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A RAID ON REAGAN.

PHELPS TALKS HARD COMMON SENSE TO HIM.

Why the Inter-State Commerce Bill is Absurd—Effect of its Passage—Other National News.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE INQUIRER.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The House spent all day on the Inter-State Commerce bill, the Democrats growing more solid in defense of its most absurd and impracticable provisions. Mr. Reagan tried again to stifle debate, but the Republicans compelled him to back down. He got very angry at one time, and charged the Republicans with making hostile amendments to delay the passage of his bill. Charles O'Neill told him that they were doing it to enlarge honest liberty and equal rights. The features of the day were two rattling speeches by A. S. Hewitt and Mr. Phelps. Mr. Hewitt denounced the anti-pooling section and made quite a sensation. Mr. Phelps got th attention of the House, and the Democrais crowded around him while he wa speaking. His remarks contained more hard sense than any speech recently made, and were roundly applauded by the Republicans. He said:

"The discussion begins already to emphasize the unwisdom and injustice of the bill. It is a vain effort to make a code which shall control the management of railways in all cases. But these cases are infinite in number, and very nearly infinite in variety. How absurd to suppose that all these cases can be held in the iron grasp of half a dozen absolute restrictions. Absolute restrictions belong to morals, but have no control in railway management, where each code makes its own right and wrong. You may say to a man, 'thou shalt not steal; thou shalt not bear false witness,' for theft and slander are everywhere and always wrong, but you cannot say to a railway company: 'You shall not discriminate, you shall not rebate, you shall not pool, you shall not charge more for a longer haul,' because in many cases all these methods are right, and in many cases they are necessary—necessary even to the very existence of the road—and because they are necessary often to their very existence the railways will elude, evade and openly transgress the restrictions, looking to popular opinion to shield them from the penalty, just as the gentleman from Texas, if his life were threatened, would in defending it violate all laws and escape all punishment. Nor in so doing are the people indifferent of their rights; they are watchful of them, and are willing to judge the future by the past. They see that the laws of man and the laws of nature have shielded them in the past, why should they doubt them in the future? The law of common carriers in every State exhibits injustice and inequality, the laws of nature, acting in the sphere of commerce, makes the greed and ambition of man the instruments of justice and equality. They see that, united, the result has been a constant triumph of progress and reform. Does any one dispute history? Are there not more railways and better service than ever before? Have we not more trains and better? More equipments and better? Cheaper and more efficient management everywhere? Does the gentleman from Texas deny that goods and passengers are carried cheaper by us than anywhere else in the world, and cheaper by us now than ever before? Perhaps he fears that these great laws of nature have lost their force. Have they? Was competition ever more aggressive on water and on land? Why, the gentleman from New York (Mr. Hewitt) cannot take his first excursion over a new road without seeing from his window the surveying party that already lays the parallel (laughter), and if you fear that some obstacles are too mighty, remember that ten years ago we all said, with the Erie the Central and the Pennsylvania Railways in the field, New York can secure no relief except from the resources of the National Treasury. But while we spoke competition raising $100,000,000 without public knowledge or public solicitation, threw the Nickel Plate and West Shore into the arena, and there they will remain. (Applause.) Nor has the desire to succeed in business ceased to be a rule, which includes railway managers in its healthy influence. Managers were never more solicitous for business and never more ready to make sacrifices to get it. They know that rivals are so many they must themselves create and develop it, and in a one-sided partnership, where the customer gets all the benefit, they aid him in its creation or development. I charge contradiction when I say that there was never a time when a company that wished to open a mine or a factory could get better rates than now. It is almost accurate to say that the miner or the manufacturer can fix his own rates for the years of experiment. Nor has the power of public opinion weakened. It controls the management of railways as a management and as individual men. The management knows that the surest path to business is that of public favor that the popular road makes money, and, to secure this popularity, they spend money lavishly: they make concessions generously. Nor is there generally enough stress laid on the character of the management, and their natural desire, as men, to have the approbation of their neighbors and to secure that good report, that good reputation, which is the highest prize of life. Don't confound the managers of the railways, of whom I speak, and whom I honor, with the great speculators in their securities, whom I despise. It is the speculators and the stock exchange that receives public attention; it is the railway and its managers who deserve it. It is a great injustice to confound them. The managers are men of high character and great abilities. Theirs is a profession, and they are proud of it. They are sure to spend their lives in its practice, and most of them practice it in the same railway corporation. They are faithful, public spirited, and, as a rule, honored and beloved by those among whom they live and with whom they deal. In their desire to retain and deserve this good opinion of their vicinage they are more apt to sacrifice their road than the public. But the great speculators, unlike you or me, or those remote from intercourse with the customers of the roads, almost never interfere with their practical management. Their sole interest is in the stock. That they seize, they hold it for a day until they have worked their own wicked will on it, and then they cast it out, dishonored, to be the prey of the next adventurer. If they retain it longer it is only to elect a Board of Directors, which shall suffer them to manipulate the securities, and that accomplished, their interest ends. The managers of the road, meantime, go on with their regular business, and have no more connection with the speculators whose names are in stock circles allied with their roads than you or I, Mr. Speaker, except the bitter disgust with which they see these bad men so confusing the distinction between themselves and the actual managers that, in the public mind, they are apt to stand in the same light and receive the same censure. Let, then, the laws of man and of nature continue their work of progress and reform. Why attempt to restrict? Why pass restrictions which will interfere with these general laws, which are working out the results you pretend to wish. Your effort is vain; your restrictions will be disregarded. Do you ask me how? The railways, if these restrictions should become laws, will ostentatiously break them all. They will invite litigation until the wheels of the courts are clogged. That will challenge public attention, and public attention is redress. Or they will issue an order, which the whole railway system shall obey, that every locomotive from sea to sea shall stay in its roundhouse. Then there will follow a silence from Portland in Oregon to Portland in Maine. That can be felt, and only one voice will be heard, the familiar voice of our Speaker, "The gentleman from Texas asks unanimous consent to consider a bill to repeal an act entitled 'An act to regulate inter-State commerce.' Is there objection?" Mr. Speaker, just so sure as the report follows the flash, we shall hear, as the end of the matter, "the Chair hears none."

It is not probable that the bill will get through to-morrow.

Garland for the Cabinet.

Senator Garland was not in his seat to-day for the first time this session, and rumor sends him to Albany. If he has gone there it is by invitation. He is pressed by a majority of Southern members for a Cabinet place, and has probably gone there to make Cleveland's acquaintance, preparatory to going into the Cabinet. This makes the first selections for the Cabinet both from the South, and must be cheerful to those Republicans who elected Cleveland by their votes.

A Probable Deadlock.

The controversy over the naval appropriation for the last half of this fiscal year ran up against a snag to-day in the House. Members practically refused to confer, and the Senate, by a unanimous vote on a call of the yeas and nays, decided to adhere to its position, so that unless the House backs down to-morrow there will be fair chance for the resolution for a recess to fail. So many members are going home, however, that there is hardly likely to be a quorum of the House here to-morrow, and certainly not on Monday.

Marshal Wright's Conduct at the Cincinnati Election.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Judge Lawrence, First Comptroller of the Currency, was the first witness examined to-day by the sub-committee investigating the conduct of Marshal Wright at the Ohio October election. He said when he saw reports that government clerks had acted as deputy marshals at that election he directed that the accounts of the clerks for such services should not be allowed. The witness was interrogated at length by members of the committee and by Congressman Follett, of the First Cincinnati district, relative to the legality of the appointment of men who were not residents of Cincinnati as deputy marshals.

Judge Lawrence replied that the accounts had not reached his office; that the legality of the appointment was a question of law, and he did not wish to express an opinion before carefully examining the statutes.

Thomas Cavanaugh, an ex-deputy sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives, who was at Cincinnati on election day, was also examined. He said he was employed at the instance of Mr. Dudley, and under the instruction of the Central Republican Committee, to guard against repeating at the polls. He received about $5000 for expenses from the Lincoln Club of Cincinnati. Mr. Hickenlopen gave it to him. The money was used to secure an honest vote, regardless of party. Some of the money was used in sending Democratic repeaters back to Chicago, as the latter were out of money and the party that brought them there did not treat them right.

The Washington Monument.

The joint commission in charge of the Washington Monument to-day submitted to Congress a report showing its progress during the past year. The report shows that the weight of the monument is 81,120 tons and that it has cost $1,187,710, of which Congress appropriated $887,710. Relative to the completion of the monument, the engineer in charge of the work submits a report with that of the commission. He says:

"Two methods of treating the terrace at the foot of the shaft have been suggested. One method proposes to erect a retaining wall of the most beautiful marble around the terrace, which wall is to be surmounted with a marble balustrade. At the centre of each face is to be a set of broad double stairs extending from the general level of the esplanade, which is to be paved in marble tiles of approved patterns. The other method of finish proposed is to fill earth about the present terrace and to extend this filling so far from the monument as to fade the slopes of the embankment gradually into the surrounding surfaces, and this is to be done with so much skill as to give to the mound an appearance so far from artificial as possible.

This mound is then to be planted with trees and shrubs, paths are to be laid out, a pavement is to be put around the foot of the monument, and far enough to prevent the storm waters from washing out the filling.

If the marble wall is decided upon an appropriation of $612,300 is asked to complete the entire work. If the second proposition is adopted but $166,800 is desired. The joint commission favor the latter method.

The Naval Bill for the Next Six Months.

The conferees of the houses of Congress upon the temporary Naval Appropriation bill were in session for an hour or more to-day, and disagreed. The issue taken by the Senate is that it is unwise and inconsistent to make provision for the navy for the next six months upon the basis of an appropriation bill framed two years ago by the House, as the temporary House bill proposes to do. The estimates are widely different, and there is no need for such hasty action, while the passage of an untemized appropriation bill sets a dangerous precedent.

The House conferees are willing to have the bill itemized, but object to the following items: The steel cruisers and completion of monitors, $4,700,000; breachloading guns, $100,000, and machine guns, $75,000, and other subjects, making a total of $5,169,641.

The temper of each house appears to be to sustain its conferees, and it seems unlikely that any agreement will be reached before the holiday recess. In this case the navy will be without funds on the 1st of January.

Confirmations.

The Senate in executive session to day confirmed the following nominations:

Kittredge Haskins, to be United States Attorney for the district of Vermont.

Lewis E. Stanton, to be United States Attorney for the district of Connecticut.

John G. Brady, Commissioner of Alaska, Sitka.

George P. Ihrie, Commissioner of Alaska, Wrangel.

Chester Seeber, Commissioner of Alaska, Ounalaska.

Thomas A. Cummings, Collector of Customs for the district of Montana and Idaho.

Nomination.

The President sent the following nomination to the Senate to-day: A. Stone, to be attorney of the United States for the Western district of Pennsylvania.

News From the Essex.

The Secretary of the Navy has been informed that the United States steamer Essex, on her way here from the Asiatic station, has arrived at St. Thomas, and will sail for New York on the 21st inst.

BREAKS IN BUSINESS.

List of Failures Reported from All Parts of the Country.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—The following assignments are reported to-day:

Lyman Strong, marble, Cleveland, Ohio.

Furniss & Co., manufacturers of gloves, Gloversville, N. Y.

Tunpis Silk Company, manufacturers of silk thread, Tariffville, Conn.

W. P. Oswald, general store, Weisport, Pa.

W. H. Morribet grocer, Richmond, Va.

Crampton & Aikins, jewelers, Fargo, Dak.

Smoax & Ellzey, general store, Bamberg, S. C.

K. Shields, paints, oils, &c., Dallas, Texas.

Jacob Rabensberg, grocer, Bastrop, Texas.

Davenport & Kennedy, commission merchants, Rochester, N. Y.

A. S. Haines, general store, Manistee, Mich.

Four attachment suits were filed yesterday afternoon against Leubrie Brothers, of St. Louis, dry goods and millinery house, and last evening they made an assignment for the benefit of creditors.

The Panama Canal.

PANAMA, Dec. 19, via Galveston.—A powerful Anglo-Dutch company has signed a contract for cutting 15,000,000 metres of the canal on the Culebra section at a figure under eight francs per metre, the work to be finished within two years. A large force of European laborers has been ordered for the work. The dry season has had the effect of dispelling sickness here, and work on the canal is progressing favorably.

Railway Accident.

HUNTINGDON, Pa., Dec. 19.—This evening a hand car, on which three trackmen were riding, was run into by a freight train which was backing on the main track of the Huntingdon and Broad Top Railroad, near Long siding. William Clark and Russell Rahland received injuries which are very serious and may prove fatal. William Vanarman escaped by jumping.

Steamboat Sunk.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 19.—The British steamship Victoria, from Galveston, with cotton and oil cake for Bremen, via New Orleans, to complete her cargo, collided this evening with the steamboat Fred A. Blanks, which was sunk. All her passengers and crew were saved.

THE BURNED ASYLUM.

A GREATER HORROR THAN AT FIRST SUPPOSED.

A Pile of Charred Remains Found in the Ruins—Many Children Still Missing—The Number Lost.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Blackened walls and smoking ruins were all that remained this morning of St. John's Home, male Catholic orphan asylum, in Brooklyn, which was burned yesterday. Crowds of spectators gathered there to-day to witness the firemen and police digging in the ruins. At daylight this morning the men of Engine Company No. 14 and Truck No. 2 began a search of the ruins in the basement of the engine house. Between half-past seven and eight o'clock they came upon a pile of charred human bodies lying near the wall under a heap of ruins. It was impossible to tell how many bodies the pile contained, as they lay huddled together and fell apart as they were handled.

The only body which could be distinguished was that of an adult, which is supposed to be that of the visitor who was seen for a few minutes by some of the spectators on the roof of the building. The bodies found are so charred and blackened that identification is almost impossible. It is believed that most of the children who perished were in the ill-fated Sister Josephine's ward.

At a later hour of the morning three more bodies were discovered near where the passage to the main building was located. Some of the bodies appeared to be those of adults. Shortly after nine o'clock two more bodies were found. They were burned to a crisp, and their possible identity was destroyed. The children are scattered all over the city, and until collected it will be impossible to identify the bodies of those who perished. The police found many of the orphans on the street half frozen and took them to the station house. Citizens also took charge of some of them, and it will probably be a day or two before they can be collected together again.

At noon it was said that nine bodies had been found, seven of which were children, one that of a man and one that of a woman. The tenth body was taken from the ruins at half-past one P. M.

Many of the children missing are doubtless housed among some of the neighbors, and the chances are that all will turn up.

The fire department was hindered by the snow and the small flow of water. The diggers are still at work, and it is thought that other bodies will be recovered.

The loss is estimated at $250,000. The building was valued at $200,000, and it is said there was over $50,000 worth of furniture in the place. They had a nice chapel and a small organ, and it appears very little was saved.

The Search This Afternoon.

The excavators resumed work on the ruins of the Brooklyn fire about noon, and before one o'clock discovered the remains of two more persons, which proved to be those of boys about fourteen years old. They were found at the southeast corner of the drying room. Nearly all the flesh was burned off the bones. Later in the afternoon two more bodies were found, making thirteen in all. They were all carried to the sewing room, which was in a wing that was saved. The firemen succeeded in saving a portion of the wall of that part of the asylum which fronted on St. Mark's avenue, and the loss will not be quite so great as was at first estimated.

Coroner Hesse was notified during this afternoon. After impaneling a jury he adjourned the inquest. The insurance on the building, machinery, etc., is $97,500.

The trustees visited the ruins this evening with the intention of learning, as far as possible, how many lives were lost. Colonel Carroll made a careful inspection of the remains and came to the conclusion that only ten bodies had been found. Closer examination corroborated this view. No more bodies had been found up to dark, when the searching ceased. It has been ascertained that the body of the woman found in the ruins is that of a widow named Mrs. Mary McCarren, who had been to visit her fatherless boy, after leaving a younger child at the maternity on Concord street. Both she and her son perished.

OIL DEAL.

Scheme to Reduce Production by Shutting Down Thirty Wells.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 19.—A big deal has been made in the oil territory, which had a decided effect upon the market to-day, and which will no doubt influence it largely in the future. The Producers' Association, the new corporation, which has been dealing in oil lands for only a month or two, has taken a very decided step. Some time ago it was reported that the Phillips leases had been sold to this company, but it turned out that the sale was not made because the Phillips Bros. wanted $750,000 for their leases. The company has now bought three Horn Creek farms—the Simpson, the Buell and the Scully. The Simpson farm was owned by J. Q. Kennedy, who leased the oil rights to Thomas Simpson, oil broker, of Oil City, and the Phillips Bros. They sold out for $80,000.

The Buell farm was owned by Henry Buell, of Zelienople, and leased by McBride, John Campbell, a hardware dealer of Butler, and the Fisher brothers. The price paid for this farm was $90,000. The Scully farm belongs to J. S. Scully, of the Diamond National Bank, and was leased by the Christy Brothers. It was sold for $50,000. The meaning of this expenditure of $220,000 is that the company proposes to restrict the production of the field as long as prices are so low as they are now, and as a result at least thirty wells will be shut down and very little oil will be produced for some time to come on this territory. The company is composed of Henry Fisher, George B. Foreman, of New York, and other well-known men.

Selling Moselem Iron Ore.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE INQUIRER.]

READING, Pa., Dec. 19.—Auctioneer Lyon began selling the effects of the Moselem Furnace Company. Among articles sold were about 4000 tons of Moselem iron ore and a quantity of Cumberland and Cornwall ore. The Moselem ore brought $1.80 a ton. The Cumberland was sold at $1.40 per ton, and the remainder realized different prices. The sale of farm stock took place to-day. The sales amounted to $13,000. The principal purchaser was William McDowell.

Lancaster's Forger.

LANCASTER, Pa., Dec. 19.—The amount of the forgeries committed by Joseph Herzog far exceed the first published figures. The banks of this city now hold $72,000 of maturing notes, most of the indorsements on which are forged, and there is $25,000 in notes held among outside parties. The individual forgeries now maturing number considerably over a hundred, and Herzog says he has followed these practices for nearly ten years, making in the aggregate thousands of forgeries.

Reducing Freight.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 19.—The Chicago Freight Rate Committee met here to-day to arrange a tariff of rates to interior points in the Middle and Western States. Rates were made to 350 points in six classes of freight, to which also grain was added. The rates in some cases were decreased and on others increased. The new tariff will go into effect January 1.

A State Claims Damages.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Dec. 19.—The State of Alabama has entered a suit against the directors of the Alabama and Chattanooga Railroad Company, a corporation which became bankrupt in 1872, for $3,000,000 damages alleged to have been sustained by the State through mismanagement. It has been decided that the United States Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in the case.

Arrested for Forgery.

LANCASTER, Pa., Dec. 19.—Joseph Herzog, the grocer of this city who failed recently, was arrested this afternoon charged with forgery. The aggregate amount of the forgeries on the banks of this city and on individuals is said to amount to between $70,000 and $75,000. He was given a preliminary hearing and committed to jail.

KING WINTER'S REIGN.

Though Long Deferred, Cold Weather Is Here at Last.

OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 19.—The temperature throughout the Ottawa Valley is from 30 to 36° below zero.

In Canada.

TORONTO, Ont., Dec. 19.—The pressure is now above normal throughout Canada, with cold, fair weather everywhere. The temperture is 23° below zero at Winnipeg, and grows lower westward until at Calgarry 40° below is reached.

Coldest in Ten Years.

PETERSBURG, Va., Dec. 19.—A carefully kept record shows the weather to-day to be the coldest experienced here for ten years. At seven o'clock this morning the thermometer registered 13° above zero, and at eleven o'clock 14° above. The ground is covered with snow and in some sections of the city the sleighing is good.

Delaying Travel.

CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 19.—The mercury marked 5° below zero this morning. Railway travel is delayed on account of the severe cold.

Two Big Rivers Full of Ice.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 19.—The cold weather which set in here Tuesday night still continues, and the mercury has sunk to 5° below zero, but the temperature is more moderate to-day. The Mississippi river is full of heavy floating ice all the way north of here and as far south as Cape Girardeau, fifty miles above Cairo, where the thermometer marks 6° below zero. The Missouri river also is full of heavy ice. Navigation is entirely suspended here. Steamers are being put into winter quarters. Old steamboat men say the river is too high for ice to gorge in this vicinity at present, but the water is falling rapidly, and should this weather continue for a week or more there would be danger of the river closing below here, which would stop navigation south for the remainder of the winter. The hope is that the ice will gorge above and give a clear river to Cairo and below.

Weather Moderating in the West.

CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—"The backbone of the present cold snap is broken for good, I think," said the signal officer to-day; "all the reports from the West show that the weather is moderating. Our last report from Chicago shows that the thermometer registered 43° above, a rise in the temperature of 41° in twenty-four hours. There was a rise of 16° in Chicago between midnight and noon to-day. Everything points to the fact that the worst of the present siege is over." At three o'clock this afternoon the thermometer stood 6° above zero.

Blocked by the Storm.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 19.—The snow storm has been abating since last night, and it is thawing today. Oregon and California roads are now running through only a few hours late. The Oregon Railway and Navigation line is still blockaded between The Dalles and this city.

Pennsylvania's Record.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Dec. 19.—This evening the thermometer registered 10° below zero.

The Coldest Yet.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 19.—Extreme cold weather and strong winds are reported to-night from all parts of New England. At Mount Washington the weather is the most severe since 1878. The mercury is frozen, but the minimum registered by the spirit thermometer is 42° below zero, and it is still falling.

OIL ON FIRE.

Several Oil Wells Destroyed by an Extensive Conflagration.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Dec. 19.—A *Commercial-Gazette* special from Butler, Pa., says: About one o'clock this afternoon immense clouds of smoke rose from the famous Thorn Creek oil district. The fire originated at Armstrong Well No. 3. The extremely cold weather had the effect of freezing up the water in suction lines running from the well to the creek.

The employees on the well built fires along the line to thaw it out. The ground in close proximity being saturated with oil took fire and leaked its way to Thorn creek. The surface, covered with oil, ignited, and in a very short time reached three large tanks, one a sixteen hundred barrel tank, and two twelve hundred barrel tanks, that were filled with oil owned by Fisher Bros. These tanks were burst by the fire and heat and everything then ran into the creek, endangering property all along the banks. Fisher, No. 8, took fire and was entirely consumed.

This well was struck a few days ago. At the time it took fire it was flowing through the conductor and casing at a three thousand barrel gait, and is burning up to the present hour (11 o'clock). An offer of $500 was made by Fishers to anybody who would extinguish this furious flame. Armstrong No. 3 drilled in the sand, and flowing terrifically, took fire and was burned to the ground. The entire contents were consumed.

Lappe No. 1 also took fire, but the indefatigable efforts of the contractors saved the well from destruction. The machine shop on the left bank of the stream near the road was burned to the ground, as was also the Thorn creek bridge. The loss is approximated at $50,000 up to this hour. The wells consumed by fire are located on the Marshal tract.

A STEAM PIPE EXPLODES.

Contracted by Cold. It Was Unable to Stand a Great Pressure.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE INQUIRER.]

READING, Pa., Dec. 19.—This morning the steam pipe connecting the four large boilers in the boiler house on Seventh street, between Franklin and Chestnut streets, which furnish steam for the Reading Coal and Iron Company's shops, exploded with a loud report. In a moment Seventh street was filled with a dense cloud of steam, and all the machinery in the extensive shops came to a standstill. Immediately after the explosion employees of the establishment ran to the boiler house, which they were unable to enter owing to the escaping steam and scalding water; but while standing at the door a man was seen slowly crawling along the floor of the boiler house towards the entrance, and when he reached it he fell over unconscious. It proved to be the fireman, Charles Printz. The cause of the accident is supposed to have been the pressure of steam forced through the pipe, which had been contracted by the extreme cold of the night.

BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

Report of Failures Throughout the United States and Canada.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—The business failures throughout the country during the last seven days, as reported to R. G. Dun & Co., of the Mercantile Agency, number, for the United States, 367, and for Canada, 28, or a total of 395. This is a marked increase on last week, when the failures reported numbered 348. This week the Western and Pacific States furnished nearly one-half of the whole number of casualties in business. There is also a considerable increase to note in the Southern States.

Yesterday's Failures.

The following failures are reported:

Potts and Locker, trading as the Helvetia Leather Company, of Lancaster, failed to-day on executions issued against them for $5364. Their liabilities are heavy.

J. H. Abrahams, cigar manufacturer, of Lancaster, also failed to-day on a Sheriff's execution for $2100.

POOR HOUSE BURNED.

A Lunatic Dashes Back into the Flames.

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 19.—The Lapeer County Poor House was burned last night. Thirty-seven inmates were turned out in their night clothes. One insane woman named Bertha Rockwell dashed back into the building and was burned to death. Another woman had run two miles through the deep snow before she was recaptured. She is badly frozen, but may recover. The thermometer at the time was below zero. The building, furniture, clothes and stock of provisions were burned. The loss to the county is over $6000. The inmates are scattered among farmers.

BISMARCK TO REST.

HIS ORGAN THINKS HE WILL TAKE A VACATION.

He Will Not Sacrifice His Health—The Damage to London Bridge—The Vienna Defaulter Dead—Miscellaneous News.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The North German *Gazette* intimates that Prince Bismarck has decided to take a rest from his public duties. The *Gazette* argues that the Chancellor must feel convinced, as the obstructive policy of the opposition party in the Reichstag develops itself, that it is better for him to consult his health and prepare for the inevitable conflicts of the winter session, which will be the result of this obstructive policy, than sacrifice his health by an honorable effort in a dishonorable struggle.

Portugal and the Congo.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The officers of the Portuguese gunboat Jado and the French gunboat Segond, which recently visited Landana and the Congo to reconcile the differences between the natives and the French Catholic Mission of St. Espret, traced the parallel 5 degrees 12 minutes south latitude, which Portugal claims as the northern boundary of her Congo possessions. A protocol was drawn up and signed by the officers making a record of this proceeding.

Standing by the Premier.

The *Post* upbraids the Clerico-Progressist majority in the Reichstag for their action in regard to the motion asking for an appropriation to pay the expenses of a second directorship in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which was voted down, notwithstanding Prince Bismarck's earnest appeal in its behalf. The paper says: "The Clerico-Progressists were animated with a mean spirit in opposing the credit for an assistant to Prince Bismarck. When Herr Kildorf declared that those contesting the necessity of the proposed credit lacked the sense of their nationality, he expressed what was at the bottom of the heart of every German patriot. Such a miserable vote bears gravely on the prestige of the Empire; but what matters that to Richter, Windthorst and their colleagues."

Warring With Bismarck.

The *Nossische Zeitung* reproaches Prince Bismarck for constantly using in the Reichstag language which the paper considers too personal.

Defending the Anarchists.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The counsel for the defendant Anarchists, in his speech in their behalf today, sought to lessen their culpability in the crime. The counsel for Reinsdorf, in his address in behalf of his client, merely questioned the advisability of the courts pronouncing upon him the sentence of death. He stated that Reinsdorf was consumptive and that it is not likely he will live long. He wanted to die a martyr. The government prosecutor maintained that the guilt of Reinsdorf, Rupech and Kuechler had been fully proven, and that Providence alone had prevented the successful accomplishment of the crime.

Further Damage to London Bridge Discovered.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—Further inspection at the pier at which the explosion took place shows that a piece of granite, five inches in length, close to the surface where the nails were found, had been blown off. An "Irish Laborer" writes to the *Times* to the effect that as one result of the explosion 300 Irish waterside laborers will be thrown out of employment. Foremen, he says, will be afraid to engage Irishmen.

The Dublin *Irishman* (newspaper) alleges that the British Government sent a woman to Ireland with authority to offer a contribution of £500 toward the cost of a launch to be used on the Thames for throwing bombs at the Parliament building. The paper connects this story with the launch seen near London bridge shortly before the explosion.

An Investigation Demanded.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The *United Ireland* attributes the bridge explosion to the agency of dynamite. Detectives, influenced by the castle officials, keep up the scare. If the inquiry into the castle government demanded by the Irish members of Parliament be granted the secret of the past explosions will be soon brought to light.

Michael Davitt has resumed friendly relations with the Parnellites.

The Vienna Defalcation.

A Vienna dispatch says orders were telegraphed throughout Europe for the arrest of Lucas Jauner, the defaulter and absconding director of the Securities Department of the Lower Austrian Discount Bank. Subsequently, however, the body of Jauner was found at the village of Kierling, a short distance from Vienna, where he had shot himself. Only twenty-four florins were found on his body. Numerous bonds, signed by Heinrich Kuffler, a broker suspected of complicity in Jauner's crime, have been found in Jauner's cash box. These bonds represent large sums of money paid to Kuffler out of funds belonging to the Discount Bank. The directors of the bank have raised 10,000,000 florins from their own resources and from other banks, so as to be able to meet the run on the bank. The bank is honoring all demands upon it without any regard for the stipulated date when payment should be due. The municipal authorities have served notice on the bank that the city will withdraw its deposit of 4,500,000 florins. The bank is receiving many other notices of the withdrawal of deposits.

The Corean Massacre.

Advices from Corea state that the American Minister was present at the entertainment given by the King on the 15th instant, when the revolt occurred. A series of bloody struggles occurred in the city environs and the capital between the Chinese and Japanese troops. The Corean soldiers attacked both indifferently, and altogether two sets of ministers were massacred. The origin of the trouble is attributed to the Japanese, whose legation was burned, it is believed, willfully and by order, and in the confusion that ensued the Coreans implicated the rival forces on the island.

France Making Overtures.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—It is reported that France is making secret overtures to England and Holland for the recognition of the claims of France in the Congo territory, and the withdrawal of their support of the proposal to make neutral the territory of the African International Association. It is said that Premier Ferry is proposing to Earl Granville terms of agreement on the Egyptian question on the condition of England's supporting France's Congo claims and her Chinese policy.

Miscellaneous.

In the French Chamber of Deputies to-day a motion to abolish the French Embassy at the Vatican was rejected by a vote of 293 to 168. In the course of the debate Prime Minister Ferry took occasion to speak in a highly eulogistic manner of Pope Leo XIII's enlightened and conciliatory attitude.

The Imperial Supreme Court of Germany has rejected the appeal of Madame Kolomine against the decree of divorce granted by the court at Darmstadt to the Grand Duke Louis of Hesse.

The cotton crop of Egypt is one of the largest that was ever raised, and will probably exceed 3,250,000 contars.

Many private offers have been made to provide the 1000 marks for an assistant for Prince Bismarck refused by the Reichstag.

It is stated that the Cuban loan of £1,000,000 has been definitely arranged with the Banque Transatlantique of Paris. The loan is to be for one year only, but may be extended to eighteen months at the option of the Spanish Government. The interest is to be 9 per cent., and the commission for negotiating the loan 1 per cent.

The *Standard*, in its financial article, says: A minor failure in the corn trade occurred yesterday, and another larger one is expected to follow. There is great tension and distrust in the trade, owing to the extreme low rates now prevailing. There appears to be no chances for a rally this winter.

At the sale of the Syston Library to-day a "Psalmorum Codex" of 1459, printed by Faust and Schoiffer, brought £4950.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* publishes under reserve a statement from a well-informed American correspondent to the effect that Rev. Henry Ward Beecher will be the successor of Mr. James Russell Lowell as American Minister at the Court of St. James.

Reports from the various European bourses show that business was slightly weaker to-day, in sympathy with the trouble at Vienna.

La France states that three Americans have been arrested at Mayence, having in their possession several boxes of dynamite.

ERIE CAR TRUSTS.

The Holders of Certificates to Be Asked to Accept Equipment Bonds.

Holders of Erie Railroad car trusts in this city were considerably disturbed yesterday over a rumor that the company would ask them to accept the equipment bonds of the railroad at a lower rate of interest, in exchange for the car trust certificates.

It was difficult to learn anything about the matter, but it was finally ascertained that there is some ground for the report. It is said that the Finance Committee of the Erie directors are about to send a communication to Solon Humphries and E. D. Morgan, trustees under the car trust, stating that the Erie is practically bankrupt, and that a concession from the car trust certificate holders is absolutely necessary. They will be asked to exchange their certificate for a twenty-five year bond by the company, bearing interest at three and four per cent., secured by the cars. A sinking fund, sufficient to extinguish the debt at maturity, is also provided for.

The loan affected by this plan was originally $10,000,000, or only $5,600,000 is now outstanding. Some of this is on cars, on which but little, about 15 per cent. of the cost, has been paid. The Erie Railroad consequently has only interest to that extent in the cars. The holders of certificates secured by this class of cars are to receive a three per cent. bond.

On other cars the Erie has paid off forty per cent., and consequently has nearly one-half interest in them. It is prepared to pay four per cent. to the holders of the certificates. It is urged in support of the plan that if the car owners should insist on having their property they would not realize as much from them as they will by accepting Erie's offer.

The cars now are merely leased to the road, and the owners have no claim whatever on the company. If it does not pay they can take back their cars. On the other hand, if they accept the proposition they become bondholders of the company, and will be recognized in any plan for the reorganization of the company.

It is also urged that since the company has defaulted in the payment of interest on a mortgage obligation it is only fair that the car trust holders should scale down their six per cent. interest. A number of New York holders are said to have assented to the plan, and when it is formally proposed other favorable responses are expected.

AROUND AND ABOUT.

Interesting Paragraphs of News Gleaned from Various Localities.

Boston, Mass.—Malloon & Pierce, boot and shoe manufacturers, Brockton, think they can pay 40 cents on the dollar.

Nelsonville, O.—Several shots were fired on miners' houses at Jumper Brothers' mines Thursday night, but no person was injured.

Bennington, Vt.—The Bennington County Savings Bank, on which a run was made, has paid every demand. All is quiet and confidence restored.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa.—Armstrong & Buchanan's grocery store was burned yesterday. The loss on the stock is $15,000, and on the building $2800.

Rochester, N. Y.—Three large tanks of oil and 100 barrels of tar were burned at the Vacuum Oil Works yesterday morning. Loss, $10,000; no insurance.

Memphis, Tenn.—The Legislative Council will petition the Legislature to extend the time for the funding of the outstanding indebtedness of the city of Memphis.

Columbus, O.—T. C. Mendenhall, professor of natural philosophy at the Ohio State University, has resigned to accept a position in the Signal Service at Washington.

El Paso, Texas.—Last Monday a freight train on the Mexican Central Railway was wrecked and robbed near Silao, by armed bandits. It is reported that a fireman was killed.

New York.—A lot of human bones were yesterday found in the loft of No. 11 West Third street. They were sent to the morgue, and the police are endeavoring to fathom the mystery.

Des Moines, Ia.—A man named Drake was on Thursday killed by Joseph Carter. The latter had previously warned Drake, who was chopping wood on his own lot, that he was a trespasser.

St. Charles, Mo.—Joseph Ruenze, superintendent of the water works, has left town in arrears to the Water Company several thousand dollars, and owing numerous debts to individuals.

Boston.—A fire yesterday morning in the establishment of Forbes & Co., No. 76 Bedford street, damaged the stock of hosiery and underwear to the extent of $7000 or $8000; fully insured.

St. Louis, Mo.—Resolutions are being prepared by a committee of the Sugar Growers' Association, to be presented to Congress, protesting against the ratification of the proposed treaties with Spain and Mexico.

Fort Keogh, Mont.—A number of squatters in the Yellowstone Park were ejected last Tuesday and their ranches burned. They had previously been notified to leave. A man known as Buckskin Joe was arrested for resistance.

Brookhaven, La.—Mrs. Martin Tyler, an old lady, living two miles east of this place, was knocked in the head by a negro, who demanded her husband's money. Mrs. Tyler will probably die. Citizens are in search of the robber.

Bell's Bridge, Pa.—While a Polander, residing at this place, was away from home on Thursday, William Smith entered the house, assaulted the wife of the absent man, and after securing a watch, was driven from the premises by the woman, who had secured an axe. Smith has been arrested.

Indianapolis, Ind.—The stock of Vajen & New, wholesale hardware dealers, was damaged by fire yesterday morning to the extent of $10,000; fully insured.... The trustees of the State University have elected David S. Jarden, professor of Natural Sciences, to the presidency of that institution, vice Lemuel Mass, resigned.

New York.—Justice Blatchford has decided that the Strang suits, which were begun under Collectors Redfield and Schell for sums amounting to $140,000 for overcharge in duties, cannot be reopened, as the plaintiffs agreed to their dismissal, although similar suits have since been decided against the government.

Cincinnati, O.—The trial of William S. Kirker, formerly teller of the Second National Bank of Ironton, Ohio, began in the United States Court yesterday for an embezzlement of the bank's funds to the amount of about $16,000.... Jacob Jennings, a colored man, was assaulted in the street yesterday by a party of men and terribly injured.

New York.—The Board of Health decided yesterday to not make known the names of the candy manufacturers who have used poisonous substances in coloring their confectionery on the promise of the offenders to not repeat their offenses.... The jury in the Scalchi-Abbey suit had not reached a verdict at six o'clock, and were locked up for the night.

A Big Mortgage.

MADISON, Wis., Dec. 19.—A mortgage was filed in the Secretary of State's office to-day by W. O. Wright, of Freeport, to the American Loan and