NICARAGUA CANAL PROJECT.

Senate Committee Indorses the Undertaking In Strong Terms.

WASHINGTON, June 3.—The senate committee on Nicaragua canal held a meeting and authorized the chairman, Senator Morgan, to report favorably a bill similar to that which has been reported in the house for the construction of the Nicaragua canal. The committee also signified its concurrence of a report of a bill which Senator Morgan had prepared, and which he read to the committee. The report was afterwards presented in the senate. It is a voluminous document and discusses in a comprehensive manner all the questions involved in the construction of the proposed waterway. Referring to the report of the Nicaragua canal commission, the committee says:

"There is in fact no real engineering difficulty in any part of this projected work. To say that this work is practicable, at a cost that bears a reasonable comparison with its importance and value, and to add that it should not be built until every feature of the work is fixed by tests that are impossible to be applied in advance of construction, is unreasonable, is out of the range of all experience and can only be a pretext for refusing to engage in it."

The committee expresses the opinion, based upon the work performed, that the canal can be constructed for less than Mr. Menocal's estimate, which is $53,176,176, but they estimate that at a cost of $150,000,000, the highest figure named, it would pay an average of $1,062,500 per year for the first 10 years after its completion.

Towpaths Open to Wheelmen.

ALBANY, June 3.—Superintendent of Public Works Aldridge has issued orders to the superintendents of repairs along the whole line of the canals to do what they can to place the banks in condition for wheeling purposes, without interfering in any way with their regular duties. In making the improvements under the $9,000,000 law, Mr. Aldridge believes that by keeping the wheeling interests in mind, the banks can be put in such shape as will make them equal to cinder paths purposely constructed for wheelmen. The order practically amounts to throwing open to the wheelmen 622 miles of sidepaths.

Reformatory Superintendents Organize.

ALBANY, June 3.—The superintendents of the state charitable institutions, 18 in number, met in Comptroller Robert's office and perfected an organization similar to the one formed by the superintendents of state hospitals some time ago. Superintendent of Elmira Reformatory Brockway was elected president and Superintendent Spratling of the Craig colony for epileptics acted as secretary. This organization is formed for concerted action on the part of the superintendents in all ways in which the interests of the various institutions are common; especially in the purchase of supplies and merchandise.

Employment of State Convicts.

ALBANY, June 3.—Six of the prison commissioners were present at the regular monthly meeting of that commission, and together with Superintendent of Prisons Lathrop and Wardens Sage, Stout and Thayer discussed the manner of employing convicts in the manufacture of articles for state institutions as prescribed by the prison labor law of the last legislature and the new constitution. The wardens informed the commission that anything and everything could be made in the prisons that the state institutions could require.

Will Meet Next In Canada.

CHICAGO, June 3.—At the recent meeting of the executive committee of the World's Women's Christian Temperance union in London it was unanimously resolved to hold their next convention in Canada. As the world's convention is held biennially, this will bring it to Canada in June of 1897. Montreal will probably be the chosen city. Australia had hoped to secure this gathering and will probably be in line for 1899.

Vetoed by Governor Wolcott.

BOSTON, June 3.—Governor Wolcott has vetoed the Massachusetts pipeline bill, better known as the Whitney gas bill, which provided for the extensive manufacture of cheap fuel gas and coke, by a corporation of which Henry M. Whitney, ex-president of the West End Street Railway company, and now president of the Dominion Coal company, was to be the principal member.

Tennessee Centennial Celebration.

NASHVILLE, June 3.—Notwithstanding the unpropitious weather the centennial demonstrations were continued with redoubled enthusiasm. The feature was the military parade of federal and state troops through the streets of the city which are thronged with people from all parts of the state. There was also a sham battle which was witnessed by a vast crowd.

Italian's Dramatic Suicide.

NIAGARA FALLS, June 1.—Lorenzo Shredo, an Italian, while intoxicated, said to a party of friends: "Come and see me jump into the river." Throwing his coat on the ground, he ran to the foot of Thirteenth street and jumped into the Power company's canal. His body has been recovered.

Women's Peace League Elections.

WASHINGTON, June 3.—The American branch of the Women's International Peace league has selected Mrs. Mary F. Ormsby of this city president, and Mrs. Lacey Green Leach, a relative of Vice President Stevenson, as delegates to the international congress for women's work at Berlin from Sept. 19 to 26 of this year.

Escaped the Tornado.

ST. LOUIS, June 3.—C. L. Simmons, the St. Joseph attorney, whose name was sent out from St. Louis in the list of missing, is now in Louisville or Cincinnati. He was in St. Louis when it was struck by the tornado, but escaped without injury.

1896			JUNE.			1896
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PRESBYTERIAN ASSEMBLY.

Various Important Matters Considered by the Meeting at Saratoga.

SARATOGA, May 29.—At the Presbyterian assembly session the judicial committee reported on the Los Angeles case, in which the presbytery of Los Angeles had suspended Rev. Bert E. Howard. The synod reversed the action of the presbytery, and against this decision appeal was taken. The judicial committee reported, recommending the reversal of the action of the synod.

The orders of the session included a report on temperance and the reception of fraternal delegates from other bodies. The former was presented by Rev. William H. Hubbard of Auburn. An additional resolution was presented by Elder Rudolph Hatfield of Emporia, Kan., asking for a law to prohibit the issuance of federal internal licenses or stamps for the sale of intoxicating liquors in states whose laws prohibited the same. This brought the lawyers of the assembly to the front, and three protested against such an exhibition of ignorance as the passage of this resolution would give. After a heated discussion the resolution was tabled.

The resignation of Dr. Rufus S. Green from the editorship of The Assembly Herald, the denominational paper, authorized by the assembly, was accepted.

Steam Bicycle Kills Its Inventor.

BOSTON, June 2.—S. H. Roper of Roxbury, a mechanical engineer, while pacing Tom Butler, the professional bicyclerider, with a steam bicycle which Roper had invented, was killed at the Charles River park track. Roper's machine became unmanageable and the rider was thrown, striking upon his head. He died a few moments later.

Roper was 72 years old. He had been at work on the steam bicycle for 25 years, and had been given permission by the Charles River park authorities to try it on the track there. The mechanism weighed 126 pounds and carried a small boiler and a miniature engine. The action of the machinery was controlled by a series of levers and cords.

Roper claimed that the bicycle would go a mile in two minutes and it did show great speed until the accident occurred.

Monthly Treasury Statement.

WASHINGTON, June 2.—The comparative statement of the government receipts and expenditures shows the total receipts during May to have been $24,648,717, as compared with $25,972,078 during May, 1895. The expenditures during the month amounted to $28,426,692, which leaves the deficit for May $3,782,875 and for the 11 months of the fiscal year $26,928,874. During the month the receipts from customs amounted to $10,949,793, which is a loss as compared with May, 1895, of about $1,500,000. There was, however, a gain of about $800,000 from internal revenue. The pension payments for the month amounted to $12,803,696.

Victory For the Raines Law.

ALBANY, June 3.—The appellate division of the supreme court has handed down a decision declaring the provision of the law which abrogates licenses on June 30 constitutional. This decision was unanimous on the part of the court and affirms the decision of Justice Prior in the supreme court in the case of Alexander Balough of New York city against Excise Commissioner Lyman. Mr. Balough's liquor license under the old law would not have expired until March, 1897, and he applied to the court for a mandamus to restrain the new excise department from interfering with his business until his old license expires.

For Extradition of Witnesses.

WASHINGTON, June 3.—The Jackson-Walling murder trials and similar cases have inspired the introduction of a bill by Representative Lacey of Iowa to compel the attendance of witnesses summoned by criminal courts of states in which they do not reside. Under existing practice a state court has no power to compel the attendance of witnesses from another state, but Mr. Lacey believes that under the general welfare clause of the constitution, legislation for this purpose can be enacted. His bill makes a failure to answer a summons a misdemeanor.

Fatal Riot In Chicago.

CHICAGO, June 3.—A riot occurred in front of the Illinois Steel works at Ashland avenue and Thirty-second street, and two men were shot. They are: J. Sexton, laborer, employed at the steel works, will probably die; Michael Martin, saloon keeper, slight chances of recovery. Martin was shot by Sexton, and the latter was shot by Policeman Connelly.

Appointed by the President.

WASHINGTON, June 3.—The president has sent to the senate the following nominations: William Churchill of New York, to be consul general of the United States to Apia, Samoan islands, Davis N. Burke of New York, to be consul general of the United States at Tangier, Morocco.

Secured an Oklahoma Divorce.

WICHITA, Kan., June 3.—Mrs. Barnes of Trenton, N. J., has secured a divorce in the court at Oklahoma City from her husband, who was foreman of ex-Mayor Magowan's factory interests at Trenton and who recently instituted suit against Magowan for alienating his wife's affections.

Grocery Company Goes Under.

MEMPHIS, June 3.—The Schoolfield-Hanauer Grocery company, one of the oldest wholesale firms in the city, has assigned. The liabilities will reach $100,000; assets nominally $100,000. General business depression is given as the cause of the failure.

Plumbers Meet at Cleveland.

CLEVELAND, June 3.—The 14th annual convention of the National Plumbers' Association of America was called to order in this city by President Meathe of Detroit. Over 500 delegates are in attendance, every state in the Union being represented.

Wealthy Woman Drops Dead.

MONTICELLO, N. Y., June 3.—Mary Wright, one of the richest women in this section of the state, dropped dead at her home here. She was a daughter of the late General Nivin and wife of William Wright, late judge of Sullivan county.

Reformers Soon to Be Released.

LONDON, June 3.—J. B. Robinson, the South African millionaire, has received a message from Pretoria saying that the leaders of the Johannesburg reform committee will be released in a few days.

Powder Mixing Mill Explodes.

ROCHESTER, June 3.—A mixing mill at the Drand powder works on the Victor road, three miles east of Pittsford, exploded. Delos Collins, the only employe about the place, was badly injured.

TORNADO VAGARIES.

FREAKS OF THE RECENT TERRIBLE STORM IN ST. LOUIS.

It Indulged In Many Peculiar Pranks, Such as Blowing the Rings Off a Man's Finger—It Spared a Pet Cat and a Glass of St. Louis Whisky.

The tornado developed hundreds of incidents so unique that the best of them are entitled to a chapter to themselves. Since the account of the first of these strange storms was written, back in the days of the Marshfield and Grinnell disasters, stories of miraculous, unaccountable escapes, peculiar deaths and fantastic doings of the elements have formed a large part of the history of every storm of this character.

For example, nothing is more difficult of explanation than a condition which exists at the wrecked home of Dr. Starkloff on Campton avenue. The outer walls of the splendid red mansion are torn away, the roof is gone, and there are other evidences of the ravages of the storm without the building. Yet the light pictures on the walls are hanging in place, and lamps on tables and stands are not disturbed as to position; neither are they in any way damaged. On one of them the delicate lace shade is not even disarranged.

Jim Murray, employed on the Anchor line wharfboat, was sitting on the wharfboat when the tornado descended on the levee. Foreseeing the danger, Murray made a run for the shelter of the elevated road. The wind gratified his desire to seek this shelter, but not before it had some fun with him. Murray was lifted off his feet and blown over the "apron" of the boat into the river, landing in a drydock, moored close by, used by carpenters to repair the hulls of vessels. The next instant the drydock, which is a hollow affair about 10 feet wide by 15 feet long, was blown westward out of the water, tearing off a portion of the railing of the "apron." It was driven with great violence against the iron supports of the elevated railway, dumping Murray out unceremoniously upon the ground. The drydock was again taken up in a return current of wind and carried out toward the river almost to the water's edge, where it was caught by a reverse current, whirled high into the air and dashed to pieces against the roadbed of the elevated, scattering debris all over the wharf. Murray was dazed and pretty sorely bruised, but not injured otherwise, and he held on with a death grip to the terminal elevated support until the storm had spent itself.

A paper hanger named Stewart was decorating the walls of Ed Morrissey's saloon, opposite the Four Courts. When the front of the restaurant blew in and scattered debris through the house, Stewart fled to the cellar. When his two assistants decided to follow him a few minutes later, they were convulsed with laughter at observing him stretched prone upon his back in the damp cellar, the water reaching nearly above his arms, with two heavy stones across his breast, which he had placed there to prevent the wind from blowing him away. Despite the gibes of the other occupants of the house, Stewart continued to occupy his uncomfortable position until assured that all danger was past.

Henry Collins was standing in a saloon in East St. Louis with a glass of liquor in his hand. Suddenly the roof fell in, and he was turned over twice or thrice and landed on his feet with the glass still in his hand and half of the liquor still in it. He quaffed the liquor with relish, as his collar bone had been broken in the crash and he needed the stimulant.

In Clifton Heights an old lady living in a house in the rear of the residence of L. Haller was killed by the shock experienced when an uprooted tree was dropped through the roof. She was not struck or injured in any way by falling debris, but her nervous system had been so shattered by the intensity of the storm that the additional strain was too much for her.

In the worst part of the wreck of the upper Louisville and Nashville offices a dog lived to bark his delight at being released from the chain which kept the wind from blowing him away.

A stable which stands in the roadway is pinned through the corners by wooden beams which were forced into both sides by the wind. The ends of the beams, extending up and out from the stable, contain a pile of lumber carefully arranged, as if placed there by hand.

Perhaps the strangest escape in town was that of Saloon Keeper Tojo, whose saloon on Missouri avenue was wholly demolished. The walls and roof are as flat as a pancake. At the first streak of dawn a small force of men were removing the safe and fixtures from the wreck.

Early yesterday morning a newspaper man picked up a dead robin in the center of Lafayette park. On one side of the bird all of the feathers were intact. On the other side there was no sign that there had ever been a feather on the white skin. Even the upper part of the leg was entirely denuded.

In South St. Louis there is a house whose entire north wall is torn out save a support under one of the windows and the window itself. The frame is not damaged and not one of the panes of glass is broken.

On Russell avenue, not far from Compton, one of the heavy marble steps that were in front of the main door of a residence was picked up and the end driven into the ground to a depth of two feet. The step is not chipped or in any way injured.

There are two iron posts in front of the Merchants' Exchange building. One of them was wrenched off by the storm. Sixty feet away is a wooden post of the same size and height of the iron pillar, and it was in no way damaged.

On Grand avenue, not far from Shenandoah, a horse was torn from its harness and thrown, [illegible] down, in an excavation that is being made for a new [illegible]. The other horse in the team was found across the street.

A bed with its mattress in place was thrown from a house on Missouri avenue to the center of Lafayette park. Two pillows fell not far from it, but they were not the pillows belonging to this particular bed.

A child's chair was taken from one of the lamps at the gate leading into Lafayette park on the south side. Part of an arc lamp was fastened to it.

A middle aged German mechanic was walking along the railroad tracks east of Twelfth street just after the storm, bemoaning the loss of his little daughter. Another child, who was with him, found a bonnet that was recognized as belonging to the missing girl. The father thought that it was conclusive evidence that his other youngster was lost, when the little one ran up and shouted that she wanted to get in the house, because it was getting too wet for her.

Bales of hay ought to be good defense in a cyclone. In many livery stables on the south side everything but the great stacks of hay in the lofts was blown away. In one case carriages were taken half a dozen blocks and set down with little injury. The hay was not disturbed.

A pet cat, owned by a family on top of Compton hill, was found in front of the Lafayette Avenue Methodist church at 9 o'clock yesterday morning. It was not injured.

In a house on Arkansas avenue a glass stopper in a whisky decanter was broken off at the top of the bottle, but the vessel itself was not broken.

A young man named Murphy of South Twenty-third street says that he had two rings on his left hand. He lost them, with a good deal of the skin of two fingers, while trying to keep his hold on a telegraph pole. The pole was overturned, and Murphy narrowly escaped being crushed under it.

Letters addressed to many prominent people were found in the trees of Lafayette park. One was the property of Mrs. Charles Nagel.

A chicken coop with two live and very much frightened chickens was found floating in a new formed pool of water in Lafayette park.

Two young women who were on a Fourth street cable car at the time of the storm were entirely denuded. They left the car stark naked and were cared for in a house near by.

Black mud was found on the walls of many houses after the storm. In one residence on Arkansas avenue the ceiling is decorated with black patches. There is no such mud in the neighborhood. Where did this come from?

There was a new spring bonnet on one of the spikes of the Lafayette park iron fence yesterday afternoon. The bird on it wasn't stripped of its feathers.

The irony of fate was never more forcibly illustrated than in the case of a dwelling house located on South Broadway, the entire front of which was swept away, leaving the interior with furniture exposed to the elements. The furniture and bedding were piled in a confused mass upon each floor, while upon the rear wall of the second story bedroom was the legend, "Good Luck."

A tall office stool fell from the top of the tower of the McLean building yesterday afternoon. It had no mark indicating whence it had come.

Ben Selkirk's house on the north side of Park avenue is in a state of collapse. With strange vagary the wind blew pieces of brick, limbs of trees and pieces of slate through the parlor windows in front, knocking the chandelier into smithereens and treating handsome vases and mantel ornaments in the same rough way. With singular friendliness it missed a charming little dollhouse which Mr. Selkirk had made with his own hands for his children. This dollhouse stood, and stands now, between the two front windows on a table. It is as good as new, and not even a drop of water got on it to mar its whiteness.—St. Louis Republic.

The Millionaire's Strategy.

"Young Mr. Vanderbilt is very much averse to having his big estate near Asheville invaded by the swine of his country neighbors," said Mr. J. B. Powell of North Carolina at the Hotel Page. "Until recently, however, he was at a loss to hit upon a plan to keep the 'razorbacks' from intruding on his property. He didn't want to kill them outright for fear of incurring lawsuits and maybe the vendetta, which in the long run is more troublesome than trial by jury.

"But there are plenty of wildcats and catamounts on the Vanderbilt tract, 90,000 acres of which are almost [illegible] of forest and [illegible]. There was no reason why traps should not be set to catch these wild members of the feline tribe. The traps were made big enough and strong enough to imprison a wandering hog that was out of its proper territory [illegible] complaint. When the traps were first put in operation, they caught a few wildcats, but a great many more porkers. Then it dawned on the owners that it would be better to pen up their swine than to imperil their existence, and so they no longer roam at will over the Vanderbilt demesne."—Washington Post.

Mumps and Kisses.

Too much kissing among the boys and girls in the high school of Taunton, Mass., is the alleged cause of the epidemic of mumps which has taken nearly half the pupils out of school and threatens havoc with the exercises on graduation day.

It began about two weeks ago. One of the prettiest girls in the senior class came to school one day with what she called in her innocence toothache. Next day the doctor said it was mumps. How the malady spread is one of the mysteries that the principals would like to unravel, but about half of the pupils followed suit, including many who had been assigned to important parts in the graduation exercises.

A TORNADO WARNING.

Suggested by Professor [illegible] of the Lick Observatory.

The newspapers have lately been full of accounts of terrible damages due to tornadoes, and last night St. Louis had its portion of bitter experience. [illegible] of interest to briefly describe a simple system by which a certain though short warning can be had of the approach of dangerous winds from a certain quarter. Such a system I had in operation for some years at the Washburn Observatory at Madison, Wis., and all winds coming from the southwest quarter with a velocity of 60 miles per hour or greater were notified to us by the ringing of signal bells. If suitable shelters are available, there need be no loss of human life where such warnings are given. There is no method of protecting property.

The velocity of the wind in the vortex of the tornado is 100 or more miles per hour, and the destructive effect [illegible] is due not only to the high velocity, but to the great differences of atmospheric pressure. In a distance of a few yards or feet the pressure may vary from a few to very many pounds per square foot. Opposite sides of a house, for example, may be exposed to pressures of entirely different amounts, and no ordinary structure can resist such stresses. In my dwelling house at Madison the passage of a very low barometer due to a cyclonic storm caused all the windows on one side of the house to burst open outward. The pressure within the house was far greater than that without. If the storm center had been nearer to us and the barometric pressure correspondingly lower, the walls of the house might have gone, not simply the windows. No doubt much of the destructive work of tornadoes is due to the sudden development of great differences of pressure over comparatively small areas. [illegible]

[illegible]

One hundred [illegible] a book of poems [illegible] Abbot, a rural poet of [illegible] received for a copy of his [illegible] [illegible]