THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL, PUBS.

BIRMINGHAM, FRIDAY, MAY 10.

The New Jersey judge who proposes to squeeze the water out of the trust stock will not be looked upon as a prosperity promoter in certain quarters.

Municipal ownership has seized the people of Fulton, Mo., and they have voted to purchase a cemetery. This comes very near running municipal ownership into the ground.

The population of the Indian empire, according to the census just taken, is 294 millions. The returns show an increase in British territory of ten millions, and a decrease in native states of three millions.

Members of congress returning from Cuba are relating all sorts of stories concerning the situation down there. All of which but goes to show that a man can find out almost anything he prefers to believe if he will but be persistent.

The toy making industry of Germany has enjoyed great prosperity during the past few years. Cape Colony, British East India, Eastern Asia, North and South America and Australia buy German toys, and the demand seems to be increasing from year to year.

The legislature of Alabama has passed the [illegible] White House [illegible] appropriation for the [illegible] of the old Jefferson Davis [illegible] Montgomery [illegible] of the Confederacy [illegible] proper [illegible] feature [illegible]

[illegible]

Many of the coast towns of California instituted last year on Memorial day a unique form of tribute to the memory of our sailor dead whose unknown graves lie in the ocean. Bands of children marched to the water's edge and while singing patriotic songs strewed the sea with flowers. It is now urged that this pretty ceremony be made a national custom, and with this idea in view a circular, signed by Mrs. Armitage S. C. Forbes of Los Angeles, Cal., is being sent about, urging all interested and influential people to concur and assist in perpetuating the ceremony.

Max L. Poldrose, of Bromberger, Germany, was some time ago compelled to leave the Fatherland on account of certain articles which appeared in his paper, the Bromberger Tageblatt, giving deep offence to the crown. Recently his father died and he succeeded to the title of baron and an estate of $127,000. His brother secured amnesty for him, and he will return to Germany after wedding Miss Anna Franklin at Chattanooga, Tenn. He is about 30 years old and a graduate of Heidelberg. While in this country he worked as a baker, and recently had been employed at Lebanon, Ind.

The preparation of a simple and cheap artificial stone is becoming an important German industry and likely eventually to supplant brickmaking. The ingredients are only lime and sand in the proportion of from four to six parts of the latter. The materials are thoroughly mixed and shaped into blocks of the desired size. The latter are then put in a boiler, which is sealed, and submitted to a steam pressure of from 120 to 150 pounds to the square inch. This operation gives a flinty character to the blocks, making them very hard.

The old royal castle of Buda is again in the hands of the builders and decorators, who are doing their best to modernize it. It stands upon a hill rising abruptly from the town, and gives a splendid view of the Danube basin, but it still retains more the look of a fortress than of a royal palace. The Emperor Francis Joseph has done much to improve it. After the fire of 1849, which burned down a considerable part of the castle, 203 rooms were restored in excellent style. An entire tract is now being rebuilt and the old wings renovated.

BANKING BUSINESS GOOD

In Michigan According to Com. Maltz's Annual Report.

CAPITAL INCREASE OF $635,000

At the Commencement of the Year There Were 192 State Banks and Three Trust Companies Under the Supervision of the Department.

Banking Business on the Increase.

The annual report of State Banking Commissioner Maltz, issued on the 6th, says that at the date of the report, Jan. 1, there were 192 state banks and three trust companies under the supervision of the department. During the year six state banks located at Benton Harbor, Blissfield, Mt. Clemens, Flushing, Rochester and Saranac, were organized, increasing the capital stock of the state banks $[illegible]. During the year there was not a single failure [illegible]

[illegible]

Sudden Death at Charlotte.

[illegible]

Manistee Wants State Encampment.

[illegible]

It is said that the interurban line between Benton Harbor and South Bend, Ind., will be in operation by Aug. 1, as far as Niles.

MINOR MICHIGAN MATTERS.

There is an epidemic of scarlet fever at East Tawas.

Norway's new bank will commence business about June 1.

Forest fires are doing considerable damage in Wexford county.

There has been eight national banks established in Michigan since March, 1900.

An attempt is being made to organize an Episcopal church society at Durand.

The plant of the Bellmer Eames Tool Co., of Cincinnati, will locate at Kalamazoo.

It is said that Michigan has one of the finest displays at the Pan-American exposition.

Klatt's hotel in Wyandotte was destroyed by fire on the night of April [illegible]. Loss, $[illegible].

The total membership of the L. O. T. M. in Michigan is now [illegible], an increase of [illegible] during April.

The streets in the business portion of Ludington will be macadamized.

[illegible]

The River Raisin Paper Co.'s plant at Monroe was destroyed by fire the morning of the [illegible], entailing a loss of $30,000.

DOINGS OF THE 41ST SESSION.

The following bills were passed by the house on the 6th: Appropriation of $2,500 for completing records of soldiers and sailors in Spanish-American war; provide for organization of Sheridan township, Mason county, into single school district; organization of Hamlin township, Mason county, into single school district; provide for the building of stone and brick sidewalks in Saginaw and authorizing common council to issue $25,000 bonds to pay for the same in anticipation of the collection of the assessments; amending general tax law relative to township treasurers making returns; amending law relative to societies for loaning and investing money; amending garnishee law so that proceedings may be commenced against the state of Michigan or any county, the same as against municipal corporations, also that summons may be served on any officer of a corporation; relative to the commencement of suits in which partition of law is sought; limiting stay of proceedings upon any verdict to 20 days unless party applying shall execute a bond for the amount; amending election law relative to ballots [illegible]

[illegible]

COSTLY BLAZE IN FLORIDA

130 Blocks in the Capital City Burned Over.

MANY PEOPLE MADE HOMELESS

Latest Returns Places the Number of Homeless at 10,000—The State has Furnished the Unfortunates With Tents for Temporary Shelter.

Florida Town Gutted by Fire.

The most disastrous fire in the history of Jacksonville, Fla., started there shortly after noon on the [illegible] a small factory from a defective [illegible] according to the best belief, and burned nearly 10 hours. In that time a property damage estimated from $[illegible] to $[illegible] was caused. According to the city map 130 blocks were burned, many of them in the heart of the business and residence section. The estimate of houses to the block [illegible] hence [illegible] went up in smoke. [illegible]

[illegible]

BRIEF NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

[illegible]

CUBA AND PHILIPPINE NEWS.

An order issued on the 6th by the war department honorably discharges a number of volunteer officers. Among them are Maj.-Gen. Shafter and Wood, and Brig.-Gens. Barry and Barber to take effect on June 30; Brig.-Gens. Whiteside, Bell, Bird, Hare, Long, Balance and Bliss to take effect June 20. Volunteer Brig.-Gen. James F. Smith also is discharged to take effect June 20, but will continue as collector of the port of Manila.

After a careful consideration of the situation in the Philippines as it now exists, the administration has decided to reduce the army in the islands to 40,000 men. The opinion prevails that this number will be ample for the present needs in the islands, and if conditions continue to improve in the satisfactory manner that has been shown in the past few months the force may be reduced still further.

The island of Samar, one of the Visayan group, has been transferred from the department commanded by Gen. Wade to that commanded by Gen. Hughes. Gen. Hughes has been ordered personally to Samar and if he is unsuccessful in negotiating the surrender of the insurgent, Gen. Lukban, the force of American troops in Samar will be increased and a vigorous offensive campaign will be inaugurated.

The military authorities at Manila have prepared a schedule and forwarded the same to Washington covering the sailing dates of the 30 regiments of volunteers still in the archipelago. Unless unforseen delays arise, the last of these regiments will reach [illegible] before June [illegible].

[illegible]

TRANSVAAL WAR ITEMS.

[illegible]

CHINA WAR NEWS.

The latest mail from China has brought to the state department at Washington new proofs of the terrible and perhaps irretrievable conditions which exist under the foreign military rule in north China, involving a situation not hitherto fully realized, even in Washington, and utterly unappreciated in the U. S. generally. The character of the information which has now come into the administration's possession is summarized in the following extracts from a communication written by one of the most trusted officials in the service abroad and mailed from Pekin a month ago: "The question of raising the indemnity, though one of the most serious for the Chinese government, is not paramount. All the people who are likely to know declare that the Chinese peasant can stand no greater burden of taxation than in the past, as the question resolves itself largely to reducing the expense of collection, which in China involves radical reforms. Another proposition for meeting the indemnity is to grant lucrative mining and industrial concessions to foreigners, by that means bartering their independence and laying up endless trouble for the Chinese, which are quick to recognize the fact."

Inquiry at Washington confirms the report that the U. S. is working, and finds support in its effort, toward the opening of all China, including the provinces, to the trade of the world. This does not mean the abolition of customs duties, but would make every Chinese city a market for the world's goods instead of limiting foreign commerce to the few existing treaty posts. The project is one that appeals temptingly to the commercial interests of others of the great powers than the U. S., and, if it should command the support of the necessary number, hope is entertained that it will indirectly aid in the settlement of the troublesome indemnity question.

The report of Gen. Ketteler, received at Pekin from Kuo Lu, differs from the other reports concerning the German-French expedition previously received. Gen. Ketteler's report shows that the Chinese troops did not leave the province till they were forced to do so. The entire brigade, commanded by Gen. Ketteler, met the enemy on April 23 and inflicted immense loss. The report does not give the loss. The Germans had one officer and three soldiers [illegible] and [illegible] soldiers wounded.

The legation guard at the American legation at Pekin will not be subjected to the order of any foreign general. Official reports of the latest phases of the negotiations at Pekin, as told in press dispatches, have not reached Washington. The American legation guard will retain its independence, even if necessary to remove it from Pekin and from China.

The famine stricken people of China [illegible] desperate, and are now [illegible] They have eaten [illegible] every bit of bark [illegible] everything that can be eaten [illegible]

[illegible] cavalry and artillery left [illegible] on the [illegible] march to Ton-Ku. [illegible] attended [illegible] departure.

[illegible]

BASE BALL.

[illegible]

THE MARKETS.

[illegible]

[illegible]

The supreme court has reversed a former decision and declared that the trust clause in the will of the late Jas. J. Fair is invalid. In his will Fair left his estate, valued at $15,000,000, in trust, the proceeds to go to his heirs, the principal to be kept out of their hands. As a result of the decision of the supreme court, the estate will now be divided among Fair's heirs.