A Toast For The New Year

Henry M. Hyde

To THE True Pioneers of Progress—to the men with chain and sextant, drill and shield, hoist and riveter—burrowing through mountains, spinning, spiderlike, across dizzy chasme—making the -orld smaller and Man larger-

A Happy New Year and Many of 'Em!

TO THE Gentleman Adventurers—to the men who tempt the vengeance of the upper air, dare the sunless dangers of deep seas, track to their secret lairs the wild beasts of disease and pestilence-risking their own lives that the life of Man may be

A Happy New Year and Many of 'Em!

TO THE Poets and dreamers of the Present to the men who harness the tides, bridle the west wind, put a yoke about the neck of the glaciers, drive the sun and moon tandem-making the forces of nature toil that Man may enjoy—
A Happy New Year and Many of 'Em!

TO THE Masters of the Future—to the men who know, to the men in earnest—rejoicing in their knowledge and their strength, looking with clear eyes, unafraid, into the face of fate crowned with the high happiness of work well done-

A Happy New Year and Many of 'Em!

-Technical World

New Year Gleanings.

Interesting Bits Appropriate to the Day Gathered from Everywhere.

glass left in the front windows to

Not to Be Imposed Upon.

"Algernon is interesting," said the

"What does he talk about?" in-

"He's ever so well posted in Shake

"Young woman," said the financier,

sternly, "don't let him deceive you.

Don't let him make sport of your ig-

norance. There isn't any such stock

on the market. I ought to know, for

The Ancient Egyptians Started the

Year with the Raise of the

River.

In all ages and all lands much im-

portance has been attached to New

Year's day. In Egypt the new year

fell between the 17th and the 20th

of June, and was called the "night

of the drop." The sacred Nile was thought to flow down from heaven,

and at its lowest ebb-about the mid-

dle of June—a tear from Isis fell

into the stream and caused it to

Consequently at this season the

priests and people kept a sleepless

vigil at the river's shore, watching

for the miraculous rise which should

bring such riches to the whole land.

When the "night of the drop" came.

the priests cleared the altars of old

ashes and lighted the sacred fires

Every one of the faithful carried a

coal from the altar to light the fire

at his own hearth, and from end to

The people put off their old garments

and arrayed themselves in white an

ointing their heads with sacred oil,

crowning themselves with flowers

and bearing palms in their hands.

while chants and songs and fasting

Would You Blame Him?

Mina-Did your husband, at New

Lena-Yes, off and on-whenever

the New Year.

and processions filled the homes.

Passing Humor of

bill came in.—Town Topics.

Year's, swear off?

TIMES UP

OLD MAN AM NOW

190

six or seven years.

'Mamma, am I rich?'

Barred Out.

manager, "received me in Paris. She

was busy studying for her American

tour, and for the George Moore play of

'Esther Waters' that she is soon to pro-

tiny American millionaire she had met

the day before—a little millionaire of

"This youngster, calling on her with

"'Well,' his mother answered, smil-

"She told me a pretty story of a

"Yvette Guilbert," said a theatrical

for the new year.

on the Nile Banks

I've been on the exchange

enough."-London Answers.

last over Sunday!"

quired the father.

spearean quotations."

stock broker's daughter.

New Year's Is a Candy Day in France.

Boxes of Sweets Are Favorite Gifts with all Classes in Paris.

Once is used to be very popular to give New Year's presents; but now so uch more attention is paid to Christmas, and every one receives so many lovely things then, that our American boys and girls cannot complain if they do not get presents a week later, as did their mothers and fathers.

However, if they lived in France New Year's day would be a great occasion, especially for girls, for there A June New Year's every man or boy gives some gift, no matter how small, to his friends. No one paying a call would think of going empty-handed, and little French girls at school on the 2d of January count up how many presents they received, just as our girls do after Valentine's

A favorite gift is candy. Sometimes this candy is made into temples, churches or playhouses; or all sorts of queer forms like bundles of carpets, boots and shoes, musical instruments, gridirons, saucepans, lobsters, crabs, books and hats are made of colored sugar, hollowed out and filled inside with chocolates, mints and other bonbons that can be eaten.

Don't you think the little French children must feel pretty sick the next day, after so much sweet stuff? For. of course, they would have to sample each kind; that is, if they are like American boys and girls in their fondness for candy.

The Origin of New Year's Calls.

Like Many Others of Our Customs, end the land was ablaze with light. They Were Imported from China.

The custom of making New Year's calls, which had a long run in America, and is still extant, came originally from China, where such calls are one of the main features of the brilliant and lengthy New Year's celebration.

Every Chinaman pays a visit to each of his superiors, and receives one from each of his inferiors. Images of gods are carried in procesto the beating of a deafening gong, and mandarins go by hundreds to the emperor and that apparently much-maligned sovereign, the em press dowager, with congratulatory addresses. Their robes are gorgeous ly embroidered, and are heavy with gold. The younger people call upon the elder.

Children call upon their parents. Pupils pay their respects to their teachers. A light collation is offered every visitor, but it is to be noted, no wine is served. Tea takes the place of any stronger drink. In China gentlemen never call upon the ladies, but upon each other, and the women also make social visits among themselves. Nor is one obliged, happily, to make all his calls in one day, for all calls made before the 15th of the month are considered correct. These calling customs have obtained in China from earliest ages.

No Chan es Needed in the Brown Family.

Proposed Resolutions Brought Em phatic Objections from Both Sides of House.

"This is the new year," said Mrs. Brown, as she and Brown sat down to dinner, "and perhaps we ought to make some little changes for 1907.' "I am willing," he replied. "Yes, I have been thinking that I would make a few changes."

"That is nice of you. You know that you swear and that I don't like it at all. It will be so sweet and kind and considerate to give it up for my sake.

"Give up swearing! Not on your

"What, then, did you mean by change? "Why, I have been allowing you five

foliars per week as pin money, and I know that you simply fool most of it his mother, suddenly interrupted his away. One of the changes contem- play to ask: plated was to cut the sum in half." 'Samuel Brown!" exclaimed the

ing and embarrassed, 'you're not poor."
"'Pshaw,' he exclaimed, his face wife, as she knocked on her plate with er fork to emphasize her words, n't make any mistake on your clouding over. 'That bars me out, May. You will continue to then. Nurse read to me this morning as hard as you wish, and as that the Salvation Army was going to as you wish, and my five dol-distribute \$25,000 in toys and candy this winter, but it is for poor children irday night, or there won't be any only."



THE WEATHER PLANT.

By Its Changes Meteorologist Will

Probably the most serious objection to our "weather indications" (great an advance as they are over none at all, which was the position not so many years ago) is the shortness of their look ahead. Many vain efforts have been made to improve this particular. Again, what a difference it would have made to Johnstown, San Francisco and Valparaiso if timely notice could be given of floods and earthquakes! To Pompeii and Courrieres, if volcanic eruptions and liability to mine exploslons might be foretold! The ability by one means and, as it were, at a



THE WEATHER PLANT. (Abrus Praecatorius L. Nobilis N., In the Uncultivated State.)

blow, to remedy all these defects, is the startling claim of an Austrian meteorologist, J. F. Nowack.

The sole reliance of Herr Nowack. his barometer (if one may so say), is a West Indian plant, Abrus praecatortus L. nobilis N., the so-called pater noster pea. By an accident, says the New Yorker Staats Zeitung, Herr Nowack came into possess'on of this plant, and he soon made the observation that its leaves (which resemble the leaves of the acacia or vetch) rolled up apparently without any perceptible reason and seemed to die This condition, however, lasted but a few hours; then the leaslets returned to their normal state. Herr Nowack satisfactorily ascertained that this



The Weather Plant Under Cultivation

striking phenomenon was dependent upon neither the light nor the moisture or temperature conditions, but was connected with a severe storm that occurred three days later. This observation, which Herr Nowack made in the year 1886, forms the basis of his further unspeakably careful and remarkably comprehensive investiga-

The result of his observations, extending through years, made with quite special precautions, in various botanical gardens, but especially in the Kew gardens, London, upon the weather plant," is briefly told as fol-

To make the predictions, let the leaflets and the leaf-midribs (to which are attached 12 to 17 pairs of leaflets), as well as the color of the little leaves, be observed. The motions of the leasets permit one to predict kind, force, moment, and direction of those phenomena that will occur in a period of two to three days, and within a radius of 75 to 100 kilometers (from 47 to 62 miles) distance from the observation-point. Further, the lowering of the atmospheric pressure (baromeric minimum) may be satisfactor ily ascertained by means of the me-tion of the leaf nerves upward, and its rising (barometric maximum) by their motion downward, two to three days beforehand, and therefrom the rain districts also to a distance of about 3:000 kilometers (1,864 miles) be predetermined.

The most important part, however, of the discovery is the prediction (dedoned from the observations of the leaf-midribs) of great "convulsions of nature," such as storms, rough weather, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, increase in the danger of mine explosions, etc., 24 days before in a circuit up to 7,000 kilometers (4,350 miles), i. e., from a station, e. g., Berlin, of (about) all Europe, the Mediterranean Sea, the northern half of Africa, and the north Atlantic ocean Herr Nowack declares that after founding his observation establish-ment he will be able to publish daily

the following charts:

1. Two or three days be changes" in a circuit of 3,000 rs and over.

2. Two or three days beforehand, the "rain-districts" and those of "fine weather" for the same circuit.
3. Twenty-four to 28 days beforehand, the "dangesous convulsions of nature;" such as hurricanes, storms, rough weather, floods, spring tides, increasing danger of earthquakes and of heavy downpour, etc., etc., up to 7,000 kilometers. And, finally,
4. Two to seven days beforehand, the "local weather" for a circuit of about 75 to 100 kilometers.

What enormous practical importance such predictions must have is so clearly obvious that no words are to be wasted over it. . . Herr Nowack is now, planning shortly to reap the

to be wasted over it. . . Herr Nowack is now, planning shortly to reap the benefit of his observations carried on for years by opening an observatory in London, with several branches, that is to bring the predictions within the reach of all. And to this end he has collected a great quantity of specimens of the above named plant in Cuba, which are to be taken to Eng-land on the next German fast

HOW LONG IS A FLASH?

Duration of Flashes of Lightning Meas

ured by German Scientist. We possess as yet only pretty vague data as to the average duration of flashes of lightning, says L'Illustration. Faraday thought he could fix it at a second. Dufour claimed that the flashes of lightning were instantaneous, and that their rapid succes sion gave the illusion of one flash of a certain duration. Herr Schmidt has just been devoting himself to a series of observations, employing a disk of 10 centimeters diameter bearing upon a black ground a white cross, the arms of which were two millimeters across, the disk being set in motion by clockwork with a speed of 50 to 60 revolutions a second. At certain flashes the cross appeared a single time, very distinct; the duration of lightning was, therefore, inferior to the time of revolution of the disk, which would represent about the fiftieth of a second. In more numerous cases the cross appeared two or three times, or even more, but with a decreasing luminous intensity; the lightning had, therefore, lasted during several revolutions of the disk.

NO MORE GRAY HAIR.

Restoration of Color of Hair by X-Ray Current.

While busying themselves daily with making applications of X-rays, Dr. Imbert, professor of the medical faculty at Montpellier, France, and Dr. Marques, his head laboratory assistant, were somewhat surprised that the beard and hair (which were almost white) of one of them were gradually becoming col-ored, to the point even of shortly assuming a hue deeper than the original

Other observations authorize these professors to declare that under the influence of the X-rays light hair assumes a deeper shade. Young women will, no doubt, find little use for this attribute, but a process which permits of growing old without growing gray, will be highly appreciated by both sexes if further investigations establish definitely its usefulness and its harmlessness. However, physicians alone will have the right to dye hair by this method, as extreme prudence is required in the operation.

Paper for the Dark Room. Modern photographic plates are so sensitive that often a screen of red glass in the dark room is not sufficient to prevent fogging. A French photographic journal gives the followprescription for making a paper screen, which is 50 per cent more effective than red glass: Take unsized paper and dip it thoroughly in 100 cubic centimeters of water containing six grams of tartrazine. Then pass it over blotting paper and dry it. To render the coloring matter more adherent, a little gum arabic may be added to the solution.

Science Turning From Alcohol. In Great Britain, at least, the medical profession seems to be turning more and more away from alcohol as an aid to patients suffering from disease or injuries of any kind. Some British surgeons claim that its use, in any form, tends to render persons subjected to operations less likely to escape complications and actually retards recovery.

Produces Cancer.

Dr. Otto Schmidt, of Cologne, is said to have produced cancer in certain animals by inoculating them with cultures of the true cancer bacillus obtained from mildew on plants. Dr. Schmidt is hopeful, having gone so far on the road to complete understanding of the nature of cancer that he will be able soon to announce a real cure for that terrible disease.

Fog Dust.
Careful analysis of matter obtained from a dry, yellowish fog which overspread Paris on April 11 has shown that the cause was almost certainly the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Dust in the fog contained a minute sand exactly like that which the volcano on the distant shores of the Bay of Naples has more than once charged.

A Barrier to Long Distance 'Phone. The difference in time—1 o'clock in the afternoon at New York when it is 10 a. m. at San Francisco—is offered as an objection to a long distance telephone service between the two cities. The business day in one city would be more than half over when beginning in the other. A Peculiar Lake.

Metal does not rust in Lake Titicaca, South America. A chain, an anchor, or any article of iron, if thrown into this lake and allowed to remain for weeks or months, is as bright when taken up as when it came fresh from the foundry.

"Do you expect to get money out of that mine?" "No," answered the conscien ter. "Not out of the mine. Out rs to stock"-

Our Springfield Letter

the Mueller law is unconstitutional on

the ground that ownership of street

railways is not a municipal purpose; that neither the city nor the state can

raise money-issuing securities in aid of individuals or corporations, and this would be the effect of raising money

for municipal street railways that

might be leased to corporations or be-

come their property on foreclosure. It was argued that the title of the act

did not comply with the constitution and that it was a local or special law and especially amended the cnarter of Chicago. Mr. Webber attacked the

eminent domain provisions of the stat-

ute and asserted that on this ground

a city could not condemn for public

use property of street railroads al-ready developed to public use. It was insisted that the street railway certifi-

cates to be issued to the extent of \$75,

000,000 would constitute a debt of the

city and could not be issued because

its constitutional debt limit has al-

ready been reached. Mr. Fisher as-

serted that the question at issue was

really a political and not a judicial

question and that the cases he cited

were far more radical and extreme

than the municipal ownership of street

railways. He said that the constitu-

tion of Illinois provides that if any

part of an act is not embraced within

its title the act would, nevertheless, be

sustained, except such parts as were

outside of the title. He defended the

provisions of the ordinance for the is-

suance of \$75,000,000 for certificates

at one time, to be sold and delivered

from time to time, as the city council

might by ordinance provide. He said

that railroad mortgages and bonds are issued in exactly this manner to cover

a railroad not yet constructed and in-

sisted that the municipality should

have as wide powers in this regard as

a railroad corporation. On the ques-

ranks of the state association, as many

members believe that the present laws

erve the best interests of the bank-

ers and the public with the exception

of a few in which they advocate slight

Caught in a Child Labor Net.

will be sworn out.

only as witnesses.

Look for Amended Law.

Repeal of the shot firers' law en-

acted by the last legislature is not

expected by the Illinois Operators' as-

ganization believe that it will be amended materially by the next gen-

eral assembly. Many of the operators

over the state look upon the matter

of the association taking a hand for the amendment of the measure as dan-

gerous. They believe that the ques-tion should be taken up solely by the

miners' organization and Gov. De-

preme court, affirming the validity of

States supreme court. The appeal

was brought by the board of educ

State Succession Tax Valid.

lation, but the members of the or

Officers Lay Corner Stone.

changes.

Springfield.—The lawsuit involving the validity of the Mueller law, known as "Lobdell versus City of Chicago," sessing was submitted to the Illinois supreme final. An increase of \$30,789,279 in the assessment of the state is shown in the sessment of the state is snown in the final report of the state board of equalization. The board adjourned sine die and the grand total of assess-ments is \$1,126,470,836. It is believed court on oral argument and briefs. It was taken under advisement by the court. Mr. Fisher at the close of the arguments asked that the court render as early a decision as possible with due regard to the importance of the year will be 50 per cent and the as-sessment returned by the board will produce \$5,632,354. The grand total of assessment is made up as follows:

dent Writes of Things of Interest at

due regard to the importance of the case and the numerous questions raised. The case involves the legality of the Mueller act, passed by the last assembly, providing for the issuance of \$75,000,000 of city certificates for the purchase of the street railway com-Lands | 343.585,542 \$ 816.671
Lands and city lots | 442.775,993 1,292.622
Personal property | 22,792.122 14,440.222
Corporations not | 12,665,601 panies of Chicago by the city. The attorneys for Lobdell contended that

Grand total\$1,126,470,836 While on the face of the lists there appears to be a decrease of \$277,369 in the net assessment of corporations other than railroads, there in reality is a large increase. In the system fol lowed by the board in assessing these corporations the net assessment is the difference between the equalized value of the stock and franchises and the assessment of the tangible property by the local assessors. The report of the board for last year shows the equalized value of the stocks and franchises of the various corporations to be \$37,933,879. This year it is \$60,077, 537, an increase of \$22,143,658. The Pullman company, which brought about an argument before the capital stock committee, is given a decided ncrease. The total assessment for this year is \$2,310,000, as compared with \$1,650,000 for 1905, or an increase of \$660,000. The Illinois Tunnel com-pany of Chicago is also increased. The assessment last year was \$200,000, while the amount this year is about wice that sum. Other additionals nade to Cook county corporations are as follows: The Chicago Edison company, \$831,000 this year as compared with \$548,648 for 1905. The Common wealth Electric company is raised from \$40,000 to \$140,000, Universal Gas company from \$50,000 to \$72,620, and the Ogden Gas company from \$300,000 to \$330,000. The board has been lenient with the street railway companies, and decreases have been made. Last year the assessment

against the Chicago City Railway com-pany was \$1,511,730, while this year an assessment of only \$213,514 is re-turned. The Union Traction company will pay taxes on only \$500,000, as ompared with \$815,000 for last year. The assessments on the larger Illinois roads are as follows:

a fairbad corporation. On the ques-	
tion as to whether a street railway's	Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe\$2.642.0
	Baltimore & Ohio Southeastern
certificates would constitute a por-	(Springfield division) 1,310,3
tion of the city debt Mr. Fisher said	Beit Kaliway company of Chicogo 702 8
	Blue Island
that the Mueller law expressly pro-	Carro, vincennes & Chicago 1.046.0
vides that these certificates shall not	Chicago & Alton 6.750.8
	Chicago, Burlington & Northern. 707.76
be so considered; that the certificates	Chicago, Burlington & Quincy 8,001,9
themselves as well as the trust deed	Chicago & Calumet Terminal 371,1
	Chicago & Eastern Illinois 3.311.2
and the ordinance explicitly state that	Chicago Great Western 1.226.50
the certificates shall under no circum-	Chicago Heights Terminal 23,40
	Chicago, Indianapolis & St. Louis. 267,4
stances be or become an obligation of	Chicago & Iowa 645.4
the city and that they are like special	Chicago Junction 509,0
	Chicago, Madison & Northern 886.3
assessment bonds in this particular.	Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul 3,301,73
	Chicago & Northwestern 5,864,63
	Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis 1,201,80
May Revise State Bank Laws.	Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific 3,529,2
The excutive committee of the legis-	Chicago Terminal Transfer 1,301,70
	Chicago Union Transfer 312,9
lative body appointed recently at the	Chicago & Western Indiana 2.381.03
convention of the Illinois State Bank-	Cincinnati, Indianapolis & West-
CONVENTION OF the Initions Stage Stage	APN 549 1
ers' association held its first meeting	Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago &
in this city to organize and consider	St. Louis 1.957.90
	Pittsburg, Cincinnati & St. Louis. 1,488,5
proposed changes in the state bank-	Pittsburg, Ft. Wayne & Chicago. 1,624,7
ing laws. The executive committee is	St. Louis, Rock Island & Chicago. 1,583,2
	Union Stock Yards & Transit
composed of five members, but beyond	Company 1,014,6
organizing the committee took no def-	Vandalia
	Wabash 5,073,5
inite action. It is said that there are	ELECTRIC LINES.
a number of members of the legisla-	
tive committee who are in favor of	Aurora, Elgin & Chicago 278,3
	Chicago General Electric 229,01
the revision of all the banking laws	Chicago and Milwaukee electric 295,8
	Chicago & Oak Park Elevated 584,4
of the state. The members of the com-	Chicago & Southeastern 138,9
mittee refused to discuss this proposi-	Danville, Urbana & Champaign 123,9
	East St. Louis & Suburban 213,3
tion, however. Regarding this pro-	Illinois Central Traction 117,5
posed revision of the laws, there is	Metropolitan West Side Elevated. 1,721,9
	Northwestern Elevated 1,040,2
said to be considerable division in the	Rockford & Interurban 150,9

Command Is Invited.

M. F. O'Brien, captain of Company C, Fifth infantry, is in receipt of a Thirty-seven of Springfield's most communication inviting him and his prominent business men were caught command to visit the Jamestown exn a net thrown out by State Deputy position. The men at a recent meet Factory Inspector Johnson of Blooming were strongly in favor of accept ington, who swore out warrants charging the invitation, but action on ing them with violating the child labor matter was deferred until the full law by employing boys and girls under company is present. The invitation 16 years of age. Many of the merwill be extended to the whole Fifth chants against whom complaint was regiment and if enough companies acfiled pleaded guilty and were fined. It cept they will go as a regiment. is probable that additional warrants

ockford & Interurban uth Side Elevated

Ruling on Lodge Assess

In the case of the Grand Legion of In the presence of the state officers Illinois Select Knights of America against Lena Beatty, the Illinois suand a few citizens, the corner stone of preme court holds that notices of asthe new supreme court building was essment of all fraternal and benefilaid. No ceremony marked the event, ciary societies must be sent directly and no addresses were delivered. The to the insured, and that the publica large stone was placed in position by the workmen, and the officials acted tion in papers of such assessments is not legal.

> Dooling is Set Free. Frank E. Dooling, former recorder of the Supreme Court of Honor, an insurance society, was discharged in the justice court on a charge of embezzling \$3,000 from the court. Dooling was indicted by the last grand jury, but the bills were found to be defec-tive and were nolled. Warrants were then secured before Police Magistrate Clark B. Shipp, and after the evidence for the prosecution was heard the de-fendant was discharged. The case may be investigated by the next grand

Reports Situation Improved. The judgment of the Illinois su

Dr. J. C. Westervelt, state inspect of the state board of health, who has been looking into the diphtheria epi-demic which has been prevalent in towns and villages in the southern the succession tax as rar as it exempts from taxation bequests to religious, educational and benevolent cor-porations organized under the laws of-the state, was approved by the United and western part of Iroquois county reports that the situation is much improved, and many of the cases have ben discharged from quarantine. Dr. of Kentucky, against the Methodist church, which declared a tax of \$6,280 a scarlet fever epidemic at Makquon, ed on a bequest to it of \$104,675

NEWS OF ILLINOIS

HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST PROPERTY.

MINERS DROP TO DEATH Six Killed in Fall of Cage Near Car-lyle—One Man Has Narrow Es-

cape-Car Falls Into Fifteen

Feet of Water.

Carlyle.—Six miners were killed by the dropping of a cage in the mine of the Breese-Trenton Coal Mining com-pany, ten miles west. The car plunged into a deep pool of water drained from various parts of the mine. Those not killed outright were pinned under the wreckage and drowned.

The accident occurred as the second cage full of day shift miners was de scending into the mine. The cage, containing six men, had descended 300 feet down the 400 foot shaft, when it stuck momentarily. Then it went crashing to the bottom, with a noise similar to an explosion. At the bottom of the shaft is a sump, which is said to contain 15 feet of water drained from other parts of the mine Into this the car plunged, carrying five of the miners. Foppey jumped as the cage neared the bottom. His body was cut in two. Fritz was working at the bottom of the shaft almost under the descending cage when he heard the shout of the miners above him as the cage stuck. As he looked up the cage dropped. He barely had time to spring to the side when the crash came and debris was piled over him.

HOLD REUNION AT PEORIA. Survivors of Eleventh Illinois Cavalry Will Honor Commander.

Peorla.—Survivors of the Eleventh Illinois cavalry, which was command ed by Col. Robert G. Ingersoll during the civil war, held a reunion here. The reunion was preliminary to the unvett. ing of a statue of Ingersoll in this city. which was the home of the agnostic. The ceremony will take place July 21,

The regiment which Ingersoll com manded was recruited throughout central Illinois in 1862 and made a gallant record. It is believed that there are several hundred survivors and, al-though they are widely scattered, a good number attended.

Disease Rife in Chicago.

.Chicago. — An epidemic of scarlet fever and diphtheria in many sections of the city is reported by the health department. The contagion is said to be most notable in the area bounded by Diversey avenue and the north branch, by Division street and Chi-cago avenue, and by Kedzie avenue, comprising the Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Twenty-eighth wards, and in another area bounded by Taylor and Morgan streets, the south branch, and Hoyne avenue, comprising the Tenth and Eleventh wards.

Offers Site for Park.

Decatur.—Deprecating the loss of the park proposition at the special election, Gus Booker offered the city 20 acres of land adjoining the Sangamon river on the east side. He has 30 acres nearby which he will sell at any time the city may wish to buy. The land is in a section of the city which has been advocating the need of to the park commissioners, and it is believed that they will accept Mr. Booker's offer.

Sentenced for Life. Chicago.—Details of how a sevenyear-old child was buried alive were told to Judge Pinckney in the criminal court, when Robert Gordon, 15 years old, was placed on trial charged with the murder of Joseph Reed, 2923 Eliast court. The youthful murderer entered a plea of guilty, and threw himself upon the mercy of the court. He was

sentenced to the reformatory for life. Given \$1,100 Damages.

Springfield.-Damages in the sum of \$1,100 were awarded Robert T. Brewer, a youth, by a jury in the circuit court in his suit against the Springfield Electric Light & Power company. Brewer came in contact with a live wire and was painfully injured. It was agreed that the wire had been left unprotected through the fault of the employes of the company.

Sues Road for Extertion.

Bloomington.—Five suits were filed by State's Attorney A. F. Miller, of De Witt county, against the Illinois Central railroad in behalf of I. N. Bailer, who alleges extortion and unjust discrimination in freight rates. If the suits are won by the complainant the maximum fine will be \$86,000.

Santa Claus Badly Hurt. Springfield. - Elmer James, Ridgely, was severely burned about the head and face at his home. He was playing Santa Claus for his children when his false whiskers be ignited from a Christmas tree candle.

Attempt to Kill Judge. Chicago.—Judge C. S. Cutting of the probate court came near losing his ife at the hands of an assassin who lay in wait for him in the main corridor of the criminal court building, pointed a revolver at his head and fired before the judge and a number of spectators could overpower him. The bullet went within a few inches of the jurist's head, and he was uninjured. The murderous attack was made by Frank Ellerbrock, 810 North California avenue, who was declared by physicians to be insane.

Pastor Sentenced to Prison.

Decatur.—Rev. F. L. James, former assistant pastor of the First Baptist church, was sentenced to an indeterminate term in the Chester peniter tiary for attempted criminal ass James accepted the sentence with out a show of emotion. His mother,

who was in court, broke down. The defense asked Judge Johns to commit James to the asylum for the criminal insane, saying he was ranged as a result of vices, but to request was refused: