon. After an hour's hard work the department succeeded in confining the flames to Tammany, although the interior of the place was gutted. The loss is estimated at $50,000.

Storm in Quebec on the 7th inst., resulted in damage amounting to $500,000. Three persons were killed.

Sixty thousand dollars' worth of property in St. Louis were destroyed by fire the other night. The buildings were in the heart of the place where a great pyrotechnic display was given in honor of the national democratic convention.

About 100 representative colored democrats from different states, mostly northern, met in St. Louis on the 7th inst., and organized a national democratic league. Delegates to the national democratic convention which meets in Baltimore July 4, were chosen, and resolutions adopted endorsing the administration.

McGarigle, the Chicago boodler, is rusticating at Hauff Hot Springs, N. W. T., spending money freely.

The large paper mill at Appleton, Wis., was burned a few days ago. Loss, $150,000.

Five men were killed at Steelton, Pa., by the overturning of a ladle of hot metal in the Bessemer mill.

Twenty-four students have been expelled from Laval university, Quebec, for refusing to pay for extra gas burned.

C. S. Winters was arrested in Indianapolis a few days ago on the charge of smuggling 1,000 pounds of opium into this country, from Canada. It was billed through from Fort Huron, Mich., to New Orleans. The house was searched and all the stuff found and taken in charge by the government.

Ex-Sheriff Joseph Gray of Pittsburg, is a short in his accounts $15,600.

Gen. W. T. Sherman is ill with rheumatism and asthma.

Gen. Sickles is struggling bravely with the disease which for the past few weeks has been expected to terminate fatally, every day.

Wellsville, Ohio, had a $150,000 fire June 9.

Col. W. H. Townsend, treasurer of Merrick county, Neb., is short about $5,000.

The burning of Mrs. Graham's boarding house at Gadsden, Ala., Mrs. Torbitt lost her life.

Peter McCartney, counterfeiter, convict at Sing Sing, has escaped $3,000 and sentenced to 10 years at hard labor.

A sewer excavation in Brooklyn caved in on some Russian laborers. Feroda Giuffrie, a native of Sicily, was killed.

Rev. James Freeman Clark, the famous Unitarian divine, died at his residence in Jamaica Plaine, near Boston, a few days since.

Owen Ifor, managing partner of the Omaha slate roofing company, and a workman named Jones were asphyxiated by gas the other morning in Omaha. They were engaged in some work on the new St. Mary's orphan asylum, when the support they were standing on gave way, precipitating them to the ground from a distance of five stories. Ifor was instantly killed, Jones living for about an hour.

A daring express robbery occurred about 15 miles from Cincinnati recently. The robbers fired four shots at the express messenger injuring him fatally. One of the robbers was wounded in the leg. The robbers secured considerable booty.

The total production of all kinds of commercial coal in 1887 was 123,965,258 short tons (increase, 7,965,258), or 28,204,046 tons valued at the mines at $173,530,996 (increase, $36,418,241.)

Fred. Miller, the well known Milwaukee brewer, is dead.

Attorney-General Garland, who has been ill at his home in Washington, is improving.

A boat containing five young men capsized near Bedford, Indiana, a few days ago, and four of the party were drowned.

The Red Lake river has left its banks near Crookston, Minn., and 100 families were driven from their homes.

A soldier named Robertson killed a bystander in a quarrel at Fort Shaw, Montana. The soldier was soon dangling from the limb of a tree.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Bismarck has decided that he will not resign, even if Emperor Frederick declares against the quinquennial bill.

The British government has invited France to co-operate in an effort to secure tain the best means of studying foreign legislation in reference to the sugar bounties.

Don Pedro of Brazil is rapidly recovering.

Prince Albert Victor has been made a LLD. by Cambridge university.

At Waldertown, county West Meath, Ireland, Constable Hamilton shot dead a man named Brennan and afterward committed suicide. Simpson first shot McGowan, but the bullet not killing him, he took the lat fired, instantly killing himself.

While Robert English, a wealthy and prominent farmer of Burrel River, Ont., and his son, aged 15 years, were placing traps for wolves, they found a boy floating in the river bank unknown to his father. The father seeing the boy's brown hat beside a bush and mistaking it for a wolves head, fired, instantly killing his son, the charge having lodged in his head. The father is almost prostrated with grief.

The Americans who have been cabbaging in company with the telephonic Cafinis of China have fallen out.

Spain will not be officially represented at the Paris exhibition.

The Wheat Crop.

The June crop report shows some reduction in seeding the winter wheat area in some states, though the average breadth will was but slightly reduced. In the east and south there was no material loss of area from freezing, but in several western states it was considerable. The average reduction of breadth of winter wheat as compared with last year's is about 1,750,000 acres. The percentage of reduction for the whole country is placed at 7.2 per cent.

There has been an average decrease for the spring wheat region of 10 per cent. The area in wheat is apparently slightly below 36,000,000 acres.

There are slight local changes of condition of winter wheat, some improvement in New York and Pennsylvania, and marked decline in Missouri and minor changes of status elsewhere, making the average 78.3 against 85.1 in May. In Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Kansas the average condition is nearly the same as in May.

JUSTICE FOR THE WIDOWS

Pres'dent Cleveland Signs the New Pension Bill.

An Epitome of Washington News.

The President has approved the act of congress providing that pensions heretofore or hereafter granted to widows of soldiers or sailors of the rebellion shall begin at the date of the death of their husbands. The legislation favorably affects all claims of widows of the late war which have been filed in the pension office on or after June 27, 1890, and which have been allowed to begin from the date of their husbands' death. It will not favorably affect the cases of such widows as were filed before July, 1890, and which have been allowed to begin having already been granted in those cases from the date of their husbands' death. No form of application will be required and the services of attorneys will not be necessary.

A bill has been introduced in the senate to amend the fishery laws of Alaska by striking out the words "in his discretion," and by also striking out the reference to "other provisions of the Dominion" than fish. This would absolutely deny Canadian vessels the right to fish in Alaska unless the President is satisfied that the rights of Americans in Dominion waters are fully recognized and are subjected to annoyance; and would forbid the importation of Canadian fresh or salt fish.

The President has signed the bill making Grand Rapids a port of entry.

Senator Quay has been authorized to report favorably his bill granting pensions to officers and sailors confined in confederate prisons.

The bill providing a pension for soldiers and sailors who were confined in confederate prisons will be favorably reported in the senate.

Capt. W. B. Remey of the United States marine corps, has been appointed judge advocate general of the navy, with the rank of colonel.

The house has agreed to the conference report on the Hatch-Pettigrew building bill authorizing expenditures $200,000.

The President has signed the bill appropriating $80,000,000 for pensions.

The President has signed the bill to amend the act to establish agricultural stations in connection with colleges.

Representative Rice of Minnesota has presented the petitions of the board of trade of Minneapolis, in opposition to the passage of the bill to bridge Detroit river at any point between Lake Erie and Lake Huron.

The secretary of the treasury has appointed W. H. Collet assistant chief of the secret service, vice Drake, and J. W. McIntyre assistant keeper of the light station at Ocracoke, Va., vice Latter in place of Hendrick Tieghron, resigned.

There is little prospect of the passage of the bill to bridge Detroit river. The opposition to it has now been a vigorous movement in its behalf from some sources.

The President has signed the bill making appropriation to supply the deficiency in the appropriation for salaries of officers of customs and of expenses in collecting customs.

Civil service examinations for assistant examiners in the patent office will be held at Washington, Chicago and San Francisco, Cleveland and Indianapolis, June 20; at Philadelphia, June 21; New Haven, Detroit and St. Louis June 26, and at New York, Rochester, Chicago and Cincinnati on June 28.

The house has passed the Jackson public building bill, appropriating $50,000, a reduction of $25,000 from the amount asked.

Capt. Henry Sherwood of Michigan has been appointed as assistant postmaster of Washington.

Representative Ford has introduced a bill allowing Seth E. Ward, late a lieutenant in the war of the rebellion, to rank from May 27, 1865, or his legal representatives, the sum of $10,000 in lieu of the pension he was granted in the year of his discharge, and ordered repaid to him last August.

Action on the nomination of Melville W. Fuller as supreme court justice has been postponed until after the Chicago convention.

The President has approved the act for the protection of United States officials in the Indian Territory.

The postmaster general has sent to congress an additional estimate of appropriation for the free delivery service of the next fiscal year, of $1,000,000. The additional amount, the postmaster general says, is needed to carry out the provisions of the necessary to carry out the eight-hour law to letter carriers. It is estimated that 3,000 more letter carriers will be needed, and an increase of twenty-five per cent.—to bring the basis of letter-carriers within the provisions of the law.

Prince Ronald Napoleon Bonaparte called at the White house a few days ago, and paid his respects to President and Mrs. Cleveland.

The New National Committee.

The national democratic committee has fixed the time for the adjournment of the national convention and elected W. H. Barnum chairman and Calvin S. Brice treasurer. Senator Pasco of Florida temporary secretary. After adopting resolutions expressing the sorrow of the committee it was agreed that the committee should meet at Washington, June 12, and organize. The new committee is as follows: Alabama, H. C. Semple; Arkansas, S. P. Hallowell; California, T. E. Gibbon; Colorado, C. S. Thomas; Connecticut, W. H. Barnum; Delaware, James A. Bayard; Florida, Samuel Pasco; Georgia, Jas. H. Estell; Illinois, E. A. Snowden; Indiana, Thomas Jackson; Iowa, J. J. Richardson; Kansas, C. B. Blair; Kentucky, H. D. McHenry; Louisiana, Jas. Jones; Maine, Arthur Sewall; Maryland, A. P. Gorman; Massachusetts, Henry A. S. Dearborn; Michigan, Mines; Minnesota, Michael Doran; Mississippi, C. A. Johnston; Missouri, A. P. Walther; Nebraska, J. E. Boyd; Nevada, R. P. Keating; New Hampshire, A. W. Sulloway; New Jersey, Miles Ross; New York, H. Oelrichs; North Carolina, Thomas Jones; Ohio, Calvin S. Brice; Oregon, Jas. Slater; Pennsylvania, W. F. Scott; Rhode Island, J. B. Barnaby; South Carolina, W. Dawson; Tennessee, R. E. Looney; Texas, O. T. Holt; Vermont, Herman Atkins; Virginia, J. T. Mann; West Virginia, W. M. Clements; Wisconsin, J. L. Mitchell; Arizona, M. G. Rhodes; Idaho, M. H. Beatty; District of Columbia, Wm. Dickson; Montana, W. J. McCormick; New Mexico, Antonio Joseph; Utah, J. Rowe; Washington, Jas. Hamilton; Wyoming, Jas. Kuhn; Wyoming, M. E. Post; Idaho, John Haley.

Defends Her Husband.

The Boston Globe prints a letter written by Mrs. Cleveland to a lady friend in Worcester who had forwarded Mrs. Cleveland a copy of the alleged statements of Mrs. Frank Thompson against the character of the President. The letter is as follows:

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, June 7, 1888.

DEAR MADAME—I can only say, in response to your letter, that every statement made by the Rev. C. H. Pendleton, in the Boston Globe, is false, and I send you, lately false, and I pity the man of his calling who has been made the tool of a woman, who is given to wicked and heartless lies. I can wish the women of our country no greater misfortune than the possession of husbands who are as happy and that their husbands may be as faithful, considerate and affectionate as mine.

Yours truly,
FRANCES F. CLEVELAND.

A Widow's Confession.

Mrs. John Herman of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, a widow with six children, aged 12 to 22, confessed to having given birth to a child a week before, drowned it in a bucket of water, and burying that the child's wailing sounded in her ears constantly and was a fearful punishment. Her story was not believed at first, as it was supposed her sickness had deranged her mind, but the coroner exhumed the body of the child badly decomposed. The woman admitted the act and said, to hide her shame. She had borne a good reputation up to the time of the verification of her confession. She has been taken on account of her illness.

Devastated by Fire.

Hull, opposite Ottawa, Ont., is in mourning. Fire swept over the fourth and fifth wards the other afternoon, destroying between one hundred and one hundred and fifty houses, and rendering 2,500 people homeless. The fire was caused by the smouldering mass of refuse, which has been probably exceeds $600,000. The fire loss is the largest ever afflicted the unfortunate city, but does not exceed in extent the big conflagration of two years ago. The sufferers are nearly all poor people, whose little all has been entirely destroyed.

A fatal accident occurred on the Cleveland & Mahoning road was derailed near Niles, O., and wrecked, killing Harry Schofield, of Youngstown, and the Rev. Wm. Worrell, of Sixth

SACRAMENTAL DAY.

New Converts Renounced From the Guilt.

TALMAGE'S DISCOURSE—Upon the Assassination—Thrilling Narrative of the Crucifixion of Our Saviour.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—The congregation at the Tabernacle sang this morning:

"I'd stay the press on blood the spilt,
My ransom from the dreadful guilt."

This is Sacramental Day, and a large number of persons joined the church, making the communion table seem four times over too a hundred and a hundred. But this is only a part of the great attendance that Sunday mornings and evenings overflow the Tabernacle and the Brooklyn Dome. The Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage, D. D., took for his text the passage: "Whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." Luke, ch. 14, v. 27. He preached the following sermon:

The cross was a gibbet on which criminals put to death. It was sometimes made in the shape of the letter T, sometimes in the shape of the letter X, sometimes in the shape of the letter I, sometimes in the shape of a right angle, and sometimes two cross pieces against the perpendicular, so that upon the lower cross piece the criminal pinned up his feet, and, under the style of cross, it was always disgraceful and all say agonizing.

When Alexander conquered Babylon, he put two hundred captives to death on the cross. When Alexander conquered Tyre, he put two thousand captives to death on the cross. Such was the ordinary mode of punishment. But in all the forest of crosses on the hills and in the valleys of the earth, there was one cross of more importance than any other. It is not higher than the others, it is not made out of different wood, there is nothing peculiar about the cross, the two pieces are joined, and as to the scene, they witnessed crucifixions every few weeks, so that I see a reckless man thinking before the hill and the cross are actually aside a skull, and wondering who the villain was that had to flat and malapen a head; and here is the cross, and I see the spikes driven back in another skull. Indeed, the Bible says it was "a place of skulls." But about the victim there was nothing to excite the least sympathy. "Who is he? was He a man? was He a God? was He man and God?"

Behold Him on the cross of that gloomy day. I come close up enough to the cross to see who it is. Why, it is the Son of God who is there! Had He come up on the hill to look down upon the beautiful city of Jerusalem? Had He come down to heal? He came there to die! He came there in all weariness. People sometimes wonder why I have gone into the Bible lands, and I, as I or seven hours, while other victims have been on the cross for forty-eight hours before life was extinct. I will tell you the reason. He was exhausted when the spikes were driven into the wood. We are horrified at the cruelties of the whipping post, but those cruelties were not equal to the agony of the scourging of Jesus Christ.

I saw an Italian peasant scourge a man in Ruben's picture of the scourging of Jesus Christ. It was the most cruel thing I ever saw. I do not think I ever expect to see. As the long-forked official opened the door and had his victim prone, He was tied Christ with back bent and bared. The flagellator took with the cruel lash and tore the flesh of the lower lip, as though to give violence to the blows. There were three hundred and forty lashes, and even the relief of bleeding. Ifor, was the flesh adhering to the whips so that they were torn out of the victim's back. Where the snots in the whips gouged out the flesh. Here and there the lash fell on the calf of the leg of the Saviour, balancing himself, the flesh was torn off, leaving an ugly face, grinning vengeance against the Son of God. The picture seized me, it overcame me, I thought I fainted, I would kill me. I do not think I could have been the man who scourged the Saviour.

But that, my friend was before Christ has started for Calvary. Are you ready for your journey to the cross?

The centurions have split the timber into two pieces. They are heavy and they are long. Jesus Christ has been up the hill and down in the earth the last struggling of the victim. I meet the centurion, and he puts a timber upon the shoulder of Christ very gradually, first, to see whether He can stand it and after that he puts the timber down and put the whole weight upon Him. Forward go, to Calvary. The Saviour falls under the long, rough, cruel cross. Under the weight of the cross, Christ falls, and they jerk at His robe impatiently and falls, and they jerk at His robe impatiently and falls, and they jerk at His robe impatiently and