The News and Observer.

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LARGEST GIRG THE

PROSPEROUS YEAR

REPORTS OF ALL CHURCHES IN THE CONFERENCE ARE ENCOURAGING.

FIVE THOUSAND CONVERSIONS

Annual Meeting of the Conference Historical Society and Dr. Bassett's Able Paper on the Nature and Problems of the Work of the Society -- Dr. Hoss' Talk About the Trials of an Editor The Christian Advocate Matter Still Unsettled.

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., Dec. 13.-(Special)—The third day of the N. C. Conference opened with devo-tional services conducted by Rev. R. P. Troy. Many reports from pastoral charges were received. These reports show that the year ahs been a prosper-ous one with the churches. It is estimated that there have been about five thousand conversions during the year, but the statistical report is not yet complete.

After a very animated debate lasting one hour and a half, Rev. Jno. T. Aber-nathy was re-addmitted into the con-

Rev. Dr. Law, of the American Bible Society was introduced to the confer ence and made an interesting state ment about the work of the Society.

Rev. Dr. Hoss, editor of the Nashville Christian Advocate, was presented to the conference. Dr. Hoss spoke at some length concerning the great or-gan of the Southern Methodist Church. Dr. Hoss is editing one of the ablest religious journals n America, a paper that every Southern Meth-odist can be justly proud of. Dr. Hoss remarks were in a very happy vein. Dr. Hoss said that he had come to the editorial chair of Southern Methodism without having had any previous ex-perience in conducting a public journal. He had served in nearly every oth-er office from plowing a one-eyed mule upon a poor farm in Tennessee to a professorship in a great university, and yet he was a stranger to the edi-torial chair. The Doctor said that the hardest place he had ever been in is that of the editor's chair. He told of the old Kentucky brother who wrote him that he did not believe he was anything but an old whiskey Democrat, and that he wanted him to stop his paper. The doctor said there could a more intense temperance ad vocate living than he was, but that he did not believe a great paper ought to did not believe a great paper ought to be run just on one line. You can't whip the devil out of the world by shaking a tin pan in his face. The doe-tor made pleasant reference to the Bish-ops of the church. He said he had known each one of them personally during the last thirty years, and that he had not known one who was not a cultured Southern Christian gentle-man, but that some of their contribu-tions sometimes found a home in the tions sometimes found a home in the

waste-basket. The Conference unanimously passed a resolution stating its hearty endorse ment of Dr. Kilgo's position on Chris tian education.

tian education. The report of the special committee appointed at the last year's Conference to select one of the editors of the North Carolina Christian Advocate was submitted as follows:

"After confere he with the present

plies with full force to young men pre-paring to teach. If they can get it they need secular as well as religious his tory. History is a unit. Our ideas must be no smaller than life, and life

"Our preachers have a great oppor-tunity to guide culture. As a layman on whose head has weighed heavily the

problems of our society, I beg you to put your finger on the culture life of our country. Hallow it with the Christ ideal. No people can rise superior to its priests. Show me ideals of your literature and I will tell you the influence of your priests. It is a fearful thing when our writers have lost the purposes of religious conviction. Literature and art ought to be the embodiment of conscience. "So much for the abstract side of my

subject. Let me cite you some advan-tages to be derived from this society. (1) It will teach self-culture. (2) It (1) It will teach schedule. (2) It will tend to make us cosmopolitan in thought. (3) It will teach us to ap-preciate the present. (4) It will en-courage the reading and writing habit. (5) More than all, it will cultivate in us the love of the past. Let us love his-tory for its own sake. If it yield me nothing in return, then will I love it for the mere sake of loving it."

The following were mentioned as some of the needs of the historical society: (1) A deep and broad historical spirit. (2) The desire to realize life as an object. (3) The preservation of the lives of the great men of the past. (4) The habit of collecting materials. (5) The establishment of an historical mueum. (6) The publication of an an-tual collection of historical papers in distinct volume.

The speaker then alluded to the fact that the spot on which the Conference s met is historic soil in North Caro-ina. He hoped that the spirit of the lace might infuse the whole member-hip of the society with happy results he future

Rev. Dr. Rone was re-elected president of the society. Rev. T. N. Ivey secretary, Rev. W. H. Moore was elect-ed to prepare a paper on the life of Rev. Hezekiah Leigh to be read at the next meeting of the society.

At night the church extension ciety held its annual meeting.

CONFERENCE NOTES.

When Rev. J. H. Page made the report of Aberdeen circuit, he stated that it was a unique charge, unlike any other that he had ever heard of in Southern Methodism, in that it was forty-four miles long and one hundred yards wide. At the close of Mr. Page's report, which was a very fine one, Rev. J. N. Cole arose and made pleasant mention of Mr. Page by say-ing that a very cultured gentleman of Raleigh said he rarely left his own church to go elsewhere to services, unless it was announced that John C. Kilgo or Jesse H. Page was to preach in some other pulpit.

When Dr. Yates was presenting the When Dr. Yates was presenting the case of a young preacher on his dis-trict, he stated that the only objection he had heard to him was that he was rather diffident. The Bishop replied, "Can't you get some of the brethren to divide out with him?" (Laughter). When the report of a young preacher from Dr. Gibbs' district was being con-sidered by the Conference. Dr. Yates sidered by the Conference, Dr. Yates asked if he had any cranky notions in his head. Dr. Gibbs arose and said that they did not produce cranks in his country, but that they seemed to abound in Dr. Yates' section.

TO REPEAL THE WALTON LAW. Another Bill Providing a New Election Law for Virginia.

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 13 .- The feat ure of the legislative proceedings to-day was a bill introduced by Senator Wickham, regulating elections ballots and repealing the Walton law.

The distinct features of the bill are the requirements for the ballots to be uniform, requiring the same size of type to be used for all candidates; prescribing how ballots shall be printed; making special provisions for presidential electors and for cases wherein constitutional amendments are sub mitted to the popular vote.

Another distinctive feature is that is made the duty of the judge of a county, when the electoral board meets, to stamp the ballots with a eal, to cause to be delivered to th clerk of the county a sample ballot, which shall be placed upon file for ex-amination by the public, it being made the duty of the clerk to attend to this

The bill also provides that there shall not be less than one booth for every one hundred voters registered at a vot ing place, also provides careful and full directions for making ballots. Another feature is that the special constable is abolished, and in lieu is given the following provision: "Any voter may call to his aid any qualified elector in the same district who may retire to one of the booths with him and there mark his ballot for him; but no such person shall so mark the ballots of more than one voter at any one elec tion, and the judges of elections shall keep upon the poll books a memorandum in writing of the names of each and every one of such persons so assisted, specifying the name of the elec tor so assisting.

Violation of this provision is made a misdemeanor and penalty consists of a fine and imprisonment. A duplicate of this bill was offered in the house by Mr. Winston.

BIDS FOR CARRYING THF MAIL.

The Contract- Will be Awarded De cember 21 for tour Years.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.- (Special, Bids were opened at the Postoffice Department to-day for carrying the mails in various Southern cities, by covered regulation wagon, mail mes senger, transfer and mail station ser B. H. Colgrove, of Washington, Nec. B. H. Colgrove, of Washington, was the lowest bidder for Asheville, N. C., \$490 and Charlotte, N. C., \$638; Greensboro, N. C., S. G. Profitt, \$538; Raleigh, N. C., E. A. Clifton, \$587; Wil-mington, N. C., William J. Meredith; Tomahawk, N. C., \$744. The contracts doubtless will be concluded by for D.

varded before December 21st and the bids per year for the four years be ginning July 1st next. K. G. Starke was to-day appointed postmaster at Townsville, N. C., vice

W. B. Thomas resigned.

THE STATE BANK TAX.

The People of Geor, ia Will Test Its Con-titutionality.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 13 .- The Geor gia Legislature has opened the way for a test of the constitutionality of the ten per cent tax on State bank notes The Calvin banking act, passed at a former session, has been amended so that within a short time some public spirited citizens of this State will es-

PANIC AT STAMBOUL IT WAS CAUSED BY A PRIVATE QUARREL BETWEEN TWO ARMENIANS.

PLANS FOR SENDING THEM RELIEF The People Were Unable to Learn the

Real fause of the Disturbance and Fled to Their Houses Believing That Another Massacre Was in Progress--Serious Outbreaks Threatened at Galata and Pera--Relief Work of the Red Cross Society.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 12 .-- Via Sofia, Dec. 13.—There was a distur-bance at Stamboul to-day and it aused the spread of rumors so alarm ing that Galata and Pera were soon in a state of panic, and serious outbreaks were threatened. This in view of the passage through the Dardanelles o the British gunboat Dryad and the Italian gunboat Archimede, the extra guardships for the British and Italian embassies, formed the basis for the re port that the rioting predicted by the Yildiz Kiosk, courtiers, had actually commenced but happily the trouble was not of a serious nature, although the Armenians, as usual, are accused of having attempted to bring about an prising of the populace. The panic this morning, however,

and is striking evidence of the nervous-ness and apprehension which prevail here as one of the results of the long drawn out negotiations between the powers and the Sultan regarding the suppression of the outbreaks in Asiatic Turkey and the admittance of the extra guardships into the Bosphorus. The least note of alarm now suffices to produce widespread terror, and if proof was needed that the powers are right in their insistance upon having additional protection for the foreign population of Constantinople and its vicinity it was furnished by the occur rences of to-day. Simmered down to

bare facts, the cause of the panic was, on the face of it, a fierce quarrel be tween two Armenians in the Stamboul quarter during which they came to blows. Finally, one of the Armenians drew a revolver and fired at his oppo-neut. The shot was the signal for an aproar, a stampede of the spectators and eventually a panic which spread ar and wide, from one end of the city to the other, from one quarter to an other, until matters began to look

serions indeed. The Armenians and other Christians very terrified by the shouting and yelling, the rushing here and there of exciting crowds naturally imagined that a fresh massacre had commenced. They hurriedly closed their shops and houses, barricaded the doors and win dows, concealed their most valuable belongings in various ways and made all the preparations possible for defense.

Crowds of people, male and female, old and young, were seized with terror which grew in strength as time wore on and the confusion increased. Peo-ple fled hither and thither aimlessly. helplessly, apparently unaware what they were doing, not knowing what had actually happened, but with the general impression that a mas omewhere From Stamboul the wave of terror wept to Galata and Pera carried onward by the panic-stricken fugitive from the first named quarter, who were evidently under the impression that they were fleeing for their lives. The inhabitants of Galata quickly caught the fever of alarm and in turn shut their stores and houses and joined in the scene of confusion, an which was promptly followed by the

Barton, president and treasurer of the American Red Cross, Washington D. C "Authorized agents to receive funds and materials will be published in a

and materials will be published in a few days. "The Red Cross also suggests that goods, grain and other material may be sent by chartered steamers. (Signed) "Am. National Red Cross, "CLARA BARTON, President."

The society has had this plan of re

ief under consideration for some time. but, it is stated, was reluctant to as sume the dangers and responsibilities avolved. Miss Barton feels that it will be the most extensive relief work even undertaken. Letters and telegrams have come from all directions urging that the work be undertaken. Rev. F D. Green, the writer on Turkish ques-tions, the heads of missionary and relief bodies, editors of leading Christian papers, as well as public men and pri-vate individuals, have asked that the Red Cross assume the duties of distributing the funds.

IT WAS A MODERN VENICE

The City of Norfelk Floeded by Terriffic Northeast Gale.

NORFOLK, Va., Dec. 13 .- The ter rific northeast gales raging in this re gion for the past week reached a climax at an early hour this morning. When the residents of the lower sec tion of the city awoke they were confronted with raging rivers in front of their doors, where formerly had been avenues of traffic. On York street the chapel of "Our Lady of Good Counsel" was entirely surrounded by water. Row-boats traveled up and down Cove street almost to the police station. The Queen street bridge leading to Brambleton, a populous suburb, was flooded above the roadway, and the toll-bridge to Atlantic City was awash with tide water. At the corner of Clay and Queen streets a saloon-keeper's stock of whiskey stored in his cellar was afloat, and all along the water front business houses were flooded to the depth of two feet on the first floors.

The weather bureau here has issued warnings to detain all shipping in the harbor. Only two vessels cleared from here to-day, and they are reported to have anchored in Hampton Roads. Many small boats have gone adrift along the Elizabeth river and its branches, and fears are entrtained of the beaching of several large vessels reported just outside of this port.

A fierce wind storm swept the city about nine o'clock to-night, doing great damage throughout the suburbs On the Main street signs were blown down, and in the residence section window blinds were torn from their fastenings. The temperature has gone lown several degrees and the weather

No news can be had of Preside Clevland. The telegraph wires are down between here and Hatteras and no vessels have arrived from the Caro-lina sounds, owing to the heavy gales. Old sea-dogs say that the Violet could not possibly live if she should attempt o leave the refuge of the dangerously flooded marshy districts where she was last heard from. The present whereabouts of the Chief Executive of the United States is veiled in as great a mystery as if he had passed across the river Styx. Beyond the reach of man, wing to the all-powerful elements, he be dead, or h may be at death' may be dead, or he may b at death's duckling leg, but of all this no mortal outside of his own shooting coterie can be positive.

AND STILL NO COMMITTEES.

The Speaker Will Not Give Them Ou Till Next Week.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 .- Speaker Reed did not appear at the capitol to-day and it was announced that he had remained at his hotel to work on the formation of the committees. It has been quictly hinted about that Mr. Reed will not give out the committees until the end of next week and that immediately thereafter Congress will adjourn for the Christmas holidays. This being the programme quite a number of members see no necessity for remaining in Washington longer and several of them, including Mr. Hopkins, of Illinois, will return to their homes this week.

Although nothing seems to be abso lutely known concerning the chair-manships of the leading committees over which there is a contest the im-pression continues to grow stronger daily that Mr. Dingley, of Maine, will be chairman of Ways and Means, instead of Mr. Payne, of New York, who ten days ago was supposed to be slated for leadership of majority on the flor. This week Mr. Dingley has been rec-ognized by the speaker to make the motions which naturally devolve upon the floor leader and this with other circumstances are accepted as almost, though not quite conclusive evidence that he is to be chairman of Ways and Means.

Mr. Miliken and Mr. Boutelle, of Maine, are also in line for chairmanships, the former being the ranking member on Public Buildings and Grounds and the latter of Naval Affairs. In the Fifty-first Congress all three headed committees

Almost as much uncertainity exists concerning the chairmanship of Ap-propriations committee as Ways and Means. Next to the latter it is the most important committee in the House. The contest lies between Gen. Henderson, of Colorado, the ranking member, and Mr. Cannon, of Illinois. The chairmanships of the following committees seem to be almost certain: Foreign Affairs, Hitt, of Illinois; Judiciary, W. A.-Stone, of Pennsylvania; Pacific Railroads, Powers, of Vermont; Banking and Currency, Walker, of Massachusetts; Inter-State Commerce, Hepburn, of Iowa; Elections (which will probably be divided), Daniels, of New York, and Naval Affairs, Boutelle, of Maine

SPAIN'S CABINET CRISIS.

The Policy of That Country Toward Cuba Not Affected.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—In diplo-matic circles here it is said that the cabinet crisis in Spain will have no ef-fect on the policy of Spain toward Cuba, nor in any way affect the diplo-matic or general questions. The crisis is due to a local contast in

The crisis is due to a local contest in Madrid, into which some of the cabinet ministers have been drawn. It is pos-sible that the resignation of the Minister of Justice might result in exe-cuting the plan of Cuban reforms soon-er than had been contemplated. These reforms giving limited autonomy to Cuba, were adopted last March, but the present Minister of Justice has with-held their execution because the island was in rebellion. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has had no part in the local contest in Madrid, so that his retirement will not occur under any circumstances

editors, the committee was unable to come to any agreement, two members of the committee concurring in the plans of the present editors and two members non-concurring. Your com-mittee is therefore unable to advise any line of action to the Conference in this matter."

The report was referred to the committee on books and periodicals. In the afternoon the Conference His

torical Society held its annual meet-A paper of rare merit was read ing. by Professor Bassett, of Trinity Col-

Dr. Bassett's subject was the "Na ture and Problems of the Work of the Historical Society." He said:

"Some how the thought is to-day filling the minds of our continent that the South is entering on a period of new life. The intuition of the world is aglow with the idea of Southern development. In industrial lines the beginnings of the process are easily to be discovered. There are many of that are anxiously looking for the dawn also of an intellectual renaissance. Such a movement can never come till the common intellectual forces of our community shall realize the great ideas of those that long for The historical work of the South will be greatly benefitted by such a movement. It has been wofully neglected, in both religious and civil life As a solitary hut in a desert, as the single house of the poet that looked over the ruins of desolated Thebes, so the few historical books we hav produced. I come to you to beseech you that we may all consecrate ourelves to the study of the past, so that in our new problems our strengthened hands may be directed by wiser heads and sweeter spirits.

'We need a consciousness of the pas because: (1.) It will keep us from rush ing into ideas of social functions that not in keeping with the individu alistic spirit of our people and our old leaders. (2.) It will give us culture Culture means the equal developmen of the intellectual and spiritual side from sin, to free human hearts from base tendencies, to give from base tendencies, to give us the dominion of the sou over the body, and to reveal in its love liness the purity of a god-like spirit-this is doing good; this is also true culture. History will give this, for in scope it is as broad as humanity. To master it broadens the soul till it embraces the life of the world. This ap- diligent pastor, a deeply pious man.

Also Mr. N. M. Lawrence, the Super-intendent of the Oxford Orphans' Home. Mr. Lawrence is doing a great and benevolent work which is dear to the hearts of all good people and of the Methodists in particular

Rev. Dr. Brooks and Rev. Dr.Groome, of the Western North Carolina Confer ence, were also presented to the Con ference.

A large part of the ministry of Dr. Brooks has been given to fields braced in our Conference. Dr. Brooks justly ranks as one of the most learned and accomplished ministers North Carolina. He is a man of great head, and of great heart; and is ten derly beloved by a large company o friends in many parts of the State.

Elizabeth City is giving the Confer-ence a cordial and hospitable entertainment. They have welcomed their new pastors with that grace that shows how greatly they esteemed those faithful men of an adjoining conference that wrought among them in former years. It is a delightful ex perience of our preachers to hear how the Virginia Conference pastors are tenderly beloved by the good people of this section It assures them of kind treatment at their hands.

Rev. J. H. Hall, pastor of the church here, has had a fine year's work. The membership of this church has stood by him and given him their constant co-operation, and pastor and people have been happy in the work they have wrought. Dr. Hall is giving every at-tention to the comfort of the Conference. He is one of the popular young preachers of this body.

The Ecclesiastical orders of Rev. M. L. Miller were recognized by the Con-ference. Rev. Mr. Miller came from the Baptist church to the Methodist church, and he takes his place as a local preacher in the Methodist church. While his case was being considered, Rev. Dr. Betts asked if he had any children. Dr. Black replied, "Yes, but children. Dr. Black replied, "Tex, but he is not applying to join the itiner-ancy." "But I want to know," said Dr. Betts, "if he has his children baptized." "Oh, yes," said Dr. Black. (Laughter.) Rev. W. L. Cuninggim made the re-port from Fifth Street Methodist church, Wilmington. He has done a hard year's work, under great difficulties at this important point. His peo-ple have made a record of liberality and devotion to their church that is truly commendable. Mr. Cuninggim combines three elements of a success-ful preacher: He is a close student, a

tablish a bank and issue notes for the express purpose of trying the State bank tax issue in the courts. Many able lawyers who have given the subject close study are convinced that this tax is unconstitutional and some of them will vounteer to defend in the courts an issue of State bank notes. The case will attract the attention of the whole country.

SHOT FROM AMBUSH.

• YOUNGSVILLE, N. C., Dec. 13. (Special)—Last night about 8 o'clock Mr. J. T. Harris, Jr., was shot and bad-ly wounded while sitting at home by the fire. His mother had just moved away from him. It seems that the assassin had waited for her to move Fifteen large shot hit him in the face and on the head, one or two going through the skull. It is the same Harris that was engaged in the shooting of O'Bryant last spring. Harris is doing very well, so the physician says No arrests have been made.

FIVE KILLED BY A TRAIN.

GREENVILLE, Ohio, Dec. 13 .-- Oliver Hammond, his wife and three children were killed at a crossing on the Dayton and Union railway, seven mile from this city, while they were cross ing the track in an inclosed vehicle and did not hear an approaching pas senger train. The train struck the carriage and all were instantly killed. Mrs. Hammond and two of the children were literally ground to pieces.

JUDGE THOMAS NUGENT DYING.

FORT WORTH, Texas, Dec. 13. Judge Thomas Nugent, the leader of and twice the candidate of the Populists of this State for Governor, who has been prominently mentioned with the presidential nomination in 1896 on the Populist ticket, is dying a his home in this city with diabetes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 .- Brevet Brigadier General William B. Royal United States Army, retired, died at his residence in this city to-day, aged 75 years. He was born in Virginia in 1825, served with distinction in the Mexican and civil wars.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 .- The Post office Department has been notified of the arrest of Turner Holderby at Greensboro, N. C., charged with stealing registered letters.

people of the Pera quarter. Seeing people fleeing through the streets in terror caused others to do the same until the air was filled with excited cries and the noise of a rush-ing multitude. Those who did not join in the stampede barricaded themselves

within their houses and prepared to see their most horrible fears realized. Evidently the police regained their presence of mind and, desirous of putting an end to the panic, they circu lated the report that the stampede from the Stamboul quarter was occasioned by the escape of a lion from a managerie and that the animal having been killed there was no occasion for any further alarm. This report, as good as any other under the circumstances, spread quickly and the disturbance began to subside. Finally the gendarmes circulated among the peo ple and explained to them the real state of affairs which has caused the majority to return to their occupation somewhat disgusted at having been so needlessly frightened.

THE WORK OF RELIEF.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.-The Amer ican Red Cross Society has decided to accept the duty of distributing the re lief funds for the Armenian sufferers nd has issued the following state nent:

"Owing to the unanimous and un gent appeals from the friends of hu manity, representing nearly all the people of this country, the American Red Cross Society has decided that is must accept the sacred trust of endea voring to relieve the starving Arme oians in Asia Minor. According to conservative estimates, there are 350, 00 utterly destitute people in that ountry who will have to be assisted ix or eight months (until the next

"Fully realizing the difficulties and langers to be met, the Red Cross will start for Turkey as soon as sufficient funds are placed at its disposal, or "Funds may be sent to Miss Clara be discharged,

WEEKLY COTTON STATEMENT

For December the Loss From Las Year Has Been 259,000 Bales.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 13.-Secreta y Hester's weekly New Orleans cottor xchange statement shows a falling of cotton movement in sight compared with the seven days ending this date last year in round figures at 112,000 For the 13 days of December bales the total show a loss from last year of

For the 104 days of the season that have elapsed, the aggregate is behind the 104 days of last year, 1,683,977. The amount brought into sight during the past week has been 322,408 bales a gainst 434,333 for the seven days ending this date last year and for the I days of December is has been 607,080 this year against 865,830 last year the 104 days from Sept. 1 to date These make the total movement for 4,184,181, against 5,868,158 las year. The movement since September 1, show receipts at all United States ports 2, 896,570 against 4,435,128 last year. Foreign exports for the week have been 183,947 against 276,240 last year, mak ing the total thus far for the season 1,803,522 against 2,795,134 last year, or a decrease of 991,612.

HOUSESHITH'S STRIKE ENDED.

It Resulted in a Complete Victory for the Iron League.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 .- The strike of the Housesmiths, which commenced on November 18, has terminated in lecided victory for the Iron League An agreement has been signed by J. B. and J. M. Cornell and company, and the United Housesmiths' and Bridge-men's Union, the latter retracting its lemands for recognition by the Iron

League, and an increase of 25 cents in wage scale.

The terms of the agreement will not be made public, either by the leaders of the strike or the Cornell people. Of the 109 men who quit work on the Sie-Of gel, Cooper and company building at 108th street and Sixth avenue, when the strike began only about fifty will be taken back. The non-union men now employed on the building will not

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

A Meeting of the Committee Called for January 16.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 13.-W. F. Harrity, chairman of the Democratic National committee, this afternoon requested the secretary of the committee to notify the members thereof to assemble in Washington on January 16th next, for the purpose of selecting the time and place for holdng the next Democratic National convention.

Chairman Harrity has received letters from commercial bodies in fifty cities urging the National committee to select a late date for the convention. Business people contend that a long campaign unsettles trade and they therefore want the political battle made as short as possible. It is believed that a date not later than the middle of July will be selected.

HALF MILLION DOLLAR FIRE.

COUNCIL BLUFF, Iowa, Dec. 13 .-Fire in the elevator and wholesale district to-night caused a total loss ex-ceeding half a million dollars. The principal losses are: Deere-Weles implement company, all implements and building, covering a half block. \$200,000; Shugart, White and Weiss implements, \$200,000; Empkie and Suchart, hardware, \$100,000; Iowa Barbed Wire Fence Company, \$100,000.

FILIBUSTERS ACQUITTED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 .- The State Department received a dispatch to-day stating that the twenty-one Cubans on trial in Nassau on the charge of conducting a filibustering expedition from this country were acquitted after a trial lasting only ten minutes. This s the same party arrested at Wilmington, Del., and acquitted after an exciting trial.

LYNCHING STILL FEARED.

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 13 .- The Lunenburg prisoners will certainly not be taken to that county for trial until the January term of the court. When they go Gov. O'Ferrall is sure to send military for he has every reason to believe that the granting of a second trial has so angered the people of Lunen-burg that they will lynch the man and women.