The Weekly Colonist.

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OPIUM TRADERS' WILES.

A Shrewd Plan to Get the Contraband Drug into the Hawaiian Islands.

Consignment from Victoria Seized, and also a Well Concealed Lot From Hongkong.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 11.—The Customs house officers were kept busy seizing opium this morning. In all 920 five tael tins were secured. In every case the stuff was most ingeniously hidden, and in one case was discovered only by accident. A big seizure was made on the steamer Queen, which got in this morning from Puget Sound ports. As soon as the vessel docked, Deputy Surveyor Ruddell and Inspectors Holmes and Clarke took charge of the baggage and cargo. Trunk after trunk and case after case was opened but nothing was found. Finally two cases marked "Rev. Father Mendolin, Molokai, H. I.," were reached and a pause was made. The shipment was consigned to John D. Spreckels Bros. Co., and the way bill described the contents as "books and clothing valued at $85." Rev. Father Mendolin is priest in charge of the Hawaiian leper settlement on the island of Molokai, and the cases were to be forwarded to him by one of Spreckels Bros.' steamers. At first Deputy Surveyor Ruddell was inclined to pass the cases without search. They were innocent looking, and the contents were marked "Books and clothing" for lepers. He half turned away but changed his mind. "We may as well take part of the cover off," said he to Holmes. It was done. The neat and uniform manner in which the books and clothing were packed, aroused his suspicions and a thorough search was made. Under the top packing, six smaller boxes were found and when they were opened 100 five tael tins of opium were found in each. The second case was opened, and it was also found carefully packed. Only two boxes containing 100 tins each were found in it. The rest of the space was taken up with books and clothing. An investigation of the ship's manifests was made and two cases were found to have been shipped by C. McNiffe of Victoria, B. C. The intention was not to sell the opium in San Francisco. Here they would only make a profit of about $5 per pound, but in Hawaii, where the drug is worth $40 per pound, the profits would be enormous. Had the cases passed the customs house officials here the chances are they would have passed muster in Honolulu and would thus have been safely landed. While the searchers on the Queen were busy the inspectors on the Belgic were not idle. Inspector McGinnis was walking past a few mats of rice and ran his steel prod into one of them. It struck something hard, and he at once opened up that. Snugly hidden in it were five tins of the best Hong Kong opium. A rigorous inspection was then made of the entire cargo, with the result that 100 tins were found. Chinese had done the packing and there was some one in San Francisco evidently in the ring who would have put the marked bags in a certain place when they were to be taken ashore. This seizure has put the inspectors on the qui vive, and in future every mat of rice that comes from China or Japan will be searched.

TO EXCLUDE CHINAMEN.

WASHINGTON, April 10.—Secretary Carlisle sent a telegram to all the collectors on the Pacific coast and the Canadian frontier, instructing them that the Attorney-General holds that the McCreary act of November 1, relating to Chinese, requires that the Chinaman "who is a merchant in fact," shall also be known to be such by the parties with whom he deals and by the policy generally, and this purpose may readily be defeated, if it were permissible to conceal his identity by trading under an assumed name, or under the disguise of a company. Chinese persons whose names do not appear in the firm name should not be admitted to the United States as merchants. This ruling is expected to result in keeping out of the United States ninety per cent. of the Chinese who now come in under the specious name of "merchants."

CHURCH UNION.

ROME, April 11.—The Pope has shown to various cardinals of his household proofs of his encyclical letter on the subject of the union of the Roman Catholic and Greek churches, which His Holiness regards as of the highest political and religious importance. His letter declares that the union will restore the complete autonomy of the schismatic churches; the synod nominating the patriarchate and the latter nominating the bishops, which will give the same autonomy to the national churches as they enjoyed in the earlier centuries. The Eastern churches will be rendered absolutely independent of Latinism.

FRENCH REPATRIATION.

OTTAWA, April 11.—(Special)—A large delegation, representing the Quebec Colonization and Repatriation Society, waited on the Minister of the Interior to-day and asked for Government aid in the work the society has been prosecuting, viz., the repatriation of Canadians from the United States. The delegation considered that the same inducements for repatriation in the Province of Quebec should be offered as in the Northwest. Hon. Mr. Daly expressed hearty sympathy with the work of the society, and promised to give their representations full consideration.

THE INDUSTRIAL ARMY.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 11.—The industrial army continues to push for recruits, and 500 for a second regiment are expected to be ready to proceed to Sacramento on Monday morning. According to present calculations about 800 will leave Sacramento. The officers of the army will invest the city hall to-morrow in an attempt to secure from the Mayor passage for the second regiment to Sacramento. This afternoon street parades were begun and they will be kept until the regiment is ready to leave for Oakland.

INDICTED FOR BLASPHEMY.

LEXINGTON, Ky., April 11.—C. E. Moore, the prohibition infidel orator of the Blue Grass Blade, has been indicted for blasphemy and he is now in the Fayette jail. His indictment is the first of its kind in the state and is causing a great deal of excitement. When Moore learned yesterday that the grand jury had brought in two true bills against him, one for blasphemy and the other for nuisance, he called at the sheriff's office and gave himself up, refusing to give bonds. He was sent to jail, from which place he intends to publish his paper. To a reporter Moore said:

"No, I will not give bonds. The law has no right to prevent me from giving expression to my opinions on religion. The particular charge for which I am imprisoned is for saying that Jesus Christ was a man exactly like I am, and had a human father and mother, exactly like I had. Some of the pious call it blasphemy. The facts are that some two weeks ago Rev. Mr. Southgate, a Methodist minister, prayed for the rain to fall on the Catholics and Irish who were celebrating St. Patrick's day. The preacher did not like my criticism of himself, and went before the grand jury and had me indicted."

About a year ago Editor Moore attacked the members of the Christian church at Paris, Ky., and was indicted by the Bourbon county grand jury, tried and sent to jail for a time. He edited his paper and continued his attacks upon the members of the church, exposing the whiskey traffic of members, remarking on one occasion that if he was asked to bore a hole in the spot nearest to hell fire he would plant his derrick in front of that church.

He was waylaid at a lonesome station by four members of the church, who tried to scare him, but he came back to Lexington and exposed them in his paper. He will not fight, and so declared. His paper is wonderfully sought after, going to every quarter of the globe, on account of his careless way of writing. His trial has been set for the July term of court.

THE CHILDLIKE CHINAMAN.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 12.—Two Chinese who were captured while attempting to cross from Canada into New York and who were brought here by deputy U. S. Marshal Warren Dow for deportation, were sent home on the steamer China yesterday. Dow says there is an organized combination on the Canadian side of the line to aid Chinese to get into the United States, with an agency in Vancouver. The Chinese work their way from Vancouver to Montreal. They pay from $100 to $150 to be taken across the line. Once in the United States they purchase railroad tickets and come out west. The deputy marshal had a long talk with Collector Wise in relation to the Chinese influx into the United States by way of Canada, and it is probable that an effort will be made to locate the white agents who are promoting smuggling operations at Vancouver.

WILL FORCE A DISSOLUTION.

NEW YORK, April 12.—The Irish Independent parliamentary party met last night and adopted the following resolutions:

"Whereas Lord Rosebery has, by recent utterances, made plain that Home Rule is no longer the first plank in the Liberal platform inasmuch as he had made it a principle that England, the predominant party, should first return a majority of members in favor of Home Rule for Ireland before he could see it possible to accede to the demands of Ireland; be it

"Resolved, that we are in entire accord with the resolution passed at the great convention held in Dublin, April 3, 1894, calling on the Irish Independent representatives to force a dissolution of Parliament, believing as we do that such a course of action would be for the best interests of Ireland."

POSITION OF SILVER.

CALCUTTA, April 11.—The Indian Currency Association has asked the Government if it intends to use its authority to borrow large amounts of sterling silver. The association claims the exercise of this power by Government would ensure the success of the pending currency legislation.

BERLIN, April 11.—The recent speech in the Reichstag by Count Posodowski is regarded by German bi-metallists as indicating the intention of the Government to call a conference to discuss a plan for fixing the price of silver by a treaty agreement between the countries interested and the issuance of international silver certificates.

U. S. TARIFF BILL.

WASHINGTON, April 11.—Senator Hale opened an argument to-day against the tariff bill. An interesting feature of the speech was as to the effect of the bill upon the annexation sentiment in the Dominion of Canada, Mr. Hale contending that its passage would postpone indefinitely any prospects of such annexation. That one consideration he thought so important that it ought to be a death blow to the bill. He expressed his conviction that if the vote were taken to-day and if senators voted according to their convictions, the bill would die and would never be resurrected.

THE COKE REGIONS.

CONNELLSVILLE, Pa., April 12.—It is believed trouble will break out in the Vanderbilt region before many hours. Companies owning plants there have called upon the sheriff for protection from mobs which are now forming. It is reported that a mob from Lisenring works is moving on Juanita works. Trouble is also imminent at the Trotter works, where notice was given that an attack would be made on the place to-day. All deputies at Davidson have been removed to Trotter.

NEW YORK, April 12.—The papers are being prepared in the appeal of Russell Sage from the verdict assessing him in damages to the tune of $25,000 for making a target of Bookkeeper Laidlaw when Norcross, the anarchist, attempted to blow the financier to pieces with a dynamite bomb. The appeal is based on twenty-five exceptions to the judge's charge, and will raise the issue that as the injuries resulted from the act of an assassin Sage can in no way be held responsible.

CAPITAL NOTES.

Victoria Heard From—The Budget Debate Closed—Further Tariff Changes.

Fast Atlantic Line to Have a French as Well as English Port.

(From our own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, April 12.—Hon. Mr. Foster, in the House of Commons, announced that the terminal point of the proposed fast Atlantic service would be in England, but connection would be made with a French port by a subsidiary line.

In view of the representations made by English dealers on the subject of the tea duties, the following authoritative statement was handed me to-day: "As the clause now stands, importations can be made via England on through bills of lading as part of cargoes for the English market, but purchases cannot be made from bond in England."

A bill has been introduced in the Senate to enable the Speaker to call any member to preside if he desires to retire temporarily.

Government has been advised that Her Majesty has been pleased to grant the title of "Honorable" for life to Speakers of any Legislative Councils or Assemblies who have held such office for three years. This will give the title, among others, to Messrs. Mara and Higgins.

A deputation of printers want the postage in Canada on art publications to be reduced to the same rate as in the United States.

Constable Steward, of the Dominion police, who nursed Sir John Macdonald through his last illness, died to-night.

The Canadian jewelers have forwarded a petition asking that watch case manufacturers be compelled to stamp their goods as to genuineness.

The Women's Council completed their labors to-day. Resolutions were adopted in favor of the promotion of patriotism, the appointment of women inspectors for factories and in recognition of the principles of international arbitration.

The Insolvency bill will be referred to a committee of both houses as the most expeditious way of securing the passage of the measure.

Colonel Turnbull, of the Cavalry school, is under suspension for granting his discharge to a sergeant who had lost a case of great-coats while the regiment was on its way from Quebec to Toronto.

The debate on the budget was concluded to-night. Hon. Mr. Laurier spoke ably for an hour and a half. Mr. Montague followed with a magnificent address. He scored Dalton McCarthy unmercifully. Messrs. Fraser and Kenny followed. The debate was closed by Mr. Prior with an able speech. He said the Opposition had totally failed to show the benefits of free trade. As for himself he was a firm believer in the policy of protection. He spoke largely from a British Columbia standpoint and was repeatedly cheered.

Sir Richard Cartwright's amendment was negatived by 128 to 72.

Mr. Haslam was loudly cheered when he gave his first vote. Messrs. Corbould and Barnard paired with Grits.

Mr. Foster announced the following additional tariff changes: Meats not elsewhere specified, 2 cents per pound. Live hogs, 1½ cents per pound. Lard compounds and cottolene, 2 cents a pound. Condensed milk, 3 cents per pound. Rice, cleaned, 1½ cents per pound. Chicory 4 cents. Cocoa paste, chocolate and other preparations of cocoa, 25 per cent.; cocoanut desiccated, sweetened or not, 5 cents per pound.

GENERAL MINERS' STRIKE.

COLUMBUS, O., April 12.—The National Miners' Convention yesterday afternoon resolved on a general strike on April 21, with another resolution authorizing the National executive committee to declare a similar suspension of work at any time during the year, if the first strike does not secure the desired effect. President McBride appointed a committee to report a scale of wage upon which the organization will stand in the fight. It is almost certain that this will be an increase over that of one year ago, when 70 cents per ton for straight mining in the Hocking Valley was made the basis, with the established differentials for all the different mining regions and methods of mining. The basis will probably be 75 cents for the next year. The convention elected the following officers: John McBride, Ohio, President; P. S. Panna, Pennsylvania, vice-President; P. A. McBride, Ohio, Secretary-Treasurer. It is claimed that in this strike over 200,000 men will cease work and double that number in associated industries will be affected. The organization controls all the labor engaged in mining bituminous coal in the United States and covers the states of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Colorado.

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE.

A Well Known Citizen of Squaw Valley Sold Part of His Property and Vanished.

FRESNO, Cal., April 12.—William Wooten, a well known and wealthy citizen of Squaw valley, in this county, has disappeared under circumstances that are so peculiar as to arouse the suspicion of foul play, and at the same time suspicion is thrown upon a man whose character and reputation stand as fair as any man's in the country. Wooten owned about 3,000 acres of land in the foothills and valleys, and after selling part of this land last February to Professor Sanders and others, he disappeared and has not been heard from since. Investigation shows that Wooten's land is now in the name of Sanders, who claims that he was furnished the money with which to buy it by an old friend named John Kanouse. The records show that most of the property was deeded by Wooten to Kanouse and by Kanouse to Professor Sanders. No one here has ever seen Kanouse, nor has he ever been heard of except through Sanders. Since Wooten's disappearance three letters have been received from him—one from Mojave and two from Los Angeles—but they are pronounced forgeries.

SEALING REGULATIONS.

Earl Kimberley Declares the Paris Award to Have Been Satisfactory.

Lord Salisbury Endorses This View, But Admits the Regulations Are Not Perfect.

LONDON, April 12.—The Earl of Kimberley, in moving the second reading of the Behring Sea bill in the House of Lords to-day, traced the history of the seal fisheries dispute from its beginning down to the Paris award, the result of which, he said, was satisfactory. Especially satisfactory was the decision declaring that the seizures were in principle illegal, and, in consequence of the decision, that the claims of British subjects for compensation would have to be met. He was now able to make the announcement that as soon as the legislation of the award shall be completed a convention would be entered into between Great Britain and the United States for the settlement of such claims. He was satisfied that it was the intention, born of a strong desire, on the part of the United States to carry out the provisions of the award, and Great Britain was equally determined to fulfil her obligations. The bill, he said, practically ended the controversy in a manner highly honorable to both nations. (Cheers.)

Lord Salisbury said he was sure that the House desired to pass the bill as quickly as possible. Great Britain had great reason to congratulate herself on the result of the award. His Lordship paid a high tribute to the memory of Lord Hannen, who he said was the man who had taken the most distinguished part in the settlement. Lord Hannen had belonged to no party; but he had fulfilled to the greatest degree the high ideal of a British judge. Concerning the award Lord Salisbury said he did not desire to say much. It was in his opinion advisable to discuss the details of the award, but it was a matter of gratification that they had come to an honorable ending of a serious controversy. It would have been horrible and at the same time grotesque and absurd, if on such a matter two great and kindred nations should have been plunged into the horrors of modern war. It would have even been absurd if no agreement had been attained making it perfectly certain that the natural species over which the two countries had disputed had not been secured against extinction. The regulations of the award were not perfect, and there still remained some matters upon which questions might be raised, but they were far better than a coolness between the two nations and the disappearance of the seals. If there were any points of the regulations capable of improvement, they would be discovered in the course of experience and adjusted. Under such circumstances he hoped that to delay the legislation to which the American Congress had already consented. (Cheers.)

SOUTH CAROLINA RIOTS.

COLUMBIA, S.C., April 12.—The report of Brigadier Richbourg, who commanded the troops at Darlington and Florence during the late dispensary troubles, was made public yesterday. The report includes the report of the military court of inquiry held in connection with the coroner's inquest on the death of Norment, Redmond and Pepper. This court was composed of five officers. After summarizing the testimony, the report declares that "it firmly believes that, had McLendon not interfered, the chief of police would have had no trouble in preserving order and avoiding the tragedy." The court further concluded that Norment came to his death at the hands of McLendon, and that the killing was "felonious murder"; that Constable Pepper was killed by Lewis Redmond, and that Redmond was killed by Constable O. C. Cain. The report says that Redmond was running when Cain shot him in the back.

POPULIST PEFFER'S REMEDY.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The Populist Senator from Kansas, Mr. Peffer, delivered in the Senate chamber to-day the third part of his speech on the Tariff bill. Among other statements he declared that if Congress was not so hampered with constitutional restrictions it could place within the hands of the President before thirty days a bill that would provide employment for all. The making of good roads he would leave to the people of the immediate neighborhoods, but he would start two railroads, one from the Atlantic to the Pacific and one from the Great Lakes to the Gulf. He would set all unemployed men at work and pay them good wages. Then, he thought, the dark clouds would roll away and be dissipated as the morning mist.

AN OLD SWINDLING GAME.

CENTRALIA, Wash., April 11.—Quite a clever swindle was perpetrated on the ladies of the North End a day or two ago by a stranger, who represented to them that a man had died very poor and he was collecting funds with which to give him a decent burial. They subscribed liberally and the man was no doubt congratulating himself on how his scheme of extorting money was working, when a citizen here, who had seen the same scheme worked before, immediately had a warrant issued for his arrest and he was soon behind the bars of our city jail. When searched by the officers he had $32 in his possession—presumably all the result of his clever scheme.

MUST ATTEND.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—A resolution introduced by the House committee on rules at the beginning of the session to-day to fine members $10 for failing to vote on the call of yeas and nays, or for absence without leave, precipitated a session of filibustering which continued until 6:30 p.m. when adjournment was taken until 12 o'clock to-morrow. Before adjourning a resolution was adopted revoking leaves of absence and directing the sergeant-at-arms to telegraph absent members that their presence is required.

SEALER SEIZED

SEATTLE, April 12.—The City of Topeka, from Alaska, brought general news of an interesting nature. W. Farrel, one of the crew of the schooner Emma, which departed from Juneau last summer on a sealing cruise to the north and west of the Japan islands, has written a long letter to James Chionolim, at Treadwell, dated Vladivostock, Siberia, September 2, 1893. In it he says that their largest catch of seals was 63, made off the Copper and Behring islands. It was getting late in the season, so they headed the schooner for Yokohama, Japan. A heavy storm coming on, their rudder was disabled and they headed the schooner for Saghalen island to repair it. Upon starting out again a Russian man-of-war bore down on them and took them in charge. They were towed to Karsocks, a prison fortress, where 15,000 prisoners are incarcerated.

The commander of the warship claimed that they were trying to raid the seals of Robbin island. This assertion was false, as the contents and the crew had driven them on the Siberian coast. Word of the capture was sent on to St. Petersburg. Farrel writes that the men, while imprisoned, were fed on blue hard tack, made of cracked rye, and tea for breakfast. The noon meal consisted of soup, hard tack, boiled peas and tallow. At last accounts the men, according to Farrel's letter, had employed counsel and expected to make a fight for their liberty. They were given one trial, but Farrel says it was before a regular kangaroo court.

The Juneau City News, in speaking of the matter, says: "The Secretary of State's attention should be called to the seizure in the event that the crew is detained and the vessel confiscated. They were not encroaching on forbidden territory, and were making for Yokohama when the storm and swift currents swept them upon the Siberian coast."

ASSASSIN PRENDERGAST.

CHICAGO, April 12.—One of the mysteries surrounding the Prendergast case that are yet to be unravelled relates to the source of the funds employed for the defence of Carter Harrison's assassin. That there is money behind the defence, and plenty of it, is beyond question. Of the counsel now engaged in placing every obstacle in the march of the brutal murderer to the gallows, two have hitherto confined their practice to chancery and civil proceedings, and their names have always been identified with big fees and fat emoluments. Nobody believes they are in this celebrated criminal case simply for the love of the thing. Another well known pleader, who was interjected into the case to make a harangue at the now celebrated midnight session, at which a stay of execution was granted, is said to have received $500 cash in hand for his half hour effort.

The expenses incurred from the opening of the trial, through the Supreme court, thence to the Governor, thence to the United States court, and back again to the county tribunal, have, in the way of witnesses, stenographic charges, costs of preparing records, etc., been enormous. Yet it is stated that every outstanding account has been paid to date. It has been suggested by members of the Harrison family that the funds were being supplied by some old enemies of the dead mayor, who are thus carrying their vindictiveness even to the grave. This suggestion, however, has so far not been found capable of proof, but it is believed that sooner or later the defence will be compelled to disclose the names of those behind them who are willing to supply funds with a liberal hand that Prendergast may escape the gallows.

INTERSTATE BANKS.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Representative Perry, of Connecticut, introduced in the House to-day a bill to establish a Bureau of Interstate Banks. The bill authorizes a bank to deposit with the Treasurer of the United States, as security for circulation, "any interest bearing bonds issued under due authority of law by the United States, or any State of the United States, or by any county or municipal corporation located within any such State." A bank having an authorized capital stock not exceeding $150,000 shall deposit bonds of the par value of not less than one-fourth of the capital stock, and larger banks shall deposit not less than $50,000. The United States does not guarantee the circulating notes, as under the National Banking act, but holds their bonds as collateral security and is authorized to sell them if the bank goes into liquidation at what they will bring. The notes, moreover, will constitute a first and paramount lien upon all the assets of the bank. The provisions for redemption require the redemption to be in legal tender United States coin upon the presentation of the notes, and also require a reserve of 25 per cent. of lawful money of the United States. No distinction is made between gold and silver legal tender coin; but there is a separate section of the bill authorizing the establishment of gold banks which deposit bonds payable in gold, and make their notes redeemable exclusively in gold.

THE QUEEN IN ITALY.

FLORENCE, April 10.—On her arrival here Queen Victoria was most enthusiastically received. The visit being a private one, was not the occasion of a formal demonstration, but she was subsequently waited upon by the King, who extended to her every courtesy. She returned the royal visit at 5 o'clock this afternoon. King Humbert met Her Majesty at the entrance to the palace, and kissed her hand. Queen Victoria was carried in her chair into the grand salon, where she held a reception lasting half an hour. The Queen was cheered as she took her departure for the villa.

THE QUEEN IN FLORENCE.

FLORENCE, April 11.—Queen Victoria to-day drove to the Pitti palace, where she took luncheon with King Humbert and Queen Margherita. She was accompanied by Prince Henry of Battenberg and his wife, Princess Beatrice. The luncheon was served upon a service of solid gold. King Humbert, Queen Margherita and their eldest son, the Prince of Naples, return to Rome to-night.

BUFFALO'S BIG FIRE.

Over a Million Dollars Loss—Glucose Sugar Refinery Totally Destroyed.

A Number of Persons Killed—Several Missing and Injured Firemen.

BUFFALO, N.Y., April 12.—The American Grape Sugar works were destroyed by fire this evening. The fire has spread to the Holmes lumber yards, the largest in the city, and the public fish market. The total loss will amount to upwards of a million dollars. The fire is not under control at 9:30 p.m. The ambulance service from all the city hospitals has been summoned. It is reported that a large number of employes of the sugar works were unable to escape and are in the ruins. It is known that several firemen are seriously injured and have been taken to the hospitals.

When the flames were seen breaking out a general alarm was sounded which was promptly responded to, but when the firemen reached the scene the entire structure was a mass of flames. Sixty men were employed at night on the top floors of the works. All but twelve have been accounted for. It is feared the others are in the ruins. A number of employes were seriously injured by jumping from the windows on the eighth floor. Lieut. Schraeder, of Fire Company No. 1, was badly hurt by the falling walls, and Joseph Weber, pipeman of No. 1, was badly burned and his leg broken. At 10:30 o'clock the fire had spread to the public fish market, and it was not until midnight that the flames were under control.

The loss to the adjoining property, including the fish market and Klinck's wholesale meat market, will amount to $20,000, making the total loss about $1,200,000, on which there is an insurance of about $500,000. The main building of the Grape Sugar works, eight storeys in height, had, with its dependencies, a frontage of 225 feet and a depth of 180 feet, while the feed drying establishment, warehouses and machinery and other subordinate structures, occupied the south side of Scott street, directly opposite the main property. These with their respective railroad tracks and freighting facilities, stretched nearly to Perry street, 300 feet to the southward. The annual product of the works, including grape sugar, glucose, syrups and other products, reached 150,000,000 pounds. Employment was furnished to 700 men, who received annually in salaries $200,000.

AMERICAN WHEAT CROP.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The condition of winter wheat on the first day of April, as reported by the statistician of the Department of Agriculture, averages 86.7 per cent. for the entire country. Last year the average was 77.4, in 1892 it was 81.2, and 96.9 for the year 1891. The corresponding averages of wheat for the principal States are as follows: Kentucky, 83; Ohio, 90; Michigan, 83; Indiana, 90; Illinois, 87; Missouri, 88; Kansas, 72; Nebraska, 85; California, 87.

The weather from seeding time until the recent cold waves swept over the country, except in the cases hereafter noted, has been favorable to the growth of the plant. In the Eastern, Northern and Northwestern states the snow covering has afforded protection in addition to that of a mild temperature.

The returns in regard to the effects on wheat resulting from the recent cold snaps are not so satisfactory or conclusive as is desirable. The injury to the crop is undoubtedly considerable, if not great, but the comments of correspondents accompanying the reports would seem to indicate that the full extent of the damage was not generally determinable at the date of transmission. In the Eastern and Northern states the damage was comparatively slight. In the South Atlantic and Southern states the injury was marked and decided, with perhaps the exception of Texas, while in the states of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Kentucky the injury from frost is considerable, but the extent is somewhat contingent upon future meteorological conditions. The returns indicate that freezing to the ground was quite prevalent in rich moist lands, but with the roots left untouched or at least alive, with good prospects of recuperating on the recurrence of favorable weather. In the states of Kansas, Nebraska and California the impaired condition of the crops has resulted not so much from the frost as from the cold, dry weather. High winds are also noted by Kansas correspondents as one of the causes of unfavorable conditions. Rain is much needed in these as well as in other important wheat-producing states. The condition of farm animals, together with estimated losses, will be as usual in the forthcoming April bulletin.

LAWYERS' ARGUMENT.

SAN JOSE, Cal., April 12.—Tuesday while Eva Rose Barron, widow of the late Edward Barron, was being examined before Judge Lorigan on the petition of George Barron to reduce her family allowance from $4,000 a month to $1,500 a month, an unusual scene occurred in the courtroom. The witness had just finished detailing at length the cost of maintaining her luxurious home in San Francisco, which, together with her expenses for clothing, run up to $2,600 per month, when the trouble began. Judge Lorigan reduced the allowance to $2,800 per month. Judge McKinstry thereupon brought to the attention of the court the fact that the press all over the country this morning contained articles about the multiplicity of marriages of deceased and the filing of the contest of the will. He characterized the statements contained therein as lies and as emanating from liars. D. M. Delmas, representing Barron, jumped to his feet and hurled back the lie at Judge McKinstry if he alluded to him as the father of the published articles. Judge McKinstry, angered at the accusation, arose quickly and struck Delmas. The blow was returned and slight pummeling continued until checked by the bailiff and McHasset, Delmas' associate. McKinstry was fined $100, which was remitted and a record of the events stricken from the minutes upon motion of Delmas.