THE WAR IN THE FAR EAST

Points

NO DECISIVE BATTLES, HOWEVER

Both Sides Seem to Be Playing For ' Time in Which to Collect All Their

Senge Cheng yesterday afternoon without opposition, Senge Cheng is

When the Japanese drove the Russlans out of Cheng-Ju last Monday the Russians withdrew in two columns, one going over the Koak San road and the other over the Peking was anticipated that the Russians south of the Yalu river.

Cheng-Ju, because of its superior natural surroundings, is the strongest place between Ping Yang and Wiju. Besides these natural advantages there is an old Korean fort there which, had it been defended with spirit, would have been hard to take. The Japanese are gratified with the comparative ease with which they drove the Russiens from this fort.

Russian patrols are reported to be in the country east of the Peking road, but it is not probable that there is any considerable force of Russians in that section. The patrols are withdrawing gradually to the northward toward Yalu.

It is reported that the ice on the Yalu is well broken up, and in the future the river must be crossed either in junks or over pontoon bridges.

A dispatch from Toklo to the Assoclated Press, dated April 1, said information had been received from a private lodging the enemy at Cheng-Ju had advanced to the Yong Chun (about 45 miles west of Cheng-Ju), from which place they drove the Russians after a brief engagement. It is possible that the many different spellings given to Korean names in gazeteers and on maps have led to confusion and that Song Cheng in the above message and Yong Chun. referred to in the dispatch of April be the same place. The two towns, however, are quite distinct, being about 25 miles apart.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.-The Novi Rrot, of Port Arthur, thus describes the scene on board the cruiser Bayan during the recent bombardment in which she distinguished herself:

"Bursting shells bowled over man after map until decks were slippery with blood. Amidst this hell the capthe gun captains. His wonderful calmness had a marvelous influence upon all the officers,

"The cockpit was soon crowded, 39 men being there before the fight ended: but amidst the crash of the guns. the hiss of flying splinters, and the direction of the working engines, the surgeons labored over the sick as at the hospital operating tables. Although some of the men suffered frightful agonies there were few groams, in spite of the fact that anaesthetics were administered in only one case.

When the battle ended and the enemy began to draw off the officers on bridge cheered and the cheering extended down into the hold, the stok- sake of riding free.

New Trustees.

Nashville Special .- Col. W. C. Tatom and Commissioner of Agriculture Tennessec, speaking with reference advocate the featuring of the mechanleal, technical and agricultural deprefer a Tennessean and an alumnus for president.

None But Union Men.

Washington, Special.-National Secretary James Duncan, of the Granite Cutters' National Union, today effected a settlement with the Mt. Airy which provides that bereafter none but union granite. cutters shall do their work and that union wages shall be paid for the customary eight-hour day of the trade. The settlement closes a contention which has covered a period of nine years, and more or less effected granite cutting in the building trades in practically every to Philadelphia. The contention arose over the company's refusal to recog-

Ottawa, Ont., Special-The new wing fire Sunday. Some anifoty was at first felt for the safety of Lady Minto; who was jving in one of the apartments with a fractured less, but her removal was accomplished without difficulty. Rideau Hall was purchased as the vice-shi register & years ago and has cost about 1800,000. The fathers by

Fighting in a Small Way Reported in crs and even the wounded joining in

"The captain signaled for full speed ahead after the retreating Japanese, but the Bayan had not gone far before the flagship signaled to return." St. Petersburg, By Cable. - Reports

received by the ministry of the interior indicate that the precautionary measures taken to prevent anti-Jewish disturbance during Easter week, when the ignorant are aroused easily to a sort of religious frenzy against the Tokio, By Cable.—The advance Jows by the dissemination of false stoguard of the Japanese army in North. ries regarding "blood atonement" will western Korea occupied the town of result in the avoidance of serious trouble. In spite of the precautions, however, it is considered possible there on the Pekin road, 18 miles west of may be attempts at rioting, but the Cheng-Ju and about forty miles south authorities will suppress these with a strong hand.

> The following private telegram was received today from Odessa:

"Reports of anti-Jewish disturbances which always are common at Easter time, causes more alarm than usual this year because of the occurrences foad. The Japanese advance from last year. The Jews here are nervous, Cheng-Ju was made very rapidly. It but the authorities have confidence in Governor Edhardt, who is an energetwould resist this advance, but they Baron Kaulbars, commander-in-chief ic and humane man, as well as in failed to do so, and it is not probable of the troops in Russia. Under the cirthere will be any further opposition cumstances, therefore, anything like a serlous disturbance is regarded as impossible.

'The official newspapers have published strongly-worded warnings and the city is placarded with notices that all who disturb the peace will be se-

St. Petersburg, Special .- A correspondent at Yin Kow says the onlinion prevails there that the Japanese will not bombard that place because 99 per cent, of the population is made up of Chinese who are not at war with the Japanese and because a shell from the Japanese ships would be sure to strike the residence of the United States consul, who is safeguarding the Japanese interests. The same correspondent humorously describes the speculation among the British correspondents there as to whether the victorious Japanese after defeating the Russian army will stop in China or go on the Irkutsk.

St. Petersburg, By Cable .-- As soon as the Neva is clear of ice the battleship Souvaroff and Slava, in course of construction at the Baltic Works, the battleships Borodino and Orel, at the Franco-Russian Works, and the cruiser Meleg and the transport Kamtchatka, at the new admiralty ward, will be sent to Kronstadt for completion. The cruisers Seemchug and Izumrud and the battleship Sissoi Veliky and Imperator Alexander III, are already there and are being prepared for commission. These ships will form part of the fleet which is destined to re-inforce Vice Admiral Makaroff's fleet Eext summer.

Important Decisions.

Two decisions have been rendered by the United States Supreme Court. says the Springfield Republican, within a few days, both going to establish tain stood unmoved in the coming the rule that a person traveling on a tower calmly telephoning his orders to free railroad pass, or his heirs, cannot recover damages in case of accident, where such a condition is specified in the terms printed upon the pass. It makes no difference whether the user of the pass understood the conditions or not. It might be supposed that this would tend to discourage the demand for and use of passes, but such will probably not be the case. So strong is the passion in most persons for getting something for nothing that almost any amount of risk would be ventured for the

Porto Rican Messengers.

New York, Special .-- Among the passengers who arrived on board the Ogilvie, trustees of the University of steamer Coamo from Porto Rico were W. F. Willoughby, treasurer; R. Post, to the card of Joshua W. Caldwell, auditor, and Manuel S. Domesech member of the House of Delegates, who came to counsel the Secretary of partments of the University. Both the Treasury about placing a loan for general improvements in Porto

May Lose His Official Head.

Carthage Special.-E. McDonald, for a number of years a member of the county court, is in imminent danger of losing his official head. A bill Granite Company, of Mt. Alry, N. C., has been filed charging McDonald with speculating in county warrants while a member of the county court which issued them. McDonald at one time represented this county in the Legislature, and has for a long time been a prominent figure in the county court. By his opposition to all enterprises requiring an appropriation he has been christened "the watchdog of the treasury." He says that he will be able to exonerate him-

Mayer Released.

Telluside, Colo., Special.-Charles of Rideau Hall, the official residence of H. Moyer, president of the Western the governor general, was destroyed by Federation of Miners, who has been held in Jail here since Saturday on leased by County Judge Waidlaw, on furnishing a bond for \$600, but was immediately restricted by a squal of coldlers, acting under orders of Adjusted General Sherman. The nature of the charge on which he is held by the militia has not been made public. charge of desecrating the flag, was re-

SOUTH CAROLINA PHOSPHATE

Some Facts Regarding the Develop ment of This Industry.

The fact that the phosphate industry in South Carolina is declining so deplorably is a question of more than ordinary moment. Not a decade ago the State derived a revenue of some \$200,000 from the tax on this commodity, and today a bare \$25,000 is obtained. The visible supply of rock is almost gone, the price of operation has increased, the rock found in Florida, Algeria, and Tennessee is much easier and cheaper to mine, and so South Carolina suffers,

Previous to 1893 the tax per ton was from \$1.03 to \$1.05, but during that year the great storm which swept the coast damaged so many plants and placed them in such terri ble condition that the tax was re duced to fifty cents to aid, financial recuperation. Competition so unfavorably in later years that the tax was again reduced, this time to 25 cents-that is on the sliding scale. If the price of the commodity was over \$3 per ton f. o. b, the tax re mained 25 cents, but if a higher price was obtained the extra profit was divided between the company and the State. Some additional revenue was derived from this for a few years, but in the last three years the price of phosphate has been so low that it has been an impossibility for any chance of money coming into the State treasury from this source. The price of rock per ton seldom rises above \$1.75, usually fluctuating from 25 cents to \$1.75. The freights on the phosphate vary largely-that is from 25 cents \$1.75 cents per ton, and many times the profit is swallowed up to

The board of phosphate commis-sloners have the right under the general law to reduce the royalty, but cannot raise it without notice. Recently Mr. W. H. Hughes, of Charleston, an attorney representing the Central Phosphate Company, of Charleston, and one of the largest, if not the largest, individual plant in the State, appeared before the board with a proposition to reduce the tax from 25 cents, its present status. The Central Company, which is owned by Parisian capital, has been operating at a dead loss for some time, and it was on this ground that Mr. Hughes asked the reduction. After consideration the board declined to make the

A second proposition made by Mr. Hughes was an interesting one, and may help the industry materially. The Central Company asked the exmarsh land owned by the State, and containing sphosphate rock. This marsh is covered with water at high tide, but the mining may be done on the ebb.

The board granted this privilege with the proviso that the work must be conducted under the supervision of State Geologist Earle Sloan. The tax paid will be 5 cents per ton for the first year, 15 cents for the second year, and 25 cents for the third year, the grant being for three years. The experiment has never been tried before, and will therefore be watched with considerable interest.

The members of the commission are: Gov. Heyward, Attorney General Gunter, Comptroller General Jones. and Messrs. D. H. Tompkins, of Ninety Six, and J. H. Manning, of Dillon, the las ttwo being elected by the legislature, the others being members

For Methodist High School,

Anderson, Special.-A Joint meeting of the city council the chamber of commerce and the Civic Improvement League was held at the city hall Saturday afternoon. As a result of the meeting an effort will be made to preserve to the city the historic old Confederate treasury building, known as the Patrick Institute, which is to be sold under mortgage at public outcry

If the plans now under consideration are matured the property will be given to the Methodists of Greenville district for the high school which they propose to establish. The town of liamston has been making an effort to secure the school by raising a fund to buy and donate the old Williamston Female College property when that colloge is moved to Greenwood. It is thought that Anderson can easily secure the school if the plan now being put into effect can be carried through. A committee consisting of Messrs. J. Fretwell, W. R. Osborne, J. A. Brock, R. S. Hill, R. E. Ligon and Dr. J. C. Harris is at work this morning trying to ascertain if 20 or 25 men will join in and buy the property or take an option on it. Then if the trict school can be carried through the people of the city will raise by subscription enough to buy the property from this committee and turn it over to the Methodists of Greenville district

Blockede Still Cut Up.

Pickens, Special.-Saturday Chief Constable C. L. Gureton, accompanied by Constables P. P. McDaniel and E. P. McCkavy, captured a 50-gation still up on the Eustatoe. On this little river likely there are more attempts made to manufacture moonshine than in any other locality in the State. It is be cause of the precipitous banks along mountains, and it offers secure hiding places to the distiller. The still was captured near the home of Irwin Dodgeon, and judging by the rapid flight Mr. Dodgeon made into North Carolins on the approach of the offcers, it is quite probable the outfit be-longed to that gentieman. A few gal-lons of whiskey were captured and about 600 gallons of beer destroyed.

News of the Day.

The House passed the Sundry Civil The House Committee on Insula Affairs authorized a favorable report on the bill intended to ancourage bill intended to encourage in sents in the Philippines.

Daring Deed Committed By Band of Train Robbers

THEY SHOOT THE MESSENGER DEAD

The Bandits Then Robbed the Car of The Express Company and Escaped in the Darkness.

Sacramento, Cal, Special.-Three masked men held up the Oregon express, southbound, on the Southern Pacific Railway at Copley, near Keswick, killed W. J. O'Neill, the express messenger, and carried off the contents of the express box. The train is known as No. 15, and stopped at Copley, a small station, for water. As the train came to a standstill, three men jumped on and cut the train in two, taking the engine and express car down the track a short distance. They stopped the engine and deliberately killed O'Neill by shooting him through the head. The bandits then robbed the express car of its contents, but it is not known how much they obtained.

After robbing the car the men cut t loose, and getting on the engine compelled Engineer Joesink to go ahead. When near Keswick the men jumped off the engine and disappeared with their plunder. They have not been captured.

Six People Killed.

Scranton, Pa., Special.-Six persons are known to have been killed, and five fatally injured, by an explosion in the factory of the Dixon Squib Company, at Priceburg, near hero, Thursday.

The dead are: Lizzie Bray, Lillian Mahan, Priceburg; Breckie Lewis, North Scranton; Lizzle Matthews, Olyphant; George Callahan, Teresa Callahan, Priceburg.

Those fatally injured are: Mamie Gilallon, Martha Haybrown, Cassic Foultz, Mettle Hevron, Oscar Ayser. Twenty girls are employed in the factory. What caused the explosion is not known, but it is said that one of the girls threw a squib into a stove, and that the force of the explosion was so great that it wrecked

the building and set it on fire. The squibs are used in coal mining. The Dickson Squib Company occupled only the first floor of the structure, the Gallahan family having rooms on the second floor. It was here that the two Callahan children lost their lives. Thomas Callaban, the father, was at work, and Mrs. Callahan had just left the room when the explosion occurred. The children, aged three years and months, respectively, were playingon the floor. Both were instantly

The building caught fire, and the flames comunicated to the two adjoining buildings, one occupied as a hotel, and the other as a butch shop. Both were destroyed. All of the bodies have been taken

from the debris. The bodies of the dead employes were so badly ed that it was with great difficulty that they could be recognized.

Georgia Peonage Cases, Macon, Ga., Special .- A Savannah

special to The Telegraph says: Doubting the correctness of news dispatches from New Orleans to the effect that the United States Circuit Court of Appeals had sustained the decision of the lower court in the case of S. M. Clyatt, of Irwin county, charged with peonage, appealed from the northern district of Florida, Judge Emory Speer, of the United Court for the southern district of Georgia, wired Judge Shelby, who presided and received an answer, stating that the bench could not agree and that the case had been referred to the United States Supreme Court. The news received by Judge Speer puts a differnt phas upon the question. It remains for the status of the various peonage cases that are pending. In several States in the South there is deep interest the outcome of the appeal.'

Quarantine Declared. Austin, Texas, Special.- Governo Lanhan issued a proclamation declaring quarantine in effect on the Gulf coast and along the Rio Grande border, effective April 1. This proclamation resulted from a conference of health officers of the cities and counties of that territory held here today It was stated there had been cases of fever at Laredo and Monterey during the winter, one of them being found in March. Dr. Longanet, of Laredo, stated that the patient discovered during March was now convalescent. Dr. Richardson, representing the Marine Hospital Service, stated that the national government will at once place physicians at Mexico points to issue

Blg Store Burned.

Newark, N. J., Special,-The Broad street store of the Georke Company was gutted by fire, entailing a loss of \$100,000. The store, which is six stories n height, has a frontage of 50 feet on wide on Market street front and was prevented from spreading by the shutters. The 14-story bullding of the Pru dential Life Insurance Company stands within 100 feet of the Georke store, and the fire corps of the building poured volumes of water on the flames from

WIII Contest.

Little Rock, Ark. Special.—Returns have been received from 71 out of 75 counties, and these show that Governor Jefferson Davis is entitled to 302 delegates in the State convention. The number necessary to nominate is 222.

RAILWAY LOSES BIG SUIT

A Case Where a Lady Was Insulted on the Train.

Greenville, Special .- The court ommon pleas has been engaged for three days in hearing a most extraorchary case, in which the Southern rallway is asked to pay \$50,000 damages te Mrs. Susan L. Franklin of Newberry for an alleged insult to her by a passenger while on a train between Greenville and Atlanta about a year ago The jury brought in a vallet for \$25,-660 in the plaintiff's favor.

Mrs. Franklin is a comely woman unusually self-possessed on the witness stand, with readiness and intelligence in giving testimony that is surprising and uncommon, and apprecating the bearing of evidence upon the case in hand. Her testimony revealed the fact that she was married when only 16 years old, and has been the mother of three children, one of whom is dead. Her husband is a policeman in Newberry and her occupation is dress making. Mrs. Franklin gave a connected account of the trip from Newberry to Atlanta, stating that on reaching Greenville she and her little child went aboard the afternoon train for Atlanta, and that there were only two other passengers inthe car, both of whom were men. Soon after the train left here one of these men engaged her in conversation, taking a seat by her side making indecent proposals, putting his arm around her waist and using familiarities against her protest, though she endured the upleasant treatment for a quarter of an hour or more. The men were drinking and behaving unseemly but only one of them, made ap-

proaches to her. On the cross examination Mrs. Franklin said that the conductor was in the car the most of the time when the man was annoying and insulting her and made no effort to stop his unrely behavior until she appealed to him for protection, when the conductor told the man he must desist or he would put him off the train. The man claimed that he was a detective, but the conductor said he must behave or clse he could not ride any further on his train, which put a quietus to the men except that they continued to drink and use indecent language, but the conductor had removed her to the centre of the car, where he had been ated for some time. On arriving at Atlanta she was taken ill and the cause was due to the fright occasioned by the conduct of this unknown man, resulting in serious consequences owing to her delicate condition at the time. Conductor Roseborough, who was in

charge of the train when alleged indignities were beaped upon Mrs. Frank lin, stated that he had observed the man on the seat with Mrs. Franklin and holding her little daughter on his knee, and he was not aware that the woman being annoyed by his presence as she made no complaint against him, and seemingly they were engaged in an ordinary conversation. Mr. Roseborough assumed that they were at least acquaintances and it was not hi duty to interfere, but he denied that he was in the car for any legth of time and did not observe that Mrs. Franklin was at all annoyed until he went through the train again, when as he entered the coach he saw that she was in the act of leaving the seat. Immedi ately he approached and asked if she desired to change her seat, when her reply was that the man had been annovance to her, which caused her to nake the change: The conductor escorted Mrs. Franklin to the rear of the car and then went back for the child, who was taken to her mother. He tole the man not to repeat his conduct if he spoke to Mrs. Franklin again he would be put off the train and left "in the ditch." The man asserted that he had not done anything wrong, but was willing to make an apology, if Mrs. Franklin was offended and then went into another coach. Mr. Roseborough assisted the mother and child off the train on feaching Atlanta and the incident on the train was not mentioned

The testimony of other witnesses had ifttle bearing upon the facts relating to the alleged insults, and much time was occupied in efforts to exclude improper evidence from the case. Conductor Roseborough was supported in the main by the flagman, who saw and heard a portion of what took place The conductor is known as one of the most careful officials in the service of the Southern and he has been on the 'Air Line" for upwards of 20 years. The argument in the case began on Thursday afternoon.

State Items.

Ben. Williams, a well-to-do colored man of Anderson county, 64 years of age, died Tuesday under distressing circumstances. His daughter, aged 24 had died of consupmption. On the way to the funeral the father dropped dead of heart disease. He wast a good old "slavery time" negro.

The sheriff of Pasquotank county carried to the penitentiary Wednes-day M. F. Stancill, a young white man who is to serve eighteen months to betrayal under promise of marriage Sheriff Roark, of Brunswick, took negro to serve five years for man-slaughter, and Sheriff Lucis; of Beaufort, a negro to serve twenty years for

Pope B. Havird, the young white man who was shot by John Yarborough, white, a week ago, in Saluda county, is in a serious condition. The right arm of the wounded man, which received a large portion of the shot, was amputated on Sunday by Dr. O. B. Mayer, of Newberry. Yarborough who had been released from custody on \$600 bond, when Havird's wonn were not considered serious, has be ludged in jell again, to swalt the resalt of the woods.

FIRST CROP BULLETIN

Conditions of the Weather at Opening of Season.

The week ending 8 a. m., April 415, had nearly normal temperature, having been cooler than usual during the first and warmer than usual during the second half. There were light frosts over the eastern portions on March 28th, increasing in severity to killing, with thin ice, in the western parts, but aside from causing some corn that was up to yellow slightly, no injury resulted. The week closed with abnormally cold weather prevailing, and frost

threatening the interior sections. There was practically no precipitation during the week. On March 26th-27th the rainfall was general over the State, and was excessive in places greatly delaying farm work. Unbroken lands are becoming hard in the northern counties, but generally the soil is

in fine condition for tillage. The preparation of lands is reported to be somewhat backward in a few western counties, but is generally normaily advanced, and made rapid progress during the last week, especially the preparation of lands for cotton and the placing of fertilizers in the ground. From one-half to three-quarters of the proposed acreage to be planted to be planted to corn has already been planted in the eastern sections, the percentage decreasing toward the northwestern counties where this work has only been begun. Corn planted early in March is, with few exceptions, up to fair stands, and some has received its first cultivation A little short staple, and consider-

able sca island cotton has been plant-ed, but this work cannot be said to be generally underway, although soil and weather permitting, will make rapid progress during the coming week, in all parts of the State. Rice planting has progressed favorably in the Georgetown district and was impeded by heavy rains and a freshet in the rivers, in the Colleton district, where, previous to March 26th, a coniderable area had already been sown. Tobacc oplants are small in the beds

but look healthy and vigorous; none have as yet been transplanted Wheat and oats continue small, but have improved, except that oats have

thin stands in places, Spring sown oats Peach trees have about finished blooming in the eastern sections, are now in full bloom in the western counties. Apple trees are late in blooming. The prospects for fall kinds of fruit are excellent. Cabbage, beets. peas and strawberries are being shipped from the coast truck farms. Pas turage is scant and does not afford grazing in the western countles. There s widespread complaint of a scarcity of farm laborers.

Care of the Ear.

Nothing is prettier than a wellshaped ear correctly placed upon the head. It is an important feature, and is worthy of more care than it or dinarily receives. In regard to the ham Murray has some excellent suggestions in the April Delineator, among which are the following:

Mothers and nurse are responsible in a great measure for the shaping of children's cars. If the ears are found to be prominent they should be provided with little caps, which if tied under the chin will firmly and with ever and not too severe pressure hold the ears close to the head. If this is unsuccession an operation, which is not dangerous, is advised. For grown persons, the eap cap, a device for binding the ears to the head is beneficial; but an operation is sometimes necessary to Improve the appearance. The ears should be kept clean, They should not be handled roughly. Sharp instruments for rigating the ears are not advisable now the little sponges which are affixed to an ivory handle. The best thing to use is a little swab made by wrapping the end of a toothpick with cotton. bair pin is not bad when covered with has a suspicion of it an examination should be made; if the hearing is really bad much will be gained by the use of one of the instruments that have been invented to aid hearing.

Four Drowned

Chicago, Special.-Four men were drowned in Lake Calumet by the cap-sizing of their boats while hunting ducks. The dead: Tunis Slingerland, Abraham Slingerland, Peter Piersna and John Brandt. The men were in two row boats, two men being in each boat. A very high wind was blowing over the lake today, and the water was very rough. The men were seen from the shore to rise in their boats and fire at a flock of ducks that passed over them Just as they fired their boats went over and all four men were thrown into the

Loss to Mill operatives. London, By Cable.-Charles W. Mc-

Ara, president of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations has issued an exhaustive statement on the situation of the cotton trade. It shows that the loss to the wage earn: ers resulting from the necessity for short time amounts to \$550,000 a week. or \$6.875,000 since the short time was started. This amount is borne by 500,000 people. The total loss to the employers is \$200,000 weekly, making the loss to Lancashire \$750,000 weekly.

Buys Apother Factory Bristol, Va., Special.—The Reynold Tobacco Company, of this place, one the oldest independent companies the south, has been bought

The City of Tampa, Florida, in the Grasp of the Flames

15 BUSINESS BLOCKS ARE BURNED

Loss Will Exceed \$300,000-Flany Families of Cigar Makers Are Now Homeless,

Tampa, Special.-As near as can be ascertained the fire which swept Tampa Monday afternoon, but which at 6 o'clock was practically under control, caused a loss which will exceed the \$300,000 mark.

The only death loss so far as known is that of one Cuban baby, which was burned in one of the cigar factories.

A panic was created in the 40 factories located in the town when the fire began to spread. Hundreds of men, women and children fled from the factories, but none were killed, or as far as known, injured.

The factories of Santa Ella & Company and Sam Caro & Company, both of Chicago; J. M. Martinez and L. Sanchez, of Tampa, were the heaviest

The Santa Ella Company lost \$125,-000 worth of tobacco, besides a large number of fine cigars.

Fifteen blocks of business houses and nearly 200 tenements were de-

West Tampa has only a small water. plant, and as a consequence, the water supply gave out. The Tampa fretepartment responded to the call for help and rendered all possible assist-

Hundreds of families of cigar makers are homeless.

Fire at Spartanburg.

Spartanburg, Special Sunday aight shortly after 11 o'clock fire was discovered in the five-room cottage of Mr. W. L. Bryson on Evins street, in the rear of Wofford College, 'The department was prompt to respond but the flames had gained considerable headway and the cottage of Mr. Leake on the same street, and the dwelling of Mr. James H. Carlisle, Jr., each located on either side of the Bryson cottage on the street, caught fire and all three houses were destroyed. By hard, faithful work the residence of Rev. W. A Rogers nearby was saved from destruction, as were several dormitories of Wofford College, these cottages being situated on Cleveland street just below the thoroughfare on which the fire occurred. A quantity of household effects were saved from each of the cottages above mentioned. There was inhurance on each of the cottages. The origin of the fire is

unknown.

Patal Shooting Affray. McMinnville Special. In an altercation which occurred about ten miles from here last week, Alex Earls was shot and mortally wounded by Harris Newby, dying within a very short time. A warrant has been sworn out against Newby, and Sheriff Harnes has gone to the scene. The parties were neighbors, but for several years have been at loggerhaeds over the location of a division line.

Big Libel Suit. Chicago, Special, Judge T. E. has instituted a \$20,000 libel suit against T. P. Bridges, cashier of the Smith County Bank. The suit is based upon a letter alleged to have been written to the cashier of McMinnville bank replying to the cashier of Mc-Minnville bank replying to a letter of

inquiry as to the plaintin's solvency. A Good Balance in Treasury. Nashville, Special.—The first quarter of '1904 closed with a record-breaking balance in the State Treasury, the amoutn being \$1,273,619.14. The lections for March aggregated \$682,-\$14.38 and the disbursements \$227,-011.44, The quarterly report of the Secretary of State's office shows collections of \$11,162.10, a falling off of \$120 compared with 1903,

Officers Elected.

Houston, Texas, Special.—At the ancual meeting of the directors of the Houston & Texas Central Railway Monday the following officers were

Protest, R. S. Lovett, of New York; vice president, Thorawell Fay, of Houston; secretary and treasurer W. S. Field. The re-election of R. Levett, who is the general counsel for the Harriman lines, is taken to indicale that The Rock foland deal for so quiring the Central is off, and that the road is still Harriman property.