THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC
ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.
WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL, PUBS.
BIRMINGHAM, FRIDAY FEB. 10.

STATE NEWS

Russell Sage says "a man cannot save too much money." That's our experience.

France has solved the problem of what to do with ex-presidents. Let them live in flats.

Mr. Schwab continues to receive condolences on the $6,000,000 residence he must soon occupy.

One pleasant feature of the revolution in Ecuador is that it was all over with before we knew it had happened.

"Who was the first advertiser?" asks the Philadelphia Record. We don't know, but undoubtedly he found it paid.

And how about personally conducted excursions to Mars when the camera fiend tackles thought photography?

Theatrical managers still drop Shakespeare." However, this is better than the usual procedure of murdering him.

Dramatic art, says Orlenoff, the Russian writer, seeks to make suffering fashionable. Humanitarianism seeks to diminish it.

If the doctors did not use imposing Latin names for their remedies should we have as much confidence in them as we do now?

The number of swine in the country is small. One wishes he could say that the amount of hogishness is also very limited.

A dispatch from Constantinople says in other words that Karatheodory Pasha has gone to join the original Ahkond of Swat.

A fashion writer says: "One can get a real cute layette for a baby for $8,000." Wouldn't that make you join a race suicide club?

Col. Mann says he returned some of the money he borrowed from millionaires. He must have had terrible stalled at some time in his career.

Maybe the dressmakers have an idea that dull, unobservant man will not be able to identify a hoopskirt if it is called a "circlette."

Ecuador has had another earthquake. Earthquakes dare not come fooling around Venezuela while Castro has on his fighting clothes.

The Sunday jag is a part of the week's work, according to a Chicago man. He never discovered that by looking into his pay envelope.

A writer wants to know whether cooking makes wrinkles in a woman's face. Well, certain sales of cooking make wrinkles in men's faces.

It is pleasant to see a man of Grover Cleveland's age and weight joshing the doctors just as if he were not the least bit afraid of them.

A mournful wail from across the Pacific reminds us from time to time that Korea finds the process of being eaten alive somewhat unpleasant.

"Major General Trotski, the new military commander at St. Petersburg, may be pardoned for believing the government will now win in a walkski.

The fact, that a red petticoat did not figure in the story of that Pennsylvania maiden who flagged two express trains leads one to doubt its accuracy.

Mr. Balfour is not convinced of the truth of the French saying that "there is no indispensable man." He will get into parliament with an open mind on the subject.

The Newport papers do not say how many cords of wood Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Vanderbilt received as presents on the occasion of their wooden wedding.

Wireless reports from the drydock Dewey show that she is making more than 100 miles a day on her voyage to Manila, and for a drydock, like the Dewey that is going some.

They need no injunctions in China. Railway employes at Hankow threatened to strike, and the viceroy announced that every striker would be beheaded. It was not law, but it "went."

Capt. Cook in his second and most successful exploring voyage sailed some 20,000 miles in two years. Chief engineer Baum of the Norddeutscher Lloyd has sailed 2,400,000 in forty years. It is a swifter age.

Queen Isabella, who staked Columbus, was the first woman whose portrait was put on a postage stamp by this country. The list has grown somewhat, but has not yet reached Anna Gould, who staked Boni Castellane.

Livery stable keepers in Connecticut are held by a decision of a court in that state to be not liable as common carriers to exercise extraordinary care for the safety of passengers. Now will the hard elderly loafers in the Nutmeg State be good!

The man in Washington, Penn., who has signed a pledge always to tell his wife the truth has set an example that will not be generally followed. Do wives want their husbands always to tell them the truth—when they don't look quite as well as usual, for instance?

Men are so ignorant! "I always thought," remarked an English judge, "that a parasol and a sunshade were the same." "No," replied the witness on the stand; "a sunshade is to keep the sun off; a parasol is to flirt with."

THE GOVERNOR TALKS TO TAX COMMISSION PLAINLY.

HE CHAMPIONS THE PEOPLE'S CAUSE IN DIRECT ADVICE ON RAILROAD TAXES.

INSISTS THAT RAILROADS BE MADE TO PAY THEIR JUST SHARE OF THE LEVY.

The Governor's Advice.

The railroad tax battle is on before the state board of assessors. Gov. Warner, attorney-general Bird and their expert engineers appeared for the people. The railroads were represented by their attorneys and commissioners. The storm center is the assessed valuation of railroads for 1905, which has been fixed at $207,000,000. In opening the fight Gov. Warner said:

"On the 15th day of this month the tax commissioners must finally determine two things: First, the value of that class of corporate property which is directly assessed by said commissioners; second, the rate at which the tax levy on such property shall be made.

"Regardless of the constitutionality or unconstitutionality of laws, the practical question before us here today is: What proportion of the total tax levied by the state upon the railroads and other corporations assessed by this commission to pay?

"The act creating the tax commission and State Board of Assessors prescribes that after the mailing public of the first figures arrived at by said commissioners, a period of 30 days shall be given to enable interested persons as to the correctness of such figures. This feature of the law directly recognizes the plain fact that full and complete information cannot be secured by the commissioners in the limited time given them to complete their work to the point of announcing their final public figures. This is especially true during a year with practically a new board.

"I desire to again state plainly, as I have publicly stated several times before, that the action of the board in the figures of the commissioners were given out that I am firmly of the belief that under the figures given on January 15 the railroad property of this state would pay less than its just proportion of taxes.

"It was because of this belief that I officially asked the tax commissioners, under date of January 15, to determine this public hearing. In furtherance of this plan, under date of Jan. 20, I requested Professors Adams and Cooley to be present at the assistance in their power toward supplying the tax commissioners with additional facts and information with reference to that class of property to be assessed by them. Owing to the time until the present, under the leadership of Attorney General Bird, every step possible has been taken toward the preparation of the full schedules of values to be produced as evidence to the commissioners sitting as a board of review at this time.

"Gentlemen of the tax commission, the only thing I ask of you is that in the final determination of your figures, the same principle shall be applied in your valuation of railroad property that is applied to the valuation of the other property of the state. If this is done the ratio between the two will be a just ratio, the rate of taxation can be fixed by you will be above criticism, and the railroads and other corporation property assessed by you will pay their just and proper proportion toward the support of our institutions, and not one dollar more.

"As governor of this state I believe it to be not only my legal right and my legal duty, but my moral right and my moral duty to see to it that the complete recognition of this principle in the making of your final determination."

Elkton's Blaze.

Fire starting in or near the oil room, in the general store of Herman Magnuson swept over the business part of Elkton, Oregon, destroying half a dozen business places and inflicting a total loss of at least $25,000. Magnuson's store and contents were a total loss, the building being valued at $1,600, and the stock, $9,500. Insurance on the stock, $6,000. Moses Brandt's store adjoining was burned with a loss of $800. It was occupied as a millinery store by Mrs. Elder who saved part of her goods, but will lose $400, with no insurance. A. Negher's store, valued at $1,200, followed. Mrs. Ferguson's building, valued at, saved part of her goods, but lost $1,800 with no insurance. J. D. Clark's furniture store and dwelling were burned, the loss being $2,200 on the building and $6,000 on the stock, with $2,000 insurance. Rev. Shirk, a Mennonite preacher, lost his horse and buggy valued at $225, in a barn burned sixty rods away.

Mrs. Cornelia Keet, aged 62, of Battle Creek, has been out on an evening party, but when she did not arise early it was believed she was ill, and she was allowed to rest. Later it was found that she had died during the night.

Because a jury was convinced that Mrs. Flora Mercer, of Jackson, was not given proper assistance in alighting from a Cincinnati Northern train, at Audubon, on November 24, 1902, a verdict of $1,600 for damages sustained was given Saturday.

The earth tremors over the Lake Superior copper country on Thursday were caused by air blasts and falling rock in the Quincy mine. Nearly all the 1,400 miners were brought to the surface, but is believed that there is no great danger and they will return to work. The Quincy mine is a mile deep and extends 12,000 feet beneath Portage lake.

The final chapter in the famous Grand Rapids water deal scandal which has been in the limelight almost five years was reached Saturday, when Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Ward filed a petition in the superior court asking leave to nolle pros the remaining cases.

Congressman Fordney has introduced a bill to transfer 8,847 acres of government land in Crawford county, Mich., to the state for forestry purposes. The lands are as follows: Township 27 north, ranges 3 and 4 west; north half of township 24 north, range 4 west; south half of township 25 north, range 4 west.

MICHIGAN ITEMS.

When a woman doubts a man she at once condemns him.

Fred Terrill, of Potterville, cut his right hand off at the wrist with a feed cutter.

The Branch County Agricultural society has started to raise $10,000 to equip the new fair grounds.

Frank Prantz, a pioneer of Ogemaw county, was instantly killed by a falling tree while cutting timber.

The Pere Marquette depot at Hemlock was destroyed by fire Saturday morning, together with its contents.

Claude Gregory, the "trusty" who walked out of Jackson prison on December 31, has been captured in Dayton, O.

Asa Bookwalter was instantly killed by the accidental discharge of his gun while hunting Saturday. He kept a general store six miles south of Tustin.

A large black bear was shot east of Turner by John Perrin, a well-known hunter. The bear weighed over 300 pounds and the carcass was shipped to Detroit.

Fire broke out in the Prince of Wales, Negaunee, mine Friday evening. Three hundred men in the mine at the time escaped through another shaft.

The youngest of her other 11 children, being 20 years of age, Mrs. T. Goodsell, of Mayfield, has given birth to a baby girl which weighed two pounds.

Clark Van Vlerah, school teacher of Onondaga township, who was fined $20 with costs of $30 for whipping Howard Miller, a pupil, has appealed to the circuit court.

Deadly gas still prevents work in No. 5, shaft 6, the Tamarack mine. The three men who perished during the fire, more than a month ago have not yet been found.

Sportsmen are advocating the establishment of a game preserve of 25 to 30 square miles in Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac counties, to perpetuate the supply of game.

The first train between Lawton and Kalamazoo was run over the Kalamazoo, Lake Shore & Chicago electric line on Thursday. The road is nearly completed from Kalamazoo to Battle Creek is the first city to organize a good roads club. The Business Men's association will build their first road to Bellevue. Farmers have signified their willingness to help.

The presiding elders of the seven districts of the Michigan M. E. conference have voted to accept the invitation of Cadillac to hold the next conference session there August 22.

While Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Handy was spending the winter in Buffalo for the benefit of Mrs. Handy's health, their only child, Miss Edna, died suddenly in Warrenton of acute rheumatism.

Mrs. Jos. Batchelor, a prominent resident of Pentwater, was thrown out of her buggy Friday evening, her horse running away. She was thrown against a tree and instantly killed.

Wednesday, January 12, went to get a pail of water from a spring in which a barrel had been sunk. He did not return and was found drowned in the barrel, having fallen in head first.

The State Board of Equalization failed to effect a combine to divide the state. C. C. Hubbell, of Marlette, was elected president, and W. A. Ross, of Port Huron, secretary and treasurer.

Alonzo O'Dell, an Indiana man who disappeared at Grand Rapids, and was believed to have been murdered, has been located in Ross. His relatives were trying to collect his life insurance.

John Ryan and his wife, the penniless couple who applied to the Port Huron police for lodging after walking all the way from Detroit, will be deported, their former home being Toronto.

A high school building of brick and stone, to accommodate 350 students, will replace the one burned recently in Gaines. The Gaines & Hersey Mining Co. will erect it on the company's location.

Miss Elsie Clarke, of Pontiac, was injured in the collision of a cutter with a D. U. R. car, when Ray Johnson was killed, about a year ago. She is now suing the railway company for heavy damages.

A recurrence of air blasts in Quincy mine has rendered the shafts practically impassable. The blast shook Hancock and Houghton, and rattled and smashed dishes like an earthquake. Some of the residents of the districts are alarmed and talk of moving.

A. A. Adams, an aged Shelby citizen, was loading wood on a one-horse rig, when he stumbled and fell. The horse ran away and Mr. Adams was dragged some distance until he struck a stump head first, was instantly killed, and his wife witnessed the accident.

Byron Litchard has been kept in jail all winter by Miss Olive Stevens, of Ionia, who secured his arrest on a capias in a breach of promise suit. She has worked in a restaurant to raise the $2.50 per week to pay his board. Litchard has been divorced since his incarceration, and Miss Stevens now ask his release. It is understood they will be married after all.

It was a sad surprise that came to Mrs. Henry Wilson, aged 87, when she arrived in Jackson to visit her grandson, Winfield Miller, her only living relative. Young Miller had been sent to Ionia prison a week ago for larceny. The old lady tearfully told what a good boy he had always been and said her left home only a few months ago. She went to Ionia to visit him in prison.

Miss Abbie Weller, stamp clerk at the Grand Rapids postoffice, has lost her eyesight, and physicians say that her eyes were poisoned by acute disease infection carried by money she had handled in the mail.

A midnight fire in Elmira which started in the building occupied as Webb & Lidbeck's saloon and John Burke's tavern also destroyed the general store of Chapman & Barker, and the barber shop of T. M. Blakesley, and two men were barded to death in their rooms in the tavern over the saloon. The dead are supposed to be John Harrington and Thomas Treey, each aged about 45.

An increase of 50,000 pupils in the total enrollment in the public schools of the state is believed by Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction W. H. French to be the result of the new compulsory education law.

Thomas Bryant, claiming to be from Jamaica, became infatuated at a ball game with Miss Eva Gay, one of the most popular young society ladies of Benton Harbor, and forced his attentions on her. He called repeatedly at her home and even at revolver in the hands of Mrs. Gay did not cause him to desist, so the police were called and he will be kept away by jail bars for a time, at least.

LATE NEWS

THE EXPERTS REPORT ON RAILROAD PROPERTY AND TAXES.

THE RAISE BY THEIR FIGURES GOES MUCH HIGHER THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED.

VALUE OF PROPERTY OVER TWO HUNDRED MILLIONS FOR TAXATION.

Raised to $284,710,659.

The valuation of Michigan railroads as made by the experts working under Profs. Cooley and Adams, of the University of Michigan, and presented to the state board of assessors by Attorney General Bird is $284,710,659 as compared with $207,980,000, the assessors' figures. It is noticeable that while the large roads are raised the Michigan Central, Grand Trunk and the Pere Marquette $21,000,000—a number of smaller roads are lowered. The Wabash is lowered $200,000, and the Manistique, Marquette & Northern $100,000. In some cases Cooley and Adams gave no valuations, being insufficient data.

If the board of assessors' figures were taken on the roads the experts could not value, the sum of $280,000 would be added to the new valuations, making a grand total valuation of $284,990,659.

Mr. Bird asked Messrs. Cooley, Adams and Myers, the experts, as to their qualifications and experience. These gentlemen each responded in turn. He then took up the roads in order, and Mr. Cooley gave for each the physical valuation, non-physical valuation, cash in current assets, and stores and supplies, according to models. Prof. Cooley said: "We regard the physical properties as divided into about six elements right of way, grading, rails, ties, etc. Each has been computed separately as if new, then a certain amount of depreciation is figured to bring it to its present state of wear. Then actual detailed inspection of roads was made. In all we figured upon changes and additions to property, with the new schedule of prices in 1905 we did this again with a force of three men in my office. There is not great increase. We have considered the heavy unkeeping expenses of a road as maintaining a standard, while we have applied a depreciation which maintenance expenses have been meager."

Prof. Adams, at Bird's request, explained the method of computing the value of property of railroads which do not earnings at a certain per cent of the total valuation. As the inquiry proceeded it was surprising how many roads were found to be overcapitalized to have been without any but physical valuation in the assessors' figures.

The Cincinnati, Wabash & Michican declared to have a physical valuation of $27,225,000, but non-physical values, cash in current assets, no stores and supplies, and therefore of no more than its physical valuation, though assessed by the board of assessors at $1,150,000.

Mr. Cooley explained the method of determining the value of Michigan Central by tracks running outside of the state. Track mileage was used in the Detroit, Toledo & Ironton, and car mileage in Lake Shore valuations.

The position, character of business, etc., called for a different book of car mileage method on Lake Shore gave in 1902 a valuation of two-thirds the track mileage valuation.

Rate Bill Passed.

The house Thursday passed the Hepburn railroad rate bill by a vote of 347 to 7. Those voting against the bill were Littlefield (Me.), McCall and Weeks (Mass.), Perkins, Southwick and Vreeland (N. Y.), E. Sibley (Pa.), all Republicans.

Anticipating the roll call on the race bill, the house was fairly attended, all members and the galleries were crowded. The passage of the bill was received with a ripple of applause.

Mr. Sullivan (Mass.) voted "present" and was one paired. There were 28 members paired, but these pairs were generally political ones. None of them was made on the bill and consequently the vote indicates no position.

The bill was at once sent to the senate, but the members generally were not made aware of its arrival and it was referred to the interstate commerce committee.

The Sugar Tariff.

Sudden confidence seems to have come to the representative of the sugar and tobacco interests who came to Washington to lobby for the defeat of the Philippine tariff bill. Within the week they were in apparent despondency but now they are rejoicing and are predicting that the administration measures to give the Filipino a practically free American market will never reach the floor of the senate backed by a favorable committee report.

When Thomas Nolan shot at his sweetheart, Mrs. Jane McCarthy, in Chicago, Monday night, she ducked over in a dead faint, but uninjured. So real was her apparent death that the would-be murderer turned the revolver on himself and splashed his brains all over the ceiling.

So many congressmen have speeches prepared on the rate bill that the house has agreed to meet at 11 a. m. hereafter until the measure is disposed of.

Ross R. Brattain, of Spokane, Wash., has a grievance against his father-in-law. Recently he worked up sufficient political pull to get the appointment of consul at Hongchow, China, with a salary of $2,000. The young man informs the state department that it will be impossible for him to accept because his father-in-law objects to allowing his daughter to go to China, and he prefers his wife to his job.

Andrew Roebuck, aged 10, a pupil at the Lawrence public school, Pittsburg, cannot stop running and at the request of his principals, the doctors examined him. Even they couldn't solve the mystery. The boy has kept the truant officer busy for weeks. He is not a willful truant, but if he starts to run when he leaves home in the morning he cannot stop until he becomes exhausted. This, of course, carries him past the schoolhouse. Recently the boy started to run when he left home and was found completely exhausted at Fayetteville, 23 miles away. He had run all the way.

A DETROIT HORROR.

Drunk and jealousy mad, wildly infuriated against the wife from whom he twice had separated, Joseph Wolf, 28 years of age, a lumber scaler, went to the home of his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. August Wieting, of Detroit, Saturday night, and, after shooting both and his own daughter, he turned the revolver on himself and blew out his brains. Mrs. Witt, against whom the crazed husband's homicidal wrath have directed his fury, escaped death through being absent from the house. The tragedy came as the climax of a tempestuous marital career, which led to the divorce court, but the love power proved too strong, and, for a second time Witt led the woman to the altar. Their married life was marked with frequent quarrels, and no wonder was the man's conduct toward his wife, that she was forced at last to turn from him again and go to her parents' home—the scene of the tragedy enacted Saturday night.

Have Trichinosis.

Dr. J. W. Gustin, Bay City health officer, says that many cases of "typhoid" recently reported on the west side of Saginaw are very similar, the seat of trouble in each case being the intestines. He has discovered that the infected pork came from a farm near Saginaw. Microscopic examination of the infected meat to the state board of health for further microscopical examination. He wants all the pigs that have been killed by order of the state board of health, that the farmers knew his hogs were so afflicted.

No State Muster.

A dispatch from Lansing confirms the report that there will be no state encampment this year. The news will disappoint members of the militia, but there is some comfort in the thought that a regimental camp may be held.

The Lansing dispatch says the state militia board may hold a separate camp for each of the three regiments, and that some companies may also be sent to the national maneuvers. Saginaw having asked for the attendance of troops for its semi-centennial celebration, may have one of the regimental camps.

Died at Cell Door.

Exchanges say that Dr. J. Smith Gould, a former resident of Saginaw, who was arrested for the crime of picking women's pockets, dropped dead at the door of his prison cell. He was formerly prosperous from the practice of medicine.

Gould showed no emotion when arrested until he saw the officers at headquarters while after his name "suspicion." Then he trembled, and as an officer started to lead him away he threw up his hands and toppled over. Letters written by him a few days previously indicated that he expected to die suddenly.

CONDENSED NEWS.

Find a way to make one, then keep on trying.

While the food is waiting for an opportunity the wise man makes ready.

A $25,000 monument will be erected to Ralph Waldo Emerson by the city of Concord, where the famous man lived and died.

Russian aristocrats—60,000, it is estimated—have taken refuge in Switzerland during the last year, and most of them are "dead broke."

The body of King Christian, the ruler of Denmark, who died more than nine years ago, is now lying in state in Copenhagen, and after another week of public exhibition will be finally laid away.

The trade unions of France, especially of Paris, aided by the leading members of the left deputies are putting up a national petition for the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of absinthe.

Frank Dostal, 50 years old, of Racine, Wis., was the father of triplets. The event created great excitement and hundreds of people visited the home. So overcome was he at the unusual prominence of the event that he committed suicide by cutting his throat from ear to ear and died.

Disheartened because the school board refused to ratify her promotion at higher pay, Miss Ella Mollenhagen, a teacher of the 8th grade of German in the public schools of Baltimore, committed suicide by inhaling gas. She was denied promotion because her hearing was defective.

Edward Dunlap, a thief, died in the police hospital at Indianapolis, Monday, leaving a will bequeathing his brain to the hospital. He was an incorrigible thief, but a talented man, and said he hoped the investigators would be able to determine by investigation where dishonest impulses come from.

Prof. Emil von Behring, of Berlin, discoverer of a diphtheria serum, now declares that the serum is useless as a method of preventing consumption by immunizing cows. The aim is to obtain milk, having immunizing properties. Cows were treated with very young with a fluid which. Prof. Behring calls tuberculase. It is injected under the skin repeatedly for two to four weeks. Prof. Behring also treated cows showing incipient tuberculosis in their milk, but the bacilli disappeared after several weeks treatment. His theory is that children can thus obtain from their mothers immune through his treatment become themselves immune.

The New Jersey man of 80, who is being sued for alienation of affection must have a magnetic pocketbook.

United States Senator Dubois has established the inspection of 50 Norfolk oyster boats, and report that captains in a number of cases were holding men in a state bordering upon slavery.

The moose dandies belong to Mrs. Jones, aged 70 years, of ex-Indianapolis, upon her conviction Friday of murdering the infant of her foster daughter, Mrs. Mary Jones, by administering chloroform to it. The aged woman had urged the attending physician to kill the child and upon his refusal performed the deed herself.

A three-year agreement between contractors and structure men has been signed in Chicago, by which the men are to be paid an increase of 6¼ cents per hour, aggregating an increase of more than $1,000,000 per year.

Forty-six years ago, on the occasion of his golden wedding celebration, Nicholas Longworth's grandfather sent a case of wine to the men at the Gift's fire engine house in Cincinnati, and with it three bottles of his golden wedding wine for the captain. One of the bottles was saved by the captain and by his widow, who, after keeping it for 46 years, will send it on to Washington.

CRUEL KING

HOW THE BELGIAN KING BARBAROUSLY GROWS RICH.

BLOOD, CRUELTY AND INFAMY COVER HIS CONTROL IN THE CONGO FREE STATES.

THE AGED MONARCH'S GREED APPALS THE WORLD BY ITS INHUMAN BRUTALITY.

Shocking Revelations.

The Belgian king, Leopold, is shown to be an avaricious, cruel grafter by revelations contained in a book on the Congo Free State, published at Paris and Brussels by the Belgian, Prof. Cattier, indicating that during the past decade King Leopold has drawn an amount estimated at $15,000,000 from the rubber trade in the Congo (domaine de la Couronne), where he is the sole owner. There is no trace of this in the published accounts of the Congo administration. King Leopold's personal property, consists of 289,375 square kilometres, or an area 2 1-2 times the size of England, bringing him profits on india rubber alone of $15,147,000 during the last 10 years.

Rev. Dr. Herbert S. Johnson, of the Warren Avenue Baptist church, Boston, Mass., who is touring the country in the interests of the Congo Reform Association, says that, up to within a comparatively short time, no one of C. Stanley Hall, Lyman Abbott, and others, hesitated about taking up the work. But the official report of the commissioners, quite different from alleged reasons of the same, has converted him, and taking this report as a basis, he paints a condition of things in the territory known to the world as the Congo Free State, which beggars anything known in civilized history. King Leopold appears a monster of greed and blood, who, at the age of 70 years, delights in killing, ruins commerce and productive land that he may pour more gold into his coffers.

Dr. Johnson laughed in derision when shown the London dispatch which says, that, during the last decade King Leopold has drawn an amount estimated at $15,000,000 from the rubber trade at the Congo.

"He sees more than that every year," declared Dr. Johnson. "We estimate King Leopold's income at $20,000,000 a year. He is the richest man in the world."

"Never in the history of the world has there been a crime equal to the crime of King Leopold."

"In the last fifteen years he has murdered between eleven and twelve millions of people. He has depopulated whole districts."

"Every time a 'guard' shoots a native he cuts off a hand. Every small district 6,000 right hands were cut off within six months."

"King Leopold is no longer on trial. He has been tried and convicted by his own commission. The only thing that remains now is to pass sentence."

"The report of the king's own commission says that the natives are obliged to work 280 days a year by way of tax. They go into the woods two weeks at a time to gather rubber. Then they are allowed to stay in their villages for two weeks. Then they are sent back into the wilderness. To all practical purposes they are slaves. And King Leopold has chosen as guards, cannibals from hostile tribes. He has furnished them with rapid fire guns and chicottes, whips formed of hippopotamus hide, twisted when green into a corkscrew shape. These guards pillage, massacre and outrage, performing every cruelty known to savage warfare. Let me give you one example of the things that are fit to be told, for many incidents are too horrible to be printed.

"John H. Harris, who has returned from the heart of the Congo region, says that on one occasion he saw one of the rubber gatherers seized by six men and stretched out on the ground, and lashed with the chicotte until he was a bleeding mass. You must remember that the chicotte will cut to the backbone. To intimidate, they sometimes cut off the hands of the men and the feet of the women. Every time a native is killed or has a cute off a hand, to show that he has not used his bullet in killing game. For the game belongs to the king. In one small district 6,000 right hands were cut off within six months."

"In 1891 Thomas Moody went to the mission station at Ireba. He found there between eight and ten thousand natives. Six years later he revisited the place, and there were only between three and five hundred remaining. In 1890, fifty people out of the original thousands were at the station. The remainder had been enslaved, had fled to the wilderness, or had been killed. Most of them were dead."

"Rubber is the only thing that will live in the open forests without protection of any sort, thousands of these poor people succumb to pulmonary diseases, dying like sheep.

And beside all this, the merchants of America should know that the richest rubber-producing country in the world is being ruined. In their eagerness for profit they are cutting down the lianas, the poor slaves are breaking up the vines and are even digging up the roots."

Pope Pius, in order to insure protection to the invaluable paintings in the Vatican, will cause them to be removed to new quarters in the magnificent, to which admission will be limited to 50 persons at a time.

James F. Smith of California has been nominated by President Roosevelt, governor-general of the Philippine islands, vice Henry Clay Ide, resigned, to take effect June 1, 1906.

Engineer Cooley, who has charge of the construction of the great Chicago drainage canal, says 3 22-foot trench from Toledo to Chicago is being planned.

"Battling" Nelson, the pugilist, and Revi. J. Wilbur Chapman, the evangelist, were fellow guests at a South Norwalk, Conn., hotel and were thus introduced by the elevator boy: "Hey, doctor, this bloke here's de champeen scrapper of de world." The men shook hands and the prize-fighter remarked: "We both knock the devil out of people, don't we, doctor?" The evangelist laughed and replied: "I'm afraid there won't be anybody up here to hear us tonight now that such a celebrity as you are here." "Guess it won't be that bad," said Nelson. "There empty seats," answered the pugilist. Both had good houses.

THE HODGE SUICIDE.

Schuyler Gardner Hodges, a member of one of Pontiac's oldest families and widely known in Detroit, where while wife has been living for several weeks, blew his head off with a shot gun in the old Hodges home at Pine Lake Friday morning. Mrs. Hodges, who had been boarding at 83 Winder street, was notified of the tragedy soon after. She left at noon to take charge of the body.

It is presumed Hodges was temporarily insane from melancholia. For three weeks he had been under the care of a physician. Mrs. Hodges says she thinks that her husband was worried but had no idea he was in a state bordering on insanity.

"He had trouble over the settlement of his mother's estate," said she, "and I think it preyed on his mind."

The suicide was carefully planned, according to dispatches from Pine Lake. Hodges sat down in a chair, and resting his head against the barrel of the shot gun contrived to pull the trigger. The top of his head was blown off and the wall is spattered with blood and brains.

Hodges was 49 years old. His father was Ira G. Hodges, who built the old Hodges house in Pontiac, which today is one of the city's leading hotels. Both parents are both dead, and it was over Mrs. Hodges' estate that the trouble is said to have developed. Hodges spent his early days in Pontiac and Pine Lake, where the family home has been in recent years. He married his first wife in Pontiac about 15 years ago. They were divorced. One daughter, Helen, is living in Detroit. The first Mrs. Hodges died in a rooming house in Detroit a few years ago, by her own hand, it is said.

Prof. William Wallace Campbell, of the Lick observatory, formerly of the University of Michigan, has received the honorary gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society of London for the greatest astronomical achievements during 1905.

THE MARKETS.

Detroit—Market active, prices some higher. Extra dry-fed steers and heifers, $5.25@5.40; steers and heifers, 1,200@1,400 lbs., $4.75@5; steers, 900 to 1,000, $4@4.25; steers and heifers, 800 to 900, $3.50@3.75; 600 to 800 choice fat cows, $3.25@3.75; good fat cows, $2.75@3.25; common cows, $2@2.50; canners, $1.75@2; choice heavy bulls, $3.25@3.75; fair to good bologna bulls, $3@3.25; stock bulls, $2.50@3; choice feeding steers, 900 to 1,000, $3.50@4; fair feeding steers, 800 to 900, $3.25@3.50; choice stockers, 600 to 700, $3@3.25; fair stockers, 500 to 600, $2.50@3; stock heifers, 500 to 700, $2.50@3; choice young, medium age, $40@45; common, $30@35; milkers, $25@50. The veal calf trade was active and 50 grades brought $7.50@8; the bulk of the best sold at $8 per hundred. The bulk of the week's offerings of good to choice hogs brought $6 per hundred.

Sheep—The sheep and lamb market was a brisk one from start to finish and prices for the week were from 25 to 50c higher than they did a week ago. Wooled lambs sold from 50 cents to a dollar lower $7.40, but had the quality been there it would have sold at $8, and perhaps a trifle better might have been had.

Hogs—Light run at higher prices. Light to good butchers, $5.90@6.05; pigs, $5.90@6.05; light yorkers, $5.90; roughs, $4.50@5; stags 1-3 off.

Chicago—Common to prime steers, $3.50@5.60; cows, $2.60@4.40; heifers, $2.25@4.75; bulls, $2.50@4.25; calves, $5.50@7.25; stockers and feeders, $2.40@4.60.

Hogs—Choice to prime heavy, $5.95@6.05; medium to good heavy, $5.90@6; butcher weights, $5.90@6.05; good to choice heavy mixed, $5.90@6; packers, $5.90@6.

Sheep—Market strong; sheep, $3.50@6; yearlings, $5.50@6.40; lambs, $6.50@8.

East Buffalo—Best export steers, $5.50@5.75; best shipping steers, $5.35@5.50; best fat cows, $4@4.25; extra, $4.50; fair to good, $3.50@3.75; fair to good bologna bull, $3@3.25; fair to good feeding steers, $3.50@3.75; good feeding steers, $3.25@3.50; fair stock bulls, $2.75@3; good fresh cows and springers, $40@50; common cows and springers and they are very hard to sell, $25@35; best veal calves, $7.50@8; good, $6@6.50; medium to good, $5@6.50; common, $4@5.

Hogs—Yorkers, medium and heavy, $6.30@6.35; roughs, $5.75@6; stags, $4@4.50.

Sheep—Best native lambs, $7.60@7.65; fair to good, $6.50@7.50; best wethers, $5.75@6; best sheep, $5.25@6; culls, $4@4.50; wethers, $5.75@6; yearlings, $6.50@6.65.

Grain, Etc.

Chicago—Cash sales: No. 2 spring wheat, 75@75½c; No. 3, 68@74c; No. 2 red, 83¾@87½c; No. 2 corn, 46c; No. 3 yellow, 46c; No. 3, 45½c; No. 2 white, 42@42¼c; No. 3 white, 39½@40c; No. 2 oats, 32½c; No. 3 white, 30@32½c; No. 2 rye, 68c; No. 3, 67c; fair to choice timothy, $2.60@2.90; No. 1 flaxseed, $1.10; No. 1 northwestern, $1.10; prime, $1.10; clover, contract grade, $12.50.

Detroit—Sales and prices in this market were as follows: Wheat—No. 1 white, 83½c; No. 2 red spot, 1 car at 84c; No. 2 red, 1 car at 84c; No. 3 red, 83¾c; 12,000 bu at 83½c; 10,000 bu at 83¾c; 5,000 bu at 84c; 2,000 bu at 84¼c; 5,000 bu at 84½c; No. 2 red, 82c; No. 3 white, 1 car at 82c; No. 2 white, 1 car at 82½c; No. 3 yellow, 1 car at 45½c; No. 3 white, 1 car at 45c per bu.

Oats—No. 2 white, spot, 1 car at 33½c per bu.

Rye—No. 2 spot, 1 car at 67½c; No. 2 rye, 1 car at 67c per bu.

Clover seed—Prime spot, 5 bags at $8.25; prime March, 5 bags at $8.30; sample, 20 bags at $8, 12 at $7.75, 17 at $7.65, 14 at $7.50, 9 at $7.35, and 6 at $7 per bu. Prime alsike, 5 bags at the station, 5 bags at $7, 3 at $6.50 and 4 at $5.50 per bu.

Timothy—Prime spot, 50 bags at $3.90 per bu.

Beans—February, 1 car at $1.57; March, 1 car at $1.56; May, $1.60 bid, $1.62 asked.

AMUSEMENTS IN DETROIT

Week Ending Feb. 17.

TEMPLE THEATER AND WONDERLAND—Afternoons 2:15, 10c to 25c; Evenings 7:15, 10c to 50c.
Mlle Haggarty's Quartette.
LYCEUM—Prices 10c-25c-50c. Mats. Wed. and Sat. "Effie Fay."
GAYETY—Prices 10c-25c-50c. Mats. Daily. "Barnes Gillmore."
LAFAYETTE THEATRE—Prices 10c-25c-50c.
"The Two Orphans."

Fire in A. B. Seery's planing mill in Allegan, presumably set by tramps, caused a loss of $2,500.

A bill to move reported favorably in the national senate granting the old military reservation known as Fort Brady to the city of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., as a site for a public building.

Thomas Lee had a bank book showing $400 in deposits and $15 in cash. Grand Rapids will board for two weeks Joseph Groze, who applied at police headquarters for lodging. He refused to leave the station and was arrested for vagrancy and was given a 15-day sentence.

It costs 2.02 cents per mile to ride on American railways and only 1.46 cents per mile in Germany, according to statistics made public by Commissioners Hoff and Schwabach sent to this country by the Prussian government to investigate.

To save his fortune from dissipation, which was threatened by foolish loans, a guardian has been appointed for John Bourns, who, until a month ago, was president of the People's Savings bank in Bay City. Mrs. Eliza M. Bawgood, of Cleveland, is the guarding selected by the probate court in that behalf. Mrs. Bourns has resided much for the last three years.