# SOME SHARP DECLINES

## The Market Appears Very Irregular in Early Dealings.

### A Firm Railway List, But No Activity—Heavy Drops in Sugar Refining and Other Industrials—Special Weakness in Third Avenue Securities—Prices in London Stronger.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—The Stock Market was remarkably irregular in the early dealings today. The railway list, for the most part, was decidedly firm, although the dealings in that quarter were not particularly active. On the other hand, some very sharp declines appeared in other quarters of the market, notably in Sugar Refining, Peoples' Gas, United States Leather, common, and Third Avenue. There was actually nothing that was really new bearing upon any of these stocks.

The decline in Sugar seemed to be owing to the apprehensions as to the dividend to be declared next week, while the special weakness in Third Avenue was owing to the absence of any announcement that the company had been able to secure financial assistance. The weakness in these stocks was effective later on in changing the tendency of the general market and reactions were common after the initial dealings.

The London market was higher in all of its quarters on the encouraging news from South Africa, and American stocks showed advances, extending from one-quarter to one-half per cent. Foreign houses were buyers of stocks in the early dealings. As is usually the case at the end of the week there was a good deal of discussion as to what showing the banks will make in their weekly statement tomorrow and the opinion seems to be generally held that a further reduction in surplus reserves would appear.

**New York Stock Market.**

Corrected daily by W. B. Hibbs & Co., members of the New York Exchange, 1419 F Street.

| | Open. | High. | Low. | 2:15 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. S. Wire | 58⅞ | 58⅞ | 57⅞ | 57⅞ |
| A. S. Wire pfd | 93⅞ | 93⅞ | 93 | 93 |
| American Sugar | 122 | 122 | 116⅞ | 117¼ |
| American Tobacco | 107⅞ | 108⅞ | 107⅞ | 107⅞ |
| Atchison | 21 | 21 | 20⅞ | 20⅞ |
| Atchison pfd | 63⅞ | 63⅞ | 62⅞ | 62⅞ |
| B. & O. pfd | 59⅞ | 59⅞ | 58⅞ | 58⅞ |
| Baltimore & Ohio | 62⅞ | 62⅞ | 61⅞ | 61⅞ |
| Brooklyn Rapid Transit | 72⅞ | 72⅞ | 71⅞ | 71⅞ |
| Chesapeake & Ohio | 29⅞ | 29⅞ | 29 | 29 |
| C. C. C. & St. L. | 60 | 60 | 59⅞ | 59⅞ |
| C. B. & Q. | 123 | 123⅞ | 122⅞ | 122⅞ |
| Chicago Gas | 98 | 98⅞ | 97⅞ | 97⅞ |
| C. M. & St. Paul | 124 | 124 | 121⅞ | 121⅞ |
| C. R. I. & P. | 108 | 108⅞ | 107 | 107 |
| Chi. & Great West'n | 3⅞ | 3⅞ | 3⅞ | 3⅞ |
| Consolidated Gas | 191 | 191 | 187 | 187 |
| Con. Tobacco | 32 | 32⅞ | 31 | 31⅞ |
| Con. Tobacco pfd | 85⅞ | 85⅞ | 84 | 84⅞ |
| Federal Steel | 54⅞ | 54⅞ | 52⅞ | 53⅞ |
| Federal Steel pfd | 74⅞ | 74⅞ | 74 | 74⅞ |
| General Electric | 127 | 127 | 127 | 127 |
| Illinois Central | 143⅞ | 143⅞ | 143⅞ | 143⅞ |
| Louisville & Nashville | 82⅞ | 82⅞ | 81⅞ | 81⅞ |
| Metropolitan Traction | 177 | 177 | 174⅞ | 175 |
| Manhattan Elevated | 97⅞ | 97⅞ | 96⅞ | 96⅞ |
| Missouri Pacific | 45⅞ | 46 | 45 | 45 |
| M. K. & T. pfd | 32⅞ | 32⅞ | 32⅞ | 31⅞ |
| National Lead Co. | 24⅞ | 24⅞ | 24⅞ | 24⅞ |
| New Jersey Central | 117⅞ | 117⅞ | 117⅞ | 117⅞ |
| New York Central | 134 | 134 | 133⅞ | 133⅞ |
| Northern Pacific | 53 | 53⅞ | 52⅞ | 52⅞ |
| Northern Pacific pfd | 74⅞ | 74⅞ | 74⅞ | 74⅞ |
| Pacific Mail | 37⅞ | 37⅞ | 37 | 37 |
| Penn. Railroad | 134⅞ | 134⅞ | 133⅞ | 133⅞ |
| Reading Iriste | 58⅞ | 58⅞ | 57⅞ | 58 |
| Southern Pacific | 32⅞ | 32⅞ | 31⅞ | 31⅞ |
| Southern Railway | 32⅞ | 32⅞ | 32⅞ | 32⅞ |
| Southern Railway pfd | 87⅞ | 87⅞ | 87⅞ | 87⅞ |
| Texas Pacific | 16⅞ | 16⅞ | 16⅞ | 16⅞ |
| Tenn. Coal & Iron | 100 | 100 | 95⅞ | 95⅞ |
| Union Pacific | 40⅞ | 40⅞ | 40⅞ | 40⅞ |
| Union Pacific pfd | 76⅞ | 76⅞ | 76⅞ | 76⅞ |
| U. S. Leather pfd | 75 | 75 | 74⅞ | 74⅞ |
| U. S. Rubber | 33⅞ | 33⅞ | 32 | 32 |
| Wabash pfd | 20⅞ | 20⅞ | 20⅞ | 20⅞ |
| Western Union Tel. | 94 | 94 | 93⅞ | 93⅞ |
| Colorado Fuel & Iron | 45 | 45 | 43⅞ | 43⅞ |
| Leather | 13⅞ | 13⅞ | 12⅞ | 13⅞ |

The specialties were weak this morning and the standard securities were inactive and only slight changes in prices. The first two hours of the session were disappointing to those that had expected a lively revival of speculation after the holiday. The real cause of the tumble in the prices of Third Avenue, Leather, common, Peoples' Gas, and Sugar cannot be stated off hand. There are the usual bear stories afloat, but it is by no means certain that there was any important liquidation in any of them this morning. Many are inclined to believe that short selling by the smaller bears accounts for the movement sufficiently. Others suggest that more important people, and holders of securities, too, are allowing prices to decline purposely in order to shake out weak holders before a good upward movement. As usual intrinsic conditions and general news are extremely satisfactory. The situation in South Africa is considered by Wall Street people to be better than at any time heretofore. Money as yet shows no signs of tightening to any unpleasant extent. A bank statement showing further loss of cash and of surplus reserve is not unlikely, but it will be no surprise and it will still leave the banks in a most enviably strong position. Advices from the West regarding grain and general freight business is most encouraging. There is talk in usually well-informed quarters of a higher dividend on Southern Railway, preferred. It is not believed by any except the professional bears, and not by all of these, that the market will remain much longer at the present low level of prices. Mr. Cammack is quoted as expressing bullish views regarding many securities and Mr. Keene is known to be buying Third Avenue.

Third Avenue tumbled again this morning several points, reaching as low as 84 before 11 o'clock. Its price a year ago was 247, so that the break has been nearly 160 points. The latest plan for the rehabilitation of the property is described in a circular sent out by a prominent financial house to capitalists, who might be expected to subscribe. It proposes that $22,500,000 in notes, bearing 5 per cent interest by subscribed, to run three years. Subscribers are to receive the paper at 90 and the firm that floats them is to receive 1 per cent. This would leave the company $21,375,000. The plan is further that the notes are to be taken up before maturity by consolidated first mortgage bonds, also to be floated by the financial house. Bonds of the company to the extent of $5,000,000 are also to be taken up. Holders of the notes are to be given first preference in subscribing for the bonds. The financial concern is to receive 5 per cent for floating the bonds, and it is understood that they will also receive $800,000 in stock. This will give them a total of $2,200,000 for their services. The consideration seems to be an extremely liberal one, but perhaps it is not considering the difficult nature of the services to be performed. The story this morning was that Mr. Keene was a heavy buyer of the stock on the downward move. He is already a heavy holder at prices far above the present level, and perhaps he is astute enough and rich enough to average his entire holdings and make a profit out of them. Less astute and less wealthy speculators and traders, of whom there are many, would perhaps serve their interests better by letting the stock alone.

Southern Railway, preferred, Louisville and Nashville, and the Norfolk and Western securities were all buoyant this morning around their top prices. The statement is made in a reliable quarter that the next dividend on Southern, preferred, is to be 1 1-2 per cent. This will give the stock 2 1-2 per cent for the year, but it will put it on a per cent basis.

Consolidated Gas is to have an increased dividend. The New York gas war is virtually at an end.

Leather, common, tumbled to below 13 this morning and showed little sign of support at the low prices. It is said that a heavy holder in this stock and in Third Avenue has been compelled to liquidate his Leather stock by the great break in Third Avenue.

Sugar went off 2 points this morning on account of talk of preparations for a fierce trade war or perhaps simply because of bear pressure. The question as to the dividend is no nearer settlement, as far as the public is concerned, than it was two weeks ago. People's Gas tumbled to 98 and a reaction to the accompaniment of more talk of fierce Ogden Company competition. One version of the Ogden story is that the fight will be made very hot in the near future for the purpose of compelling the People's company to buy it out. The stock is believed to be a purchase around this level by many careful people.

Tennessee Coal and Iron plates receive much attention from the gossips. One statement received with some credence is that the preferred stock with all its cumulative dividend rights is to be exchanged for common stock on the basis of about three shares for five. It is said that the entire common stock issue is then to be put on an 8 per cent basis.

H. H. Porter, who was recently elected a director of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit, expresses most optimistic views regarding this company and its stock. He is also extremely hopeful regarding Rock Island and Federal Steel, with both of which he is connected.

**Washington Stock Exchange.**

Sales—U. S. 2's Registered, $2,000at104¾. Potomac Fire Insurance, 4at14. Capital Traction, 40at92, 200at92¼, and 200at92¾. American Graphophone, 100at11⅞.

GOVERNMENT BONDS.

| | Bid. | Asked. |
|---|---|---|
| U. S. 4's, 1906, Q. J. | 115⅞ | 116⅞ |
| U. S. 4's, 1907, Q. J. | 115⅞ | 116¼ |
| U. S. 4's, R., 1925 | 134⅞ | 135⅞ |
| U. S. 4's, C., 1925 | 135 | 135⅞ |
| U. S. 6's, C., 1904, Q. F. | 113⅞ | 114⅞ |
| U. S. 3's, R., 1908, Q. F. | 109⅞ | 110 |
| U. S. 3's, R., 1908, R. C. F. | 109⅞ | 110 |

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BONDS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6's, 1902, "30-year funding" gold | .... | .... |
| 7's, 1901, "Water stock" currency | .... | .... |
| 7's, 1903, "Water stock" currency | .... | .... |
| Funding currency, 3.65's | .... | .... |
| 4½'s, Reg., 2-10's, 1893-1901 | .... | .... |

MISCELLANEOUS BONDS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Met. R. R. 5's, 1925 | 120 | .... |
| Met. R. R., Cert Indebtedness A | 117 | 118 |
| Met. R. R., Cert. Indebtedness B | 115 | 119 |
| Columbia R. R. 6's, 1916 | 125 | .... |
| Columbia R. R. 2d mort. 5's | 110 | 112 |
| City & Suburban R. R. | .... | .... |
| Wash. Gas Co., ser. A, 6's, 1903-'13 | 113 | .... |
| Wash. Gas Co., ser. B, 6's, 1901-'29 | 113 | .... |
| U. S. Elec. Light, Deb. Imp., 1907 | .... | 112 |
| U. S. Elec. Light, Cert. Indebt. | .... | 115 |
| Ches. & Pot. Tel., 1896-1911 | 104 | .... |
| Ches. & Pot. Tel., Con. 5's | 104⅞ | 104⅞ |
| Am. Sec'y & Trust 5's, 1905 | 107 | .... |
| Wash. Market Co. 1st 6's, 1892-1911, $7,000 retired annually | 112 | .... |
| Wash. Mkt. Co. Imp. 6's, 1902-'12 | 112 | .... |
| Wash. Mkt. Co. ext. 6's, 1902-'12 | 112 | .... |
| Masonic Hall Ass'n 5's, C, 1898 | 108 | .... |
| Amer. Graphophone Deb. 5's | 110 | .... |
| Anacostia & Potomac 5's | .... | .... |

NATIONAL BANK STOCKS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bank of Washington | 400 | 410 |
| Metropolitan | 340 | 370 |
| Central | 195 | 200 |
| Farmers & Mechanics' | 215 | .... |
| Second | 155 | .... |
| Citizens' | 150 | .... |
| Columbia | 155 | .... |
| Capital | 140 | .... |
| West End | 117 | 120 |
| Traders | 126 | 136 |
| Lincoln | 123 | 127 |

SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANIES.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| National Safe Deposit & Trust | 117 | 125 |
| Wash. Loan & Trust | 157 | 160½ |
| American Security & Trust | 197 | 200 |
| Wash. Safe Deposit | 75 | 80 |

INSURANCE STOCKS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Firemen | 30 | .... |
| Franklin | 40 | .... |
| Metropolitan | 70 | 85 |
| Corcoran | 60 | .... |
| Potomac | 74 | 76 |
| Arlington | 146 | .... |
| German American | 210 | .... |
| National Union | 11½ | 13 |
| Columbia | 12¼ | 13¼ |
| Riggs | 8 | 8¾ |
| People's | 6¾ | 6¾ |
| Commercial | 4 | 5 |
| Colonial | 108 | 112 |

TITLE INSURANCE STOCKS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Real Estate Title | 88 | 90 |
| Columbia Title | 4½ | 5 |
| Washington Title | 3½ | .... |
| District Title | 3½ | .... |

RAILROAD STOCKS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Capital Traction | 91½ | 92½ |
| City & Suburban | 27 | 31 |
| Georgetown & Tennallytown | 15 | .... |

GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT STOCKS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Washington Gas | 23½ | 24 |
| Georgetown Gas | 50 | .... |
| U. S. Electric Light | .... | .... |

TELEPHONE STOCKS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chesapeake & Potomac | 65 | 70 |
| Pennsylvania | 38 | 48 |

MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mergenthaler Linotype | 198 | 199½ |
| Lanston Monotype | 13½ | 14½ |
| American Graphophone | 11⅛ | 11⅞ |
| American Graphophone, pfd | 11⅞ | 12 |
| Pneumatic Gun Carriage | *2 | *3 |
| Washington Market | 14 | 16 |
| Norfolk & Washington | .... | .... |
| Lincoln Hall | .... | .... |

*Ex-Dividend.

**Chicago Grain and Provision Market.**

Corrected daily by W. B. Hibbs & Co., members of the New York Exchange, 1419 F Street.

| WHEAT. | Open. | High. | Low. | 2:15 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| May | 67⅞ | 67⅞ | 66⅞ | 67¼ |
| July | 67⅞ | 67⅞ | 66⅞ | 66⅞ |
| CORN. | | | | |
| May | 34⅞ | 35⅞ | 34⅞ | 34⅞-⅞ |
| July | 35 | 35⅞ | 34⅞ | 34⅞-35 |
| OATS. | | | | |
| May | 23⅞ | 23⅞ | 23⅞ | 23⅞ |
| July | 22⅞-¾ | 22⅞ | 22⅞ | 22⅞ |
| PORK. | | | | |
| May | 10.75 | 10.85 | 10.72 | 10.75 |
| July | 10.80 | 10.90 | 10.77 | 10.77 |
| LARD. | | | | |
| May | 5.92 | 5.97 | 5.90 | 5.95 |
| July | 6.00 | 6.05 | 5.97 | 5.97 |
| RIBS. | | | | |
| May | 5.92 | 6.5 | 5.85 | 5.85 |
| July | 5.92 | 5.95 | 5.90 | 5.90 |

**New York Cotton Market.**

| | Open. | High. | Low. | 2:15 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| March | 8.68 | 8.83 | 8.68 | 8.83 |
| May | 8.61 | 8.78 | 8.61 | 8.67 |
| August | 8.50 | 8.65 | 8.51 | 8.66 |
| October | 7.60 | 7.71 | 7.60 | 7.70 |

**Fox's Injuries Serious.**

William W. Fox, the colored barber whose skull was fractured last night from a blow on the head, struck with a heavy board by Thomas Coutee, also colored, was operated on by Dr. Curtis at Freedman's Hospital this morning. Trephining was resorted to and several pieces of bone were removed from the brain. Dr. Curtis states this afternoon that while the condition of Fox was serious there was every reason to believe that he would recover.

**Marriage Licenses Issued.**

Marriage licenses have been issued by the Clerk of Court to George W. Pope and Ethel Parrot; Thomas W. Jones, Charlotte, W. Va., and Lucile Pryor, D. C.; Edgar Russell and Katie Southey.

**Paderewski Was Scared.**

(From the Chicago Inter-Ocean.)

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 8.—Paderewski, the pianist, was nearly frightened out of his wits last Monday night while the conference seeking a peaceful settlement of the political conflict in Kentucky was being held there. There were "bad men" here from all parts of Kentucky and the lobby of the Galt House, where the artist was staying, was full of them, and he knew it. As he started from his room to take a carriage for the theatre a Kentuckian got a glimpse of his long curly hair, and, promptly drawing his six-shooter, proposed to stop the "thing." The pianist flew into his apartments, tucked his hair up under his silk hat in a sort of coiffure and ventured out twenty minutes later. When advised that Jack Chinn, Eph Lillard and the Philpots were not in the lobby he walked boldly out of the hotel.

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# MORE WAGES FOR MINERS

## An Advance of Ten Cents a Ton, Beginning April 1.

### Good News for the Men in the George's Creek and Cumberland Regions—A Voluntary Announcement Made by the Operators—Uniform Scale of Prices to Be Prepared

CUMBERLAND, Md., Feb. 23.—Notices were posted at the various mines throughout the George's Creek and Cumberland region yesterday that on April 1, when the season's contracts begin, an advance of 10 cents a ton for pick mining will be given. The miners now receive 45 cents a ton, and the advance, for which there has been considerable contention, amounts to 22 2-9 per cent.

The operators last December voluntarily announced that they would give an advance, but did not then name the amount. The advance almost equals the scale of prices as adopted at Indianapolis. There is great rejoicing among the miners and business men of the region, the advance, it is believed, precluding all possibility of a strike, which has all along been feared.

The operators of the Meyersdale coal region will meet the delegates representing the Meyersdale miners in conference at Meyersdale for the purpose, it is stated, of arriving at a uniform rate of mining and mine labor for the George's Creek and Meyersdale regions.

The delegates of the George's Creek-Meyersdale district will meet the delegates of the district comprising the Central Pennsylvania field, either at Tyrone or Altoona, on March 14, when a uniform scale of prices for the two districts will be prepared. The following day, March 15, the operators of these regions are expected to attend a joint conference with the delegates, looking to an amicable arrangement. The George's Creek operators, it is reported, have decided to take no part in these conferences, in which their employes will be represented, but will confine their attention altogether to their local region.

Yesterday afternoon the mine blacksmiths of the George's Creek region from Piedmont to Cumberland were organized into a local branch of the American Federation of Labor. Last night another branch of the United Mine Workers was instituted at Frostburg, making two local unions there. It is said another local will soon be organized at Lonaconing. Meetings under the auspices of the United Mine Workers will be held at Meyersdale tonight, and at Piedmont tomorrow night.

**Soldiers Employ Counsel.**

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Feb. 23.—The soldiers at Fort Monroe have employed a lawyer to assist Commonwealth's Attorney E. E. Montague in prosecuting Grant Watts and Richard alias "Dick" Phillips, the colored men incarcerated in the Elizabeth City county jail awaiting trial on the charge of murdering Joseph W. New, a member of Battery N, Fourth Artillery. The case will come up in the County Court during the March term.

**Shot a Chinese Pheasant.**

LEXINGTON, Va., Feb. 23.—Superintendent of County Schools J. S. Saville sent to Lexington a Mongolian pheasant which an employe of his had killed by mistake on his farm on North Buffalo. The man did not know what the bird was and shot it. It was one of the first brought here for propagation and shortly afterward escaped and for over a year has been there with its mate, which was released. It weighed two and one-half pounds, and was a magnificent male bird. Other birds which have been reared in captivity have been released and are now breeding in the county near where let loose.

**Hansom Mitchell Ill.**

COLLEGE PARK, Md., Feb. 23.—Hansom Mitchell, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Commandant at the Maryland Agricultural College, is sick at his home in Charles county with scarlet fever. He was taken ill at the college with what was supposed to be a bad case of tonsilitis and went home. In a few days the symptoms of scarlet fever developed. Frank B. Bomberger, professor of English, has been acting as commandant in his absence.

**A Cargo of Coal for Chile.**

NORFOLK, Va., Feb. 23.—The British steamship Myrtleldene is at Lambert's Point, taking on a cargo of Pocahontas coal and coke for Antofogosto, Chile. She will sail by way of the Straits of Magellan, a long and perilous voyage. The fuel will be used to smelt silver ores from the mines near Antofogosto. The smelter there recently passed into the hands of an American firm, M. Guggenheimer Sons, of New York.

**One Hundred Houses Building.**

FAIRMONT, W. Va., Feb. 23.—A hundred houses are being built at Cheswood Park, near here, which will be occupied only by those who are employed at the mines there. The houses will be substantially built and equipped with modern conveniences. One thousand men are employed at these mines.

**An Oysterman Shot.**

SUFFOLK, Va., Feb. 23.—Charlie Silas, colored, while oystering on staked grounds in Nansemond River yesterday, was shot through the foot by a 44-calibre rifle ball, which crushed several of the small bones and will probably necessitate amputation. Oyster guards tried to halt Silas and William Boykin, a companion, but they refused to surrender until several shots had been fired. Both were arrested, but Boykin afterward escaped.

**A Child Burned to Death.**

HARRISONBURG, Va., Feb. 23.—A three-year-old child of J. H. Arbogast died here yesterday from injuries received on Wednesday. The little fellow was left alone for a few minutes by his mother in a room in which there was a fire in a cooking stove, and when she returned she found the child enveloped in flames. It is supposed that his clothing caught while he was playing in the fire. His body was terribly burned and he expired after a day and night of great suffering.

**Funeral of Marechale MacMahon.**

PARIS, Feb. 23.—The funeral services over the remains of the Marechale MacMahon, widow of former President MacMahon, took place at the Church of Ste. Clotilde today and were largely attended. The army, the navy, and the Diplomatic Corps were well represented.

**D. A. 66, K.of L.**

A report was made at the meeting held last night by the contract committee of the Federation of Labor and the executive board of the D. A., 66, K. of L., had investigated the matter of the reported discharge of a trades unionist baker from the Charles Schneider Baking Company and found that the man had acknowledged before a committee of the Central Labor Union and the President of the baking company and the Bakers and Drivers that he had quit of his own accord, the committee reported that they found the baking company fair to organized labor and worthy of its patronage. tf

Heurich's beers are the best.

**Five States in Five Hours.**

The "Royal Limited," beautiful, swift, and sure, leaves Washington B. & O. R. R. Station, New Jersey Avenue and C Street, daily, 3 p. m., arrives New York, 8 p. m. Exquisite dining and cafe car service.

## SNELL REFUSED A NEW TRIAL.

### Sentenced by Justice Clabaugh to Be Hanged on May 11.

Justice Clabaugh today overruled the motion for a new trial in the case of Benjamin H. Snell, convicted of the murder of Lizzie Weisenberger and sentenced the prisoner to be hanged on May 11, next, in the District jail.

When asked if he had anything to say why sentence of death should not be imposed on him Snell, looked startled and leaned over and asked his counsel what reply to make, and then straightening up answered: "No, sir."

## DRINKING IN RUSSIA.

### Startling Figures Show Its Prevalence Among the Youth.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 23.—The authorities have made the startling discovery that intoxication is prevalent to an alarming extent in the schools and universities of the empire. The most injurious of all liquors, vodka (Russian whisky) is being consumed in enormous quantities by the youth of Russia.

Dr. Skarschinki, the eminent medical statistician, declares that even the girls are heavy drinkers. In one girls' high school it was found that, out of thirty pupils, twenty-six could boast of having been intoxicated more than once.

In the University of Kasan, nineteen out of twenty-seven pupils in the elementary department, took their drink regularly. Of the twenty-one students in the gymnasium many were habitual drunkards.

## TURNED IN FALSE ALARMS.

### Two Men Punished for Trifling With the Fire Telegraph.

John R. Littleton and Walter Williams, the latter colored, were charged in the Police Court this morning with turning in false alarms of fire in Southeast Washington, last night.

The complainants against them were Policemen Latchford and Brown, of the Fifth precinct, who made the arrests. Judge Scott expressed himself in strong terms against the action of the prisoners, and fined Littleton $40 with the alternative of six months in the workhouse, and Williams $20 with the alternative of sixty days in the same institution.

## TWO NEGROES FATALLY SHOT.

### Trouble in West Virginia Settled With a Shotgun.

PIEDMONT, W. Va., Feb. 23.—At Manheim, Preston county, one evening this week a party of negroes, who are employed on the new railroad being built through that county, were sitting in an old shanty, when James Smith, another negro, who had had trouble with Charles Smith two weeks ago, fired upon them with a shotgun, fatally injuring Charles and Thomas Smith, and seriously injuring John Moore.

The murderer fled and is still at large. Five hundred men are searching for him.

## A PECULIAR CLASS OF PETS.

### Mice of Many Breeds Entering a New Field of Favor.

(From the New York Sun.)

It is quite a turning of the tables when the tiny little quadruped warred upon by man and woman for centuries is elevated to the rank of a pet, becomes a feature at shows and has large clubs formed in its interests. But it is a fact that for the last ten years mice have been reckoned among the pets of England, and in 1895 a mouse club was formed consisting of eighty-five members. America followed this example, and in 1896 some extra fine breeds found their way across the Atlantic. Now there are a dozen or more exhibitors here, and the latest addition to the club element is the American Mouse Club, which has members of all over the country. So instead of having to imperil its life to gain a little corner in the cupboard Master Mouse now has a dainty little hutch and is fed on the fat of the land. That is to say, some mice, for class distinctions in the animal kingdom are of quite as firm a character as those existing among human beings.

Among the most interesting of these types are the Chinese mice, very much smaller than the common mouse, and of very beautiful and delicate colors. Then there are the Japanese mice, also called the waltzing mice, because they seem never quite so happy as when dancing. Pointing their little sharp noses to the ground, they whirl round and round on their four feet as though life were an unmingled joy. There are also the singing mice, with their clear, soft whistle. Perhaps the rarest of all are the Egyptian mice, which have on their backs little quills. There are very few of these mice in this country, and unfortunately quite a little family of them on their way to the New World were lost off Newfoundland only last month.

In raising these new pets a great point is made of developing color. There are the standard and broken colors. Of the former the most valuable are the lustrous black fellows, with feet and tail to match; then there are mice with soft fur, bright eyes and a gentle and playful disposition, which are the especial favorites of children; those with the pink eyes are not considered so highly bred as those with deep blue or black eyes; clear-cut chocolate markings also add to their distinction. Solid chocolate and fawn with feet and tails to match are other varieties highly prized. The fad of the moment are the cream and pale yellow mice, one of the latter having recently been sold for $15. Another very pretty specimen might be called a symphony in grey, since its body is of grey, with light silver markings, and its ears and nose of a delicate pink.

Of the broken colors there are the black and white, white and fawn, and yellow and white, the value of the mouse depending upon the evenness of the markings. The thoroughbred should have by rights a dark patch over each eye and one at the tail; and if it can boast a saddle in the centre of the back hanging lower on one side than on the other, like the fox terrier, its social position may be considered supreme.

The chief charm in having mice for pets lies in their intelligence, which is said to be of a high order. They can be taught many tricks, even to climbing a pole to bring down a tiny flag. They also show great affection for their owners, following them around, coming when called, and delighting to climb up their clothes to the face or neck, where they nestle down and purr with contentment. They are very playful, and become as attached to a piece of string as a kitten. For the rest they are quiet, cleanly, requiring little care and less room.

Their homes can be made of almost any box, although the demand for the pets has so increased that artistic little hutches are manufactured in considerable numbers. These are about eighteen inches square, with lid tops and two false bottoms which are covered with enamel and fitted to run like shelves an inch or two over the true bottom of the cage. These trays should be removed each day, scrubbed, subjected to a sun bath and strewed with fresh sawdust. For the exercise of their little inmates, these homes are provided with a pole running from floor to roof and standing on a double pivot so as to move easily. Two inches from the ground is fastened to it a circular shelf, on which the mice run and leap, their weight causing the pole to revolve.

Mice should be fed with oats every day, with now and then a variation of bread and milk and fresh vegetables. Cheese should never be given them. A basin of fresh water must be always at hand; after eating they spend a good deal of time at their toilet, pushing their sharp little noses deep into the water, washing their faces, smoothing their ears and cleaning their paws.

If one starts with good stock and is careful in their treatment profit may be made by keeping mice, as the price varies from $1 for a fairly good specimen to $22 for a prize winner.

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## CARICATURE IN A MAP.

### A Pompous Official Pictured in a Coast Line.

(From the New York Journal.)

"Take the large official map of the west Florida coast, printed for the Government in 1886," said a former Federal employe, "and run your pencil carefully along the boundary line, southward from Tampa Bay.

"You will find the peninsula there makes all sorts of extraordinary turns and twists, and presently, if you look sharp, you will run across a grotesque portrait of a man, formed entirely by the line of the shore.

"The face is round and fat, with a bottle nose and bristling moustache, while a little lake, indicated near the edge, makes a comical staring eye. The arm of a small bay suggests the outline of a neck and chest, and two or three diminutive islands are located at just the right places to do duty for buttons. Altogether it looks like a caricature of some pompous little officer, and according to a tradition in the Bureau of Survey, that is exactly what it was intended to be.

"As the story goes, one of the draughtsmen who did the work for the '86 map claimed to have been badly treated by a certain fussy little captain in general charge, and to get even he worked this caricature portrait of him into the outline of the coast. The thing was done with such diabolical ingenuity that the captain himself passed the map without noticing the hidden picture.

"Later on, when it was observed and recognized, the draughtsman insisted blandly that the resemblance was a mere coincidence, and he had simply followed the natural configuration of the peninsula.

"'If it happens to correspond to the captain's profile, I am surely not responsible,' he said. 'I cannot change the coast of a State on account of the shape of his nose.'

"Of course, the captain was furious, and the whole department roared with laughter. It is a significant fact that the later maps do not contain the caricature."

**Old Men for Counsel.**

(From the Kansas City Star.)

The members of the present British ministry are said to be older, collectively, than those of any former Cabinet. The ages of the ministers are: Lord Salisbury 70, Lord Halsbury 75, Duke of Devonshire 67, Viscount Cross 77, Sir M. Hicks-Beach 63, Sir M. White Ridley 58, Mr. Chamberlain 64, Lord Lansdowne 55, Lord G. Hamilton 55, Lord Balfour of Burleigh 51, Mr. Goschen 69, Mr. A. Balfour 52, Lord Cadogan 60, Lord Ashbourne 63, Mr. Ritchie 62, Lord James of Hereford 72, Mr. Chaplin 59, Mr. Long 46, Mr. Akers-Douglas 49.

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