

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—In the Senate today the following appointments were announced by the presiding officer: Hawley, as director of the Columbia Deaf and Dumb Institution; Davis, as consulting trustee of the Reform School of the District of Columbia; and Blackburn, as director of the Columbia Hospital for Women.

Mr. Morgan from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported a resolution directing the Secretary of State to furnish copies of all correspondence with the Mexican Government since 1882, respecting the Weill and a claim; also to state what amount has been paid by Mexico under the convention for the adjustment of the claims, the amount distributed, amount undistributed, and the reasons for withholding same.

Mr. Spooner offered a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Privileges and Elections to inquire into the expediency of adoption by the Senate for the guidance of the House of the commonly accepted meaning of that term. The discussion is as yet almost wholly personal and without concentration of purpose on the presentation of any well devised measure capable of being adopted.

The resolution offered by Mr. Beck on the 12th instant, directing the Post Office Commission to inquire into the advisability of reducing the rate of letter postage to one cent, was taken up and referred to that committee.

Mr. Dawes called up the bill to amend the law concerning the Commission of Fish and Fisheries, and moved it be passed. It provides for the appointment by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, of a person of scientific and practical acquaintance with fish and fisheries, as Commissioner, at a salary of \$5,000, such person not to hold any other United States office.

A motion by Mr. Reagan, to reduce the salary to \$3,000, was rejected, and the bill was passed.

Mr. Allison called up the holiday recess resolution and moved it be passed. Mr. Plumb said he would vote against the resolution, because he thought the proposed recess was against the public interest. Congress would be in session till the 10th day, and during the latter part of the session the country would be in the midst of a heated Presidential canvass.

There was no reason why members of Congress should go home for the holiday. Mr. Plumb then proceeded to consider a bill to amend the political speech act, attaching to the President the President's message and the financial policy of the administration. He said he presumed the administration resolution would pass, but he believed that it would not be, with a fair regard to public interest or to the duty which rested upon Congress.

Mr. Plumb's speech brought on a general political debate, participated in by Messrs. Beck, Butler, Dolph, Vest, Teller, Stewart, Allison, Sherman and others. The closing of the adjournment resolution was concurred in—yeas 37, nays 19.

The Blair educational bill was taken up as unfinished business, and then, on motion of Mr. Sherman, at 4:35 the Senate proceeded to execute business for the day, and half an hour afterwards adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Mr. Randall, of Penn., from the Committee on Rules, submitted a partial report. The report recommends the adoption of the rules of the 49th Congress until further order of the House. Changes: The membership of the Committee on Library is increased to five; a standing committee is established, to consist of thirteen members, to be known as the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; an additional member of the Committee on Private Land Claims is recommended; private bills are to be presented through the clerk and given proper reference by that officer; an improper reference of a bill does not confer any jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, but appropriate reference will be made by direction of the Speaker, any private bill whose contents are found to be insulting or obscene, will be returned to the member presenting it, and will not be referred; hereafter there will be printed and only five hundred copies of each bill of a public nature introduced, and one hundred copies of each private bill presented to the clerk for reference to the following select committees are provided: On the committee in the civil service, to consist of thirteen members; on the election of President and Vice President and representatives in Congress, to consist of thirteen members; on the eleventh census, to consist of thirteen members; on Indian claims, to consist of thirteen members; on Indian claims, to consist of thirteen members; on ventilation and acoustics, to consist of seven members; on the alcoholic liquor traffic, to consist of eleven members.

Mr. McCreary explained the proposed changes, which he stated were with one exception recommended by the unanimous vote of the Committee on Rules. That exception was the recommendation for the appointment of a special committee on the alcoholic liquor traffic, to consist of seven members from Maine and Illinois (Reed and Cannon) and he constituted the majority of the committee on this question.

Mr. McCreary, of Kentucky, said he desired to offer an amendment requiring general appropriation bills to be reported to the House by the committees having them in charge within sixty days during the long session, and forty days during the short session of Congress.

Mr. Randall stated that the subject was pending in the Committee on Rules, and would receive careful consideration before the committee submitted another report.

Upon this statement Mr. McCreary withdrew the proposed amendment. After a brief discussion the report was agreed to without division.

The following amendments to the rules were submitted and referred to the committee on Rules: By Mr. Dulce, of Tennessee, to prohibit the printing in the Record of undelivered speeches.

By Mr. McKee, of Arkansas, increasing to fifteen the number of committees now holding thirteen members.

By Mr. Holman, of Indiana, providing for the reestablishment of the Holman amendment, "that no amendment changing the existing rules shall be in order on general appropriation bills." It retrenches expenses by reducing the number, or salaries of officials, or by the reduction of the compensation of any person paid out of the U. S. Treasury.

This amendment was then made of the Senate. Representative Kane, of New York, and the House adjourned.

Ritzwiler, wholesaler and retail dealer in dry goods and notions at Jacksonville, Fla., has failed. Liability a little over \$100,000; assets about \$100,000.

WASHINGTON.

Report of the Commission on Bimetallism and Free Coinage of Silver—Observance of the Holidays—Private Bills Presented in the House—Internal Revenue Collections—Nomination Confirmed by the Senate.

By Telegram to the Morning Star.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The President today transmitted to Congress, the report of the Commission on Bimetallism, who, he says, "was specially designated by me, under the provisions of successive acts of Congress, to visit the financial centres of Europe in order to ascertain the feasibility of establishing by international standard a fifty ratio between the two precious metals in free coinage of both." Mr. Atkinson's report, with its appendices, makes a volume of 230 pages. He summarizes the results of his inquiries under four heads as follows:

1. There is no prospect of any change in the present monetary system of European States which can modify or influence the financial policy of the United States at the present time.

2. There are no indications of any change in the policy of the financial authorities of the several States visited by me which warrant any expectation that the subject of a bimetallic treaty for a common legal tender coupled with free coinage of silver, will be seriously considered at the present time by them.

3. There is no indication that the subject of bimetallism has received any intelligent or serious consideration outside of the feasibility of a country named, as a probable or possible remedy for existing causes of alleged depression in trade.

4. There is no considerable politically organized body of influential persons in either country to whom concerted action could be made, if such combination or cooperation were desirable on the part of a similar body in the United States, for promoting any definite or practicable measure of legislation to bring about the adoption of a bimetallic treaty according to the commonly accepted meaning of that term. The discussion is as yet almost wholly personal and without concentration of purpose on the presentation of any well devised measure capable of being adopted.

As a result of the adoption by the House today of the new rule admitting private bills without the formality of presentation in open house, about 800 of these measures were thrown upon the clerk's desk within a short quarter of an hour. While many of them are original bills the majority appear to be "old stagers."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Collections of internal revenue for the first five months of the present fiscal year amounted to \$51,866,549, being an increase of \$3,854,432 as compared with the collections for the corresponding period of last year. There was an increase of \$1,979,551 on receipts from spirits; \$1,100,170 on tobacco; \$775,413 on fermented liquors; \$67,537 on oleomargarine, and an increase of \$38,828 on banks and bankers. The only decrease was in the collections on miscellaneous objects of taxation, which were \$68,283 less than last year. The receipts for November last were \$718,973 more than those for the same month of last year.

The seal of secrecy was today removed from the following confirmations by the Senate: Kerr Craigie, Collector of Internal Revenue, Fifth District, N. C. Postmaster—Albert H. Mowry, Charleston, S. C.; William White, Kocoussko, Miss.; Geo. W. Bynum, Corning, Miss.; Lewis D. Dillard, Oxford, Miss.; William J. Rousseau, Starkville, Miss.; Eben R. Wortham, Greenville, Miss.; William R. Rhea, Johnson City, Tenn.; James S. Sargentine, Tenn.; and Edward J. Wood, McMinnville, Tenn.

Secretary Fairchild issued an order today for the closing of all custom houses on the 30th inst., and the 3d proximo. He also ordered the closing of the Treasury Department at noon on the 24th and 31st insts. A similar order has been issued with regard to the navy yards.

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NEW YORK.

A Fearful Fire at Rochester Caused by Explosion of Naphtha—Streets Torn up and Mills Destroyed.

By Telegram to the Morning Star.

ROCHESTER, Dec. 21.—About half past 3 o'clock this afternoon a terrific explosion occurred in front of the Pools flour mill, on Mill street, and the foot of Factory street. The explosion was felt for a long distance. Only a few seconds after the first explosion another followed, and another and another, in rapid succession. Instantly flames burst from the Pools mill and the rear walls fell in. The fire burned with great fierceness, and although the workmen hastened to get out it is feared some must have perished in the flames. It was only a few minutes before the Washington mills, adjoining the burning structure, was also on fire. The cause of the explosion was that the sewers in the vicinity were filled with naphtha. To-day 14,000 gallons of naphtha were pumped from the Vacuum Oil Works, through a pipe line in the bed of the old canal. It was pumped by the Municipal Gas Company, but breaks in the line allowed the naphtha to escape into adjoining sewers. When the sewers became saturated with gas it escaped into the mills and exploded there, and afterwards in the sewers in the streets, throwing out manhole covers and tearing up roadways. The amount of damage cannot be calculated at this hour. Two or three of the finest mills in the city, with their contents, are doomed, and several streets and sewers are more or less damaged. In the intervals for the first half hour that people were deterred from getting anywhere near the fire.

It is not known how many persons were at work, or how many escaped. One man was seen to jump from a frequent story window of one of the buildings to the river bank below, a distance of fifty feet; his right leg was broken and he received a severe internal injury.

The walls of the Jefferson mill fell in about 4 o'clock, and it is feared there are several men buried under them. The engineer of the Clinton mill, with two companions, were standing near the front of the mill when the explosion occurred. They retained sufficient presence of mind to shut off the steam and get out of the mill. Several persons were at work in the Clinton mill, four of whom escaped through the water wheel.

WEST INDIES. Heavy Northern—The Worst Experienced in Twenty Years—Seventy Vessels Wrecked and Many Lives Lost.

By Telegram to the Morning Star.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—The British steamer Samana, which arrived here today from Cape Hayti, reports that a heavy "norther" swept over the West Indies on the 6th, 7th and 8th instants, causing much damage. In all, some seventy vessels were wrecked. A coasting schooner, name unknown, capsized while making Cape Haytien, and this vessel, with her crew, was drowned. The British steamer Villa was caught in the gale, and eight of her crew were washed overboard and drowned. Two others were washed overboard, but were swept back on board the vessel by another wave. The vessel was badly damaged.

The British man-of-war Wrangler arrived at Turks Island on the 7th badly damaged by the storm. The French vessel Chasseur arrived at Cape Haytien on the 8th with her main and mizzen masts gone.

In the harbor of Monte Cristo a dozen vessels were driven ashore. The Samana was caught in the storm while entering the port of Puerto Plata and had to return to port for safety. The storm was the worst experienced in twenty years.

On the 4th instant, at Baracoa, during a tremendous norther, a couple of heavy rollers entered the harbor, and the houses and destroyed about three hundred huts and houses, but no lives were lost, as the people saw them coming and got out of the way.

CHICAGO MARKET REVIEW. The Cold Wave Forces Up Prices of Grain—Provisions a Trifle Higher.

By Telegram to the Morning Star.

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—Brokers on 'Change, at the opening today, used the fact that the severe cold wave was hovering over the winter wheat region, threatening to hurt the crop, to force up prices of grain. May wheat, which closed yesterday at 82c, opened at 84c and went to 84c immediately, but it drifted into a quiet market and closed at 84c, then up to 84c and back down to 84c. May corn opened higher, at 54c, and prices hung around 54c and 54c, and on some heavy buying went up to 54c, later dropping down to 54c and 54c. May pork opened 20c higher, at \$15.75, on light arrivals of hogs. Heavy selling by two big operators sent it down to \$15.57, and at the end of the first hour it held firm at \$15.60 to \$15.62. Before 1 o'clock it was up again to \$15.70.

KENTUCKY. Four Persons Killed at Railroad in Mount Sterling.

By Telegram to the Morning Star.

MOUNT STERLING, Dec. 21.—Last evening four persons were killed at the crossing of the Newport News and Mississippi Valley Railroad, and the West Virginia and Owingville Turnpike. Ernest Stone and Dudley Mays, of Owingville, who had been attending court, got into a carriage with two negro women. All were intoxicated. When they reached the crossing they paid no attention to the crossing, the engineer of which was unable to stop them, and the carriage was driven directly in front of the engine. One of the men and one woman were killed instantly; the others were fatally injured, dying in a few hours.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC R. R. Rates Advanced in Compliance with the Inter-State Commerce Law.

By Telegram to the Morning Star.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 21.—The Southern Pacific Railroad will today in compliance with the Inter-State Commerce law, give notice of an advance in first-class rates to points beyond the Missouri river. St. Louis, Memphis, New Orleans and Cairo. Limited first-class tickets will now be sold. The advance in rates to points beyond the Missouri river, and the old emigrant third-class rate now corresponds with the new second-class rate. First-class rates will now be: Memphis, \$67.50; Mobile, \$87.50; Atlanta, \$96.25; New Orleans, \$88.50; Richmond, \$94.40, and Vicksburg, \$87.50.

GEORGIA. A Sensational Runaway Marriage at Rome.

By Telegram to the Morning Star.

ROME, Dec. 21.—To-day a boy fifteen years old and a girl only thirteen, ran away and were married by Rev. F. M. Owell, minister of the Congregational Methodist Church. The father of the youthful bride had her husband arrested and locked up on the charge of abduction, but the girl, who was subsequently given up by her father, was released. The priest had created a sensation here, and the preacher will probably be arrested.

FLORIDA.

Yellow Fever Officially Declared an Epidemic at Jacksonville.

By Telegram to the Morning Star.

JACKSONVILLE, Dec. 21.—The Times-Union announces that the epidemic of yellow fever in Tampa has been officially declared an epidemic. There have been 20 cases reported there in two or three weeks. Surrounding counties removed their cordons several days ago, but refugees were forbidden by the Tampa city council to return until all danger was past and the city had been thoroughly disinfected and put in good sanitary condition. Trains with sleeping cars attached now run as they did before the epidemic, making connection with coastwise steamers for Key West and Havana. There is no semblance of any contagious or epidemic disease in Florida or the islands of the State.

The Sub-Tropical Exposition will open January 12, and is expected to be the finest exhibition of the kind ever attempted in America. It is a grand and beautiful one, and the coming season promises to be bristling with thrills.

RICHMOND & DANVILLE. Stockholders Meeting—Election of Officers.

By Telegram to the Morning Star.

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 21.—The meeting of stockholders of the Richmond & Danville Railroad was held this afternoon. George L. Scott, of New York, was elected president; also, the directors chosen by the Terminal Company and telegraphed from New York last evening. The annual report of the president was submitted and referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Sully, G. T. Stone, J. H. Inman and J. A. Rutherford, to be printed and distributed. The report was taken to New York to-night and none of it was given out here for publication.

ELECTRIC SPARKS. Dr. James L. Cabell, professor of Physiology and Surgery in the University of Virginia, completed yesterday fifty years of professional work in the University.

His colleagues and pupils of former years from all parts of the United States presented him with a handsome testimonial. Secretary Whitney, who is now in New York, has instructed Commodore Gherard, in command of the New York Navy Yard, to send a naval vessel, probably the Dolphin, on a cruise after the enormous raft from Nova Scotia, now adrift in the path of the Atlantic coast.

The General Assembly of Virginia met in joint session yesterday for the purpose of announcing the result of the election for U. S. Senator. John S. Barbour having received a majority of the votes cast, was declared duly elected to succeed Senator Riddleberger March 4th, 1889. The General Assembly adjourned yesterday until January 4th next.

While furnishing breakfast to prisoners in the county jail at Waynesville, Missouri, yesterday morning, Arthur Waterman and George Boyders, two prisoners held for safe-keeping and robbery, overpowered jailer Ross, forced him into a cell and made a bold break for liberty. Ross fired his revolver at the escaping prisoners, instantly killing Waterman, Boyders making good his escape.

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE OF THE NORTH.—The following is an extract from a letter written to the German Reform Journal at Chambersburg, Penn.: A Bremer woman, just seen the door for her, and Mrs. Winslow will prove the American Florence Nightingale of the North. Of this we are sure, that we will teach our "nurses" to do nothing less than to help her to survive and escape the griping, colicking, and teething stage. Mrs. Winslow's Secret Recipe relieves the child from pain, and cures dysentery and diarrhea. It softens the gums, reduces inflammation, cures colic, and causes the infant to sleep peacefully. It performs precisely what it is intended to do. It is a physical and moral power we would make her, as she is, a physical and moral power to the infant race. Sold by all druggists, 25 cents a bottle.

CASH HOUSE. M. M. KATZ, 116 Market St.

BESIDES THE MANY BARGAINS ADVERTISED SO FAR THIS SEASON, WE WILL OFFER THE FOLLOWING SPECIALTIES THIS WEEK.

A lot of COLORED CASHMERE 5 cents per yard.

Three-quarter FLANNEL DRESS GOODS, worth 30 cents for 15 cents.

Extra heavy RIBB, worth 30 cents for 15c.

Great Reductions IN WRAPS, NEW MARKETS, JACKETS.

We will give our patrons the benefit of LOW PRICES in season, and not wait till the season is over.

1,000 Jerseys From \$1 Up.

One lot of JERSEYS in Colors and Black, worth \$2.00, only \$1.35.

BLANKETS, good value, from \$1 up.

By Steamer this week another lot of those 40c ENGLISH CASHMERE for 25 cents.

Many Novelties for the Holidays.

HANDKERCHIEFS, GLOVES, HOSIERY, Fancy Articles at almost any price, at M. M. KATZ'S, 116 Market St.

5,000 Cocoanuts, 50 BBL. APPLES, 100 BOXES RAISINS, 100 Boxes Fire-Crackers, 100 Boxes Cheese, 100 Boxes Crackers, 75 Boxes Fancy Candy, Spirit Cakes, etc., etc.

THIS PAPER is published by M. M. Katz, at No. 116 Market St., Wilmington, N. C.

COMMERCIAL.

WILMINGTON MARKET. STAR OFFICE, Dec. 21, 6 P. M.

COTTON—Market quoted firm. Sales of 800 bales at 19 1/2 to 20 cents for Middling. Quotations at the Produce Exchange were as follows:

Ordinary.....7 7-16 "D. Good Ordinary.....8 " " " Low Middling.....9 " " " Middling.....10 " " " Good Middling.....10 1/2 " " "

DOMESTIC MARKETS. Financial. NEW YORK, Dec. 21, Evening.—Sterling exchange dull and steady. Money easy at 4 1/2 per cent. Government securities dull and steady; four per cent 120 1/2; three per cent 108. State bonds dull but steady; North Carolina issues 118; four 94.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21, Evening.—Cotton dull, with sales to-day of 116 bales; middling uplands 10 9-16 cents; middling Orleans 10 11-16 cents; net receipts to-day at all U. S. ports 24,384 bales; exports to Great Britain 6,815 bales; France 1,100 bales; to continent 8,157 bales; stock at all U. S. ports 24,384 bales. Southern flour quiet. Wheat—options advanced 1/4c early, later fell back 1/4c, closing steady; spot lots 1 1/2 higher but lifelike; No. 2 red December 90c; January 90 1/2c; May 94 1/2-95c; Corn—about 1/2c better all around; trade very slack; No. 2 December nominal; January 61 1/2c; May 62 1/2c. Oats all higher and rather quiet; No. 2 December 58 1/2c; January 58 1/2c; May 58 1/2c; mixed western 57 1/2c. Hops quiet and steady. Coffee—spot fair; Rio firm; options more active and higher; No. 7 Rio December 16 00/100; No. 11 Rio 16 00/100; No. 13 Rio 16 00/100