

MERCHANTS IN A RUSH

GREAT ACTIVITY IN CHICAGO
WHOLESALE CIRCLES.

Dry Good, Clothing, Hardware and
Boots and Shoes in Demand—Clem-
ency at London for Mrs. Castle—
West Virginia Town Wiped Out.

Trade Awakens.
Out-of-town merchants were in Chicago Tuesday to take part in the big meeting of their association, and they kept Secretary C. S. Tomlinson of the National Association of Merchants and Travelers and a representative from both the Central and the Western Passenger Associations busy taking care of their transportation wants, so that they can devote all their time to finishing up fall buying before the opening of the session at 4:30. Among the wholesale houses the effect of such a large number of out-of-town buyers was plainly visible. In many of the most important branches the forces of salesmen had more than their hands full with the crowds of hurrying purchasers. This was particularly true of dry goods, boots and shoes, and the dealers in holiday goods. Clothing merchants also enjoyed a better business than they had seen in over a year, and the number of hardware dealers present bore testimony to the fact that Chicago's popularity as a hardware jobbing center is rapidly increasing. The special rates given by the railroads have proved so profitable to them that those which do not usually concern much merchandise business out of Chicago show a disposition to make a trial than Chicago.

MEANS TO CROSS TROCHA.

Macco Moves Out on the Plains for that Purpose.

Advices from Cuba give plainer descriptions of the movements of insurgents than can be sent by cable from the island. Antonio Macco has moved to the plains country—that is to say, to the south coast of Pinar del Rio, with the intention of making an attempt to pass the trocha. He is at present supposed to be at Carajao, in the direction of the swamp of Majala. If he does not accept a battle will be obliged to go further toward Dayanaytos or advance by Pueblo Nuevo, taking the road by Cavaibatos and then get to La Gloria to La Sierra. It is thought probable that it will be difficult for him to pass by the south coast of the western part of Pinar del Rio because Gen. Weyler has positioned 2,000 cavalry to prevent that movement near Candelaria. Capt. Gen. Weyler's columns are fortifying the strategic positions taken from the insurgents in the mountains of Pinar del Rio so as to form a strong base of operations. When once these are finished Gen. Weyler calculates that he will be able to dispose of 10,000 men in the pursuit of Macco, and it is the general opinion that he will be able to conjecture. Last year the number of persons insured increased 134,725, representing an insurance of \$119,000,000. This is largely attributed to hard work on the part of the companies, although they are favored by the Government in exemption from taxation on premiums to a certain extent, and it has been suggested that the insurance business has now reached its highest point, and that danger lurks in the possibility of a prospective decrease in the number of those insured.

INSURANCE IN GERMANY.

Wonderful Increase in the Business During the Last Year.

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FIRE CAUSES HAVOC.

Town of Spencer, W. Va., Almost Destroyed by a Conflagration.

The town of Spencer, W. Va., was almost destroyed by fire Sunday night. Thirty-nine stores and houses were burned. The fire started in a room over Simon & Co.'s general store and swept along the main business street, leaving destruction in its path. The people were terror stricken and thrown into a panic. The fire started at 11:00 o'clock Sunday night and burned until late Monday morning. The total loss is estimated at \$200,000. The asylum building, being across the creek from Spencer, was out of danger, but the fire could easily be seen by the inmates, and the attendants had their hands full in handling the patients, who were greatly frightened and terror stricken.

Mrs. Castle Is Free.

At London, the Home Secretary signed Monday night an order for the release from Winwood Scrub prison of Mrs. Castle, the wealthy American woman convicted of shoplifting. Her husband will go with her to America as soon as she is able to travel. The pressure brought to bear upon the Government to secure Mrs. Castle's release has been of astonishing weight and influence, and both home and foreign offices received scores of messages daily from England and the United States beseeching immediate action. Popular sympathy in England is entirely in her favor, and there were no criticisms when her release was announced.

Pledged for Her Assailant.

William Bean, the negro who beat Mrs. L. C. Clark at Lebanon, Ky., was captured and put in jail. A mob took him from the Sheriff and carried him before Mrs. Clark, who identified him. She is expected to die, but she pleaded with the crowd to let the law take its course. Negroes as well as whites threatened to lynch Bean if Mrs. Clark died.

Big Sugar Crop.

Consul Muth of Magdeburg, reports to the State Department, an abnormal German sugar beet crop, almost equaling the unprecedented yield of 1894. In Austria and France, as well as other European countries, the crop exceeded that of last year, though in some districts the quality is inferior.

ITALY INUNDATED.

Venice is the scene of an inundation such as has not been experienced for eighteen years. Many of the quarters adjacent to the Grand canal have been submerged in consequence of abnormally high tides.

Argentine Is Hard Up.

It is believed that the answer of the Argentine Minister of Finance to the Senate's inquiry as to the condition of the treasury will show a deficit of \$8,000,000 in gold, or \$32,000,000 in paper currency.

Morris to Serve Ten Years.

George H. Morrison, recently treasurer of Rensselaer County, N. Y., pleaded guilty to two indictments, one charging felony and the other for misappropriating county funds. Morrison was immediately sentenced to Dannemora for ten years and five months.

Battleship Texas Injured.

The United States battleship, Texas, while lying at the Cob dock, Brooklyn Navy yard, had a thirteen-inch hole stove in her side, caused by the breaking of her screw.

Kisses Are High in Alabama.

Miss Lizzie Hendricks, a Calhoun County, Ala., girl, was awarded \$245 damages from the Southern Railway Company by the Circuit Court here for being kissed by one of the company's conductors while en route recently from Rome to Anniston.

Large Gains in Gold Reported.

The treasury at Washington Wednesday lost \$47,000 in gold coin and \$4,700 in jewelers' bars. The net gain at New York, however, was \$2,382,300. This leaves the reserve \$117,587,698. Large gains in gold are indicated at Boston and other ports.

Threaten a Trust.

Chicago has become such a thorn in the side of the great wire nail trust that its managers have openly declared they would like to see it blotted off the map.

MARKET VERY STRONG.

Wheat Advanced Sharply Do to Great Milling Demand.

The Liverpool wheat market did not change its price for futures at the opening Friday and was quoted \$2 higher for No. 2 northern on the spot. Such an absence of independent strength following the display of weakness which the Chicago market gave Thursday completely turned speculative sentiment in America to the bull side again, and started wheat once more on an upward course. As an additional incentive to resume the advance which was interrupted by the hurry to take profits Thursday, the Minneapolis and Duluth receipts were found to be very small; the number of carloads was 684, compared with 1,116 cars a week ago and 1,235 on the corresponding day of the year before. Besides that Chicago had only 97 carloads, against 394 on the similar day of last year. Those fresh features of the market surroundings sufficed to start December wheat at 1c per bushel advance and to add another 1c per bushel before an hour of the Chicago session had gone by. The opening was irregularly from 7:30 to 7:50 a.m. Before 10:30 o'clock it had sold 76% c. A San Francisco message, which reported an additional four cargoes of wheat sold Thursday besides what was previously disposed of for shipment to Australia—the four cargoes amounting to about 350,000 bushels—was another of the bill points in the early news. The milling demand for carloads of wheat in the cash market was shown chiefly to the competition for good to choice samples of No. 3 hard Northern spring. A private cablegram from Liverpool indicated that there was knowledge there of some falling off in the volume of shipments from Russia and the Danubian countries. The St. Louis market was even stronger at the opening than Chicago.

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