

THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

President McKinley Sends a Message to Congress Urging

AN APPROPRIATION FOR A

Representation by the United States. Sherman Thinks the Sum Should Be \$350,000.

The President has sent the following message to Congress, urging it to make suitable provision for adequate representation of the United States at the Paris Exposition:

To the Senate and House of Representatives: I transmit herewith for the consideration of the respective houses of the Congress, a report of the Secretary of State, representing the appropriateness of early action in order that the government of the United States may be enabled to accept the invitation of the French Republic, to participate in the Universal Exposition to be held in Paris in 1900. The recommendations of this report have my most cordial approval, and I urge the Congress to take timely provision for this great international enterprise as will fittingly respond to the testified wish and expectations of our inventors and producers, that they may have adequate opportunity again, as in the past, to fortify the important positions they have won in the world's competitive field of discovery and industry. None are the traditional friendships of the United States and France and the mutual advantages to accrue from their enlarged commercial intercourse, less important factors than the individual interests to be fostered by their participation in this exposition, especially when it is remembered that the present project will be complete and on a scale of magnificence equal to the Columbian Exposition in our own country.

(Signed) "WM. MCKINLEY." Secretary Sherman, among other things in his report, urges that if the United States is to be represented, steps should be taken to insure such representation by making the necessary appropriation, and recommends an appropriation of \$350,000.

FELL IN A FAINT.

When He Knew His Gigantic Insurance Plans Were Discovered.

At Pittsburg, Pa., C. Linwood Woods, of C. T. Woods & Co., bankers, has been arrested, charged with attempt at insurance swindling. When Woods was confronted by the arresting officer he fell in a dead faint. His mode of procedure was to insert advertisements in the local papers for old men to act as collectors. He would ask the applicant for bond, but kindly waive the bond if the applicant would sign an application for insurance on his life. This was generally secured, and then Woods would get some irresponsible man to sign a promissory note to the C. T. Woods Banking Company, filled with amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$15,000, so that considered for the insurance policy at death could be claimed to be the debt established by the note.

In Woods' desk were found sixty-five policies with himself as beneficiary, aggregating \$200,000. Chief Harper, chief of the revision department of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Insurance Association, of New York, charged Woods with procuring policies with intent to defraud.

LIMITED TO ONE WIFE.

The A. M. E. Church Shakes Up the Ministers for Their Several Sins.

The Virginia conference of the African M. E. church, which has been in session at Wytheville for some days, and those ministers who have not conducted themselves properly are trembling. Resolutions were passed condemning ministers for getting divorces from their wives. Bishop Handy declared that no man in the connection in the district would receive an appointment who had more than one wife. They also condemned the use of whiskey and several men who were found guilty of using intoxicating drink were left without appointment. Rev. Jas. Minter was expelled from the connection for having two wives. The ruling bishop, Handy, regards this as a progressive step for the elevation of the negro race.

Reports Not Encouraging.

The river continues to rise slowly at Vicksburg, Miss., and at all points south, and the situation along the Louisiana system of levees is acute. Several thousand men are working and watching night and day to hold the embankments intact. Reports from the overflooded Mississippi delta are not encouraging. Many cabins are submerged to their very roofs, while several have been carried away by the swift current. At Greenview the river stands stationary.

Nominations Confirmed.

The United States Senate has confirmed the following nominations: Alfred E. Buck of Georgia, to be minister to Japan; James Boyle of Ohio, to be consul to Liverpool; Edgar Angier of Georgia, to be United States attorney for the northern district of Georgia; Marion Erwin, of Georgia, to be attorney for the United States for the Southern district of Georgia; Alexander J. Cook of Mississippi, to be United States marshal for the northern district of Mississippi.

Spalding Confesses.

President McKay, of the University of Illinois board of trustees, says that C. W. Spalding, treasurer of the board and president of the dormant Globe Savings Bank, at Chicago, Ill., has admitted to him and to Trustee James E. Armstrong, that he had hypothecated the University endowment bonds entrusted to his care, as treasurer. Governor Altgeld is mixed up in the transactions of Spalding, in wrecking the Globe Savings Bank, of Chicago.

ANNIVERSARY OF JEFFERSON.

W. J. Bryan Was the Guest of Honor.

The 154th anniversary of Jefferson's birthday was celebrated Tuesday night at the Metropolitan Hotel in Washington by a subscription dinner given under the auspices of the National Association of Democratic Clubs. The first celebration of the anniversary of Jefferson's birthday occurred at the same hotel, then known as the Indiana Queen. President Jackson was the guest of honor and the occasion was made memorable by the presence of Vice President John C. Calhoun and others, Democratic leaders of that day. Wm. J. Bryan, of Nebraska, the late Democratic candidate for President, was the guest of honor. Senators, Representatives and others conspicuous in the Democratic party, were present. Many of them were from a distance. Covers were laid for two hundred, and a number of people were denied seats for want of space at the tables. The decorations of the room were simple. The columns were entwined with Southern smilax and a full-length portrait of Jefferson, draped with American flags, was hung behind the seat of Governor Black of Pennsylvania, the president of the association. Upon his right were Mr. Bryan and Representative McMillin, who acted as toastmaster, and on the left were Senator Jones, of Arkansas; Representatives Bland, of Missouri; Lutz, of Ohio; ex-Representative Sibley, of Pennsylvania, and Andrew Lipscomb, of Virginia. Mr. Bryan was greeted with a lusty cheer as he entered the hall. The menu was carefully prepared and was similar to such a dinner as might have been served during Jefferson's days, blended with all American creations and cast course, as far as possible, represented one section of the country. The dinner began promptly at 8 o'clock, an orchestra playing national airs, blended with Southern melodies to conform in sympathy to the spirit of the dinner. The toasts were briefly responded to except in the case of Mr. Bryan, who spoke at length to the toast, "Thomas Jefferson."

BELL COMPANY WINS.

A Decision in a Suit Involving Five Million Dollars.

The Supreme Court at Washington, D. C., has denied the petition for a writ of certiorari in the case of the American Bell Telephone Company vs. the Western Union Telegraph Company to compel the Circuit Court of Appeals for the first circuit to certify the case to the Supreme Court. The case involves the question of royalties claimed from the Bell Company by the Western Union Company, and was originally brought in the Circuit Court for the District of Massachusetts to secure an account there of royalties. About \$9,000,000 is involved in the litigation. The Western Union sought to have it dismissed, and after it was dismissed the Bell Company appealed to the Circuit Court of Appeals when the decision of the Circuit Court was reversed. The Western Union Company sought to have the case reviewed by the Supreme Court, but the opinion rendered denies this petition. This takes the case back to the Circuit Court for further proceedings.

It is a victory for the Bell Telephone Company, and it is said this company will at once go into the telephone field.

The Circuit Court of Appeals will be shut out from the telephone field. An expert, speaking of the possible extension of the telephone company into the telephone field, said that the new telephone system to be used simultaneously for both telephone and telegraph service, so that the two would not conflict in the least.

PURIFYING MISSISSIPPI WATER.

The Largest and Best Filter Plant in the World.

The largest, the costliest and best plant in the world has just been completed at Davenport, Iowa. Practical men, whose experience has made their opinions worthy of respectful attention, according to the Chicago Times-Herald, say that this plant really solves the water supply question in nearly all western cities. The cost of the plant is \$1,200,000. The ten double filter shells, which contain the immediate water supply, have a capacity of 7,500,000 gallons of water taken from the Mississippi River at a point above any large sewage outlet, and where the river water is naturally aerated and oxidized by the presence of rapids.

STARVATION IN CHINA.

Hundreds Dying for Lack of Food. Poor Efforts.

A San Francisco, Cal., special says the natives in the vicinity of Ichang, China, are dying by hundreds of starvation. The grain crop last year was almost a total failure, and as the people exchanged their maize for rice to last them through the winter, food has been scant for a long time. Supplies are now completely exhausted and the harvest of death has begun. The officials are making efforts to furnish food for the starving people by sending in rice, but the supplies they are able to contribute are so small and the number of those in direct need is so great that little good is accomplished.

Great Loss of Cattle.

Between blizzards and high water cattle on the ranges throughout the Northwest have been having a tough time of it since the first of last winter's storms. In several South Dakota counties the loss to stockmen will be 40 or 50 per cent, and scarcely anywhere will it fall below 20.

Beet Sugar Factories.

Seven beet sugar factories are now shown to be in operation in this country, and four others are building or contemplated. The rate of increase in sugar consumption for twenty-three years has been 278 per cent in the United States; 142 in France; 159 in Germany; 107 in Austria, and 90 in England.

Streets Flooded.

Two hundred families were driven from their homes at Grand Forks, N. D., owing to the streets becoming flooded.

FLOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

The Crop This Year Depends Upon When the Water Recedes.

4,000,000 ACRES FLOODED.

A Statement by the Government Showing the Magnitude of the Interests Affected by the Flood.

A statement relative to the agricultural interests of the Mississippi valley, south of Illinois, has been issued by the Department of Agriculture at Washington. It is based upon a report prepared under the chief of the Weather Bureau, showing the extent of the flood on April 6. To this chart the Department has appended the crop statistics of 1896, as representing more closely than any other available data the acreage and value of the crops now in jeopardy. The statistics of population, of the number and acreage of farms and of farm implements are those of the census, and the statistics of live stock are those of the Department of Agriculture of January 1st, 1897.

The total acreage on April 6th was about 15,800 square miles, of which 7,900 miles were in Mississippi; 4,500 in Arkansas; 1,750 in Missouri; 1,200 in Tennessee, and 450 in Louisiana. This region in 1896, so far as can be determined from the somewhat indefinite boundary lines of the flood, had a population of 379,935, of which 184,480 or about one-half, were in Mississippi; 109,235 in Arkansas; and the remainder almost equally divided between Missouri and Tennessee. Taking the entire region, the colored population outnumbered the whites in the proportion of 13 to 7, a third predominating in the flood districts of Mississippi in the ratio of more than 5 to 1, in Missouri and Tennessee the population of the flood district is largely white, in the former State in the proportion of 19 to 1, and in the latter, 20 to 1. The flood districts, it is estimated, contain about 5,500 farms, of which 19,500 are in Mississippi; nearly 10,000 in Arkansas, and a like number about equally divided between Missouri and Tennessee. These farms have a total area of 3,800,000 acres, one half of which is in Mississippi; 1,900,000 in Arkansas, and the remainder almost equally divided between Missouri and Tennessee being about the same as the case of the number of the farms.

The total value of these farms, with their implements, etc., is close upon sixty-five millions of dollars, and here, also, the proportion in the above States is about the same as noted above. The total number of acres, at the taking of the last census was about two million and a half, and were last year devoted to cotton and corn, to which crops nearly 95 per cent. of the entire acreage cultivated in the region. The entire value, including one and one quarter million dollars for live stock, and four hundred thousand dollars for crops on hand, is over eight and one-half million dollars.

The weather bureau predicts a further extent of the flood area, but no attempt, of course, has been made to estimate how great it will be. The bureau publishes a map of the country flooded and says: "The flood water in western Mississippi is just beginning to return to the Mississippi river, at a point just north of Natchez. It is expected that this flood will pass into the Mississippi between the mouth of Yazoo, and Milliken's landing, a few miles to the north. The great strain expected during the next few weeks will be on the Louisiana side. Heavy work is now being done on the levees of Northern Louisiana, and it is expected that they will be held in."

Will Purchase the Jeff Davis Home.

A State organization of the Daughters of the Confederacy has been perfected at Montgomery, Ala. Miss Sarah Jones, of Camden, a sister of Gen. R. J. Jones, was elected State president. The State organization determined that its first work should be the purchase of the big old house here, which was occupied by Jefferson Davis while the seat of the Confederate government was in Montgomery, and transfer it into a home for indigent Confederate veterans. A strong organization was perfected.

The Commission Appointed.

The President has announced the appointment of Senator Edward O. Wolcott, of Colorado; Hon. Charles J. Paine, of Boston, Mass., and ex-Vice President Adlai E. Stevenson, as commissioners to an international monetary conference, and rather over one hundred under act approved March 2d last "for the promotion of an international agreement for bi-metalism," and by its provisions do not require confirmation by the Senate.

A New System.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson has initiated a new system of seed distribution in his department. His aim is to diversify, as far as possible, the farm products of the country, and to this end he is making a specialty of selecting new and valuable seeds from all parts of the world and putting them in the hands of farmers likely to use them to advantage.

Swept By a Cyclone.

A special to the St. Louis Republic from Hamburg, Ark., says news has been received of a hurricane which devastated the country near the Outchita river. Several plantations were swept clear of houses and stock. The wind was followed by hail which destroyed crops.

Germany's Protest.

Germany makes a vigorous protest against the sugar clause of the Dingley bill, claiming it to be a violation of an agreement heretofore made; she threatens to retaliate in the matter of importation of American pork; several other foreign nations make protests against the bill.

Senator Voorhees Dead.

Daniel Wolsey Voorhees, ex-United States Senator from the State of Indiana, is dead. He had long been a sufferer of rheumatism of the heart.

NEWS ITEMS CONDENSED.

Southern Penoll Pointers.

Harris Bramlett, the most noted moonshiner in Georgia, has been captured and jailed at Atlanta. The Kentucky Building and Loan Association law has been declared constitutional by Judge Scott at Winchester. Ninety-eight cases of liquor bought in San Francisco for personal use by citizens were clubbed together, and seized immediately upon their arrival in Charleston, S. C.

Saturday in the Criminal Court at Charlotte, N. C., L. J. Kirk was found guilty of shooting Lake and sentenced to two years on the chain gang. An appeal was granted upon the ground of excessive punishment for a new trial.

Judge Harlan has allowed a writ of error in the case of Elizabeth Nobles, of Georgia, who is under sentence of death on the charge of murder, and who was to have been hanged Friday. The case was argued by Mr. Nobles' counsel that she is insane.

The dead body of Charles Hoffman, a well-known and respected citizen, was found in a chapel, about four miles from Ernswood, Ga. He had shot himself through the head. He had evidently gone into the building for the purpose of committing suicide.

Governor Bloxham, of Florida, has issued a call to a national fisheries congress to be held at Tampa in January, 1898.

Forty-five thousand acres of the most valuable coal and oil lands in West Virginia have been purchased by a company of New York and Pittsburgh capitalists. The price paid aggregates \$300,000.

Up to the present the effort to elect a United States Senator in Kentucky has cost about \$75,000.

At Houston, Tex., the cylindrical process of baling cotton is again exciting discussion in cotton trade circles.

The losses of insurance companies at Knoxville, Tenn., foot up \$356,329.

In the case of "Cap" Hatfield a jury at Williston, W. Va., has returned a verdict of involuntary manslaughter for the killing of Ivan Rutherford.

The latest developments in the Knoxville, Tenn., fire are that at least six persons lost their lives in the Hotel. The hotel register has not been found.

Suit has been brought against the co-operative town company of Elizabeth, Tenn., asking for a receiver, that the property of the company shall be subjected to the payment of the company's indebtedness, amounting to \$1,000,000. It is charged that the company was insolvent when its property was transferred to the Wauauga Land company, more than a year ago.

Clinton R. Woodruff, secretary of the National Municipal League, has prepared a program for the conference to be held in Louisville on May 5th, 6th, 7th. Among the speakers will be Mayor John F. Ficken, of Charleston, S. C.

In the Criminal Court at Charlotte, N. C., Friday, Chas. Blackburn, charged with the murder of the Charlotte Observer building on January 2d last, was acquitted.

All About the North.

Elizabeth B. Tilson, the wife of Henry Ward Beecher, accused, died on Tuesday last at her home in Brooklyn.

A party of 91 chinamen have arrived in Montreal by the Canadian Pacific Railroad, from China via Vancouver. They are to work on the sugar plantations of Cuba, so sadly neglected during the past two years.

The surgeons at the Presbyterian Hospital in New York are berating all their energies to save the life of Frank Hastings, a newspaper man, who for eight days has hiccoughed at the rate of 8,640 times a day. Ice cream is being used to cure him.

At Chicago, Ill., Matthias Guster, 23 years old, was shot and instantly killed by John Formiller, his father-in-law, at the breakfast table.

A company capitalized at \$2,000,000 has been formed at Minneapolis, Minn., to manufacture and sell beet and sugar tractors.

The largest flag that ever flew from a pole will be stung to the breeze on the 27th from a flag near the Grant Monument, in New York.

Governor Jones, of Arkansas, has called an extra session of the Legislature to meet on the 25th.

A cyclone destroyed the town of Chandler, Okla., east of Guthrie. A dozen or more persons were killed and probably 150 were injured.

Miscellaneous.

The King of Siam will visit this country next September.

Carter H. Harrison was formally installed as mayor of Chicago Thursday evening. He delivered a short inaugural address.

While mass was being said in a church near Castres, France, the roof collapsed, killing seven women and one man, and injuring 30 persons seriously.

A Boston special says: "Under favorable conditions and to the satisfaction of all concerned, the United States battleship Iowa has been given her official tour of the Cape Anne course, and under the inspection of the naval board appointed for that purpose. On the trial she made an average speed of 17 knots over the 66 mile course, exceeding her contract speed by one knot, winning \$20,000 bonus for her builders."

NORTH STATE HAPPENINGS.

News Items Gathered and Condensed for Our Readers.

PAINTING FOR STATE LIBRARY.

Young Lady Arrested for Robbing the Mails—A Valuable Find—Dr. Long Returns.

The State Library at Raleigh is soon to have quite a desirable addition to the already large and choice collection of oil-paintings of prominent North Carolinians. This time it is to be a handsome group, half-sized oil-painting of Zebulon B. Vance, Col. H. K. Burgwyn and Col. John R. Lane, all three of whom served in the late war as colonels in the famous Twenty-sixth North Carolina regiment. The contract for painting this picture was awarded to Raleigh's well known artist, Mr. W. G. Randall, and the work is to be done as soon as possible. The work is done by order of Mrs. Vance, Col. Lane and Mr. H. W. Burgwyn, a brother of the late Col. H. K. Burgwyn, who is to be one of the group to be painted. The painting is to cost about \$500. Each of the three famous colonels is to be painted in the uniform of that rank and from photographs taken during their service as such officers.

Miss Viola Brown was arrested the first of this week for robbing the mails. A trial was had before J. W. Bean, United States Commissioner, and she was bound to Federal Court at Greensboro, in the sum of \$200. Ira S. E. Brown is postmaster of Brown, a little country office in Randolph county. His daughter, Miss Viola, has been his assistant for a year or more. Several sums of money have been missing from the mails. A postoffice inspector began his work and finally located where the robbing was being done on the day of the robbery. He was called when he put in the mails and did his work. When Miss Brown was confronted by the postoffice inspector she acknowledged her guilt, so it is said. And it is further said that before the commissioner she acknowledged previous thieving. It is thought by many that Miss Brown is a kleptomaniac. She is only about 19 years old and quite girlish. Much sympathy is expressed for her and the family.

The Richmond Dispatch of the 14th Inst. has the following: "Dr. J. W. Long, one of the most popular physicians in the city, and for several years a member of the faculty of the Medical College of Virginia, having determined to return to his former home in North Carolina, delivered, by invitation, in the amphitheatre of the college last night, a farewell address. A large assemblage, consisting of members of the faculty of the Medical College of Virginia, and of the University College of Medicine of Surgery, and the students of the former institution, was present to do honor to the physician, who, during his brief residence in this city, has won the affection of his hearts not easily to be filled."

The following comes from Randolph county: Mr. A. B. Fuller, of Tabernacle town, drove into a gold mine a few days ago. The observer says it has not been dug for years since they would walk the distance, nearly thirty miles, and with ease. They will be eighty-seven feet deep next month. Each has his coffin already procured and are negotiating for a monument to be erected over their graves.

A deed of assignment has been filed with the register of deeds of Randolph county by Copeland & Marsh. The firm has been doing business at Rammer and Cedar Falls. They were general merchants. There were some preferred creditors. The amount of the indebtedness is not given; assets, about \$2,800. John N. Wilson, of Greensboro, is made assignee.

The Railway Commission has granted the request of citizens of Purvis to have a railroad station erected. Citizens of Winterville's petition for a railroad will be called on the 27th. No application was made to the commission to lower passenger rates. Commissioner Otho Wilson favors a reduction of freight rates.

Mr. Ed. Nivers, constable of Mecklenburg county, who was severely wounded by a pistol shot through the lungs, on the 20th inst., by Eli Marshall, a negro that he was trying to arrest, is resting more comfortably and his physician is more hopeful of his recovery.

D. P. Hunter, a policeman of Charlotte, died at his home, corner of Pine and Ninth streets, Wednesday morning. He had been sick only a few days. He was afflicted with erysipelas, the disease being complicated with heart trouble.

Several cities in the State having petitioned for a reduction of telephone rates, the various telephone companies have been summoned to appear before the Commissioner on the 27th and show cause why a reduction should not be made.

F. E. Hege, director of the poultry division at the Experiment Station, Raleigh, narrowly escaped death Thursday morning by the burning of his house. He was almost suffocated when taken from the burning house.

AFRO-AMERICAN NEWS.

A Column of News of Interest to the Colored Race.

Phil H. Brown, the young Ohioan, who organized the Afro-American Associated Press, which did such sound and intelligent work for the Republican cause in the last campaign, has been selected as one of the junior editors of "Life and Health," a wealthy journal devoted to sanitation published in New York, where Mr. Brown now resides. Mr. Brown came originally from Ironton, O., was for a number of years in the government printing office at Washington and has been connected at various times with the New York Journal and Judge, always holding positions that demanded a man of ability. His first newspaper work was done on The Gazette, when he began as correspondent and agent in 1882. He was then living in Ironton, where he had learned the printing trade. The Gazette having furnished the first field for his writings he has risen rapidly and has contributed some short stories of "Negro" which have secured literary merit. It is said that the last of these stories, entitled "The Hermit in Black," which was sent through the Bachelier syndicate to several publications, was at the time under the attention of the publishers of "Life and Health," and resulted in Brown's engagement.—The Gazette.

Mrs. Lizzie Young, of Jacksonville, Fla., is an Afro-American lady whose remarkable career as a successful business woman offers a proud example not only to her own race, but for the toiling millions everywhere. She owns a half dozen drays, employs some 30 or 35 hands and pays her workmen \$1.50 per day. She also runs an extensive rooming house at North Springfield and keeps four or five teams busy delivering wood. She also sends to the market several hundred dollars' worth of pork every year, and besides keeps a large poultry yard from which she affords a creditable supply for the market. She is active in other minor pursuits which also afford her an increasing revenue.—The Gazette.

The destiny of every race is bound up in their actions. We are put in this world as free agents and we are called upon to work out our salvation. Our hope and trust should be in God, for if He is on our side, He is more than all they that can be against us. When Israel trusted in God, they obeyed his commands the Lord helped them to fight their battles and success crowned all their efforts; but when they forsook God and trusted in their own strength they were broken and their enemies and suffered for their folly.—The Christian Banner.

The Negro is so situated in this country that no party can win without his support. In municipal elections he is becoming a potent factor for good or evil. He is beginning to look at politics as a business. Just as white men have determined to support and vote for the men, who will come nearest to ameliorating his material interest. In the coming municipal fight, party lines will be broken and every voter will ally themselves on the one side or the other accordingly, as he sees his interest affected.—The Progress.

One of our exchanges says, "The Negro race needs leaders." It needs nothing of the sort. We have many elements and capacity for leadership. The trouble is that nearly every Negro thinks that he was born to lead, and few of them would follow the Apostle Paul, if he was on earth. No, we do not need leaders; what is most needed is a willingness on the part of the masses to follow the few leaders we have got.—The Standard.

It is an undeniable fact that just in proportion as our people devote themselves to politics do they neglect the material welfare. This is not necessarily so, but it is so nevertheless. What we want to learn is that no people can live by politics alone. It is a gratifying fact to see golden opportunities for bettering our material welfare to pass unimproved, while we are hustling round trying to get some petty office.—Afro-American Presbyterian.

The slogan of our race ought to be: get education and money, build up yourselves on lofty plains. Unite all along the line. Seek the good, abhor the bad, throw themselves away from evil influences, and show to the world that they are men capable of attaining to any height any other people have reached. We will then demand the respect of all men.—People's Recorder.

Mr. F. R. Steward, an Afro-American of Montana, who is a student at Harvard, has been elected president of the Forum, the second debating club of Harvard. He was one of the debaters on the last year Yale and Harvard debate.—The Freeman.

It pays to be gentlemanly and lady-like at all times, aside from the fact that it is right and true. Ye sons of men never catch onto this worthy personal attribute.—The Home Visitor.

A gray, unsized blotting paper was sold in England, according to Rogers in his history of prices, as far back as 1465.

Southern Inter-State Insurance Conference at Southern Pines, N. C., April 17-23.

For this occasion, the seaboard Air Line will make a rate of one cent per mile, distance traveled, from all points on this system, to Southern Pines and return. Tickets to arrive at Southern Pines forenoon of the 23d, thus affording all insurance men an opportunity to attend this important conference at an exceedingly low rate.

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

GOOD ROADS HELP VALUES.

It is computed that in some districts of Massachusetts there has been an average rise in the value of property on improved roads of over six dollars an acre. It is, moreover, estimated that the losses to farmers in that state in hauling their product over bad roads as compared with the cost of hauling it over improved roads amounts to more than enough to pay for the improvements. It will be seen, therefore, that as the profit in the hauling of produce pays for the cost of the road the advanced value in the land is a clear gain to the landowner.—St. Joseph (Mo.) Herald.

SAVING THE TOPS FOR KINDLING.

It is natural for American farmers, when clearing land, to pile the brush from tree tops in heaps and burn it as the easiest way to dispose of a nuisance. Yet, when cut fine and dried, as this brush can be very easily, it makes the best possible kindling. The fact that it cannot be compacted close together makes it worth all the more as kindling for the larger pieces of wood that are required to kindle fire in hard coal. The pile of brush that goes up in smoke in a few minutes will sell for \$1 or more when cut up and bound in small bundles for sale to city coal consumers.—American Cultivator.

PUMPKIN SEEDS ARE DANGEROUS.

National Stockman and Farmer gives this warning against the feeding of pumpkin seeds: "The past fall several of the hens seemed to be either sick or insane, we could scarcely tell which at first. They would run a short distance, tumble over, then get up and stagger about, running in every direction. We were at a loss to know what ailed them. We found that our neighbors' hens were similarly affected, many of them having died. Finally the crops of several of these which had died were cut open, and were found to be filled with pumpkin seeds which had been profusely scattered about the yard and which they had picked up. The sickness had doubtless been caused by the inability on the part of the hens to digest the pumpkin seeds, as we found that the disease disappeared when we stopped scattering the pumpkin seeds in the yard."

CARE OF POULTRY.

We prefer loose earth floors to wooden ones. If each week, or oftener, the manure is raked up with the earth, and each spring the old earth taken out and the new supplied, it will be clean enough, and, at the same time, you will be gaining a valuable fertilizer for your lawn.

There is no need of bothering with the ventilation question during cold weather. The house will naturally ventilate itself, and if kept perfectly clean there will be no danger of a stench. We clean up the droppings under the roost every morning.

Fowls must have fresh air; we believe in giving them an outside run during fair weather when there is no snow on the ground. A heavy wind storm will do as much damage as snow or rain. During very cold weather, when the house is a comfortable one, it is best to keep the fowls indoors until about noon; then let them have a run. It is a good idea in building fencing around the poultry runs, to have two feet of matched boards at the base, and wire or pickets above that. If these base boards are of matched lumber, the fowls can get alongside of them and enjoy the warm sun, while the wind cannot touch them.

During winter, the more sun baths the fowl can get the better they thrive, and the more profitable will they be.

A thorough cleaning of the roost boards, and a stirring of the soil of the ground floor of each room daily, as well as a forking over of a part of the ground of each yard in summer time, and a change of water in clean dishes, should not be neglected. It is an easy matter to overfeed when fowls are confined to small quarters, but it is very easy to watch, and one will find he has any interest in his work, so that just the right quantity will be given, so that all will be cleaned up at each feeding, and the fowls left with their appetites just sharp enough so that they will not mope, but will keep themselves busy scratching for the few grains of wheat that may have been scattered when the soil