

CONGRESSMEN GATHER.

The President's Message is Ready—Cabinet Guests.

Special to the Press-Visitor.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4, 1896.

The white house is about the only place in Washington one can go now without meeting one or more senators and representatives. Secretary Olney has been overrun with congressional callers, especially since the circulation of the rumor that he had a short time ago notified the government of Spain that this government intended to bring about peace in Cuba if the revolution was not put down in three months, all anxious to know the exact status of Cuban matters.

Members of the senate and house foreign committees are said to have received some definite information but to all the rest it was stated in general terms that no immediate change was contemplated in the policy of the administration towards Cuba, and it is expected that the President's message will treat the matter in about the same style. The other members of the cabinet have also had numerous congressional callers, some on business for their constituents and some merely to pay a friendly visit; but President Cleveland has not had much of his time taken up by them and is not likely to have.

The President's message is already to be sent to Congress, and the usual precautions have been taken to prevent its premature publication. It is fair to judge from the contents of that document this year, these precautions were hardly necessary. It will, of course, be printed as a matter of news when it goes to Congress, but it is doubtful whether an advance copy of it could be sold to any paper in the country, not because of the belief that it will be less interesting than Mr. Cleveland's previous messages, but because of the knowledge that the situation in Congress is such that no matter how wise or how important the recommendations or the message may be there is no possibility of their being carried out by legislation at the present session.

There are all classes of men in most professions, but the increase of men who conduct their business upon the gross goods man's theory, that "a new sucker is born every minute" in the ranks of the patent solicitors has aroused the honorable patent lawyers to the necessity of taking some action that will protect the inventors of the country and their own profession from the degradation and demoralization of the methods adopted to cajole money from the pockets of the inventors without any intention of giving any equitable returns therefor.

Under present laws and rules the Commissioner of Patents can do nothing to protect either the honest patent lawyer or the inventor, except in cases of the most flagrant nature, and then it must come under his personal notice after an application has been filed in the Patent Office; but it is thought that a Patent Bar to a proper extent under the jurisdiction of Commissioner of Patents could easily compel the lottery patent solicitors and the delusive circular patent solicitors to either reform their methods or get out of the business. In either case the inventors and the honest patent lawyers would be gainers.

LET DEMOCRATS IN

County Commissioners Declared Incompetent

IN WARREN COUNTY.

By Five Citizens—Attorney Goes to Bryson City to Get Judge Bryan to Issue a Mandamus

At the recent election, Warren county elected three county commissioners under provision of the new election law. The commissioners elected, are W. B. Fleming, Wm Gardner and J. Hall, and they take the oath of office Monday next. Two members of the board are republicans and Hall is a colored man. Five citizens of the county have sworn to a statement to the effect that they believe the board recently elected is incapable of administering the affairs of the county, and they also petition Judge Bryan, the resident judge, to appoint two additional commissioners of a different political faith of the majority of the board.

Two hundred electors and 125 free holders petition the judge to appoint Messrs. Marmaduke Hawkins and P. H. Allen, democrats, whom the petitioners state are men of means and have served in the same capacity in former years. Mr. J. H. Kerr, a prominent young attorney of Warrenton was in the city today on his way to Bryson City, beyond Asheville where Judge Bryan is holding court, in order to secure a mandamus for the appointment of Messrs. Allen and Hawkins.

The course pursued by the electors in Warren is in accordance with an act of the laws of '95, which gives them full power to do so. The law requires application to be made before the resident judge, who in this instance is Judge Bryan, and well advised attorneys say that there is only one course open to him and that is the recognition of the petition.

It is learned on the best of authority that similar action will be instituted in a large number of eastern counties, where negroes and incompetent persons have been elected. This will give the democrats recognition, where they have none now, in republican and populist counties.

The law on the subject, which is very plain, is given below: Section 5, chapter 135 of the laws of '95 says: That, whereas as many as selectors of the county make affidavit before the Clerk of the Superior court at any time after the election of the county commissioners, that they verily believe that the business of two hundred electors of the county, if left entirely in the hands of three commissioners elected by the people will be improperly managed, that then upon petition of said county, one half of whom shall be free holders and so certified by the Clerk of the Superior court, made to the judge of the district, or judge presiding therein, it shall be the duty of said judge to appoint two honest and discreet citizens of said county, who shall be of a political party different from that of a majority of the board of commissioners who shall, from appointment and qualification, by taking the oath required for county commissioners, be members of said board of commissioners in every respect, as fully as if elected by the people, and shall continue in office until the election and qualification of county commissioners, and that no money shall be paid upon the order of said board, or official bonds accepted, nor shall any debts be incurred, except upon the concurrence of as many as four of said board. That all motions concerning financial matters shall be taken upon an eye and no vote, and recorded upon the minutes.

By Telegraph to the Press-Visitor. WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 4.—The political classification of members elect of the fifty-fifth congress which had been made by clerk McDowell probably shows a greater variety of political organizations than ever before found representation in that body. Republicans have two hundred and four members; Democrats have a hundred twenty-four; Populists have twelve; fusionists fifteen; and the Silver party three.

WILL BE A HARD FIGHT.

Varsities and Hampton to Meet on the Gridiron.

There is a great deal of interest in the game of football to be played at Richmond Saturday afternoon by the University of Virginia team and the Hampton team.

It will be remembered that these two teams have met twice this season and both games have resulted in the scores.

The faculty of the University of Virginia will, at a meeting, decide whether or not they will allow the team to play another game. The players personally are anxious for the game, and it is generally thought that the faculty will give their consent for the contest to be played. In case, however, they do not decide favorably, Virginia will present a consolidated team which, if anything, will be stronger than the Varsity eleven proper, for Mike Bergen, the Virginia coach, and Church of this season's Princeton team, will be among those who will line up.

"Bronco" Armstrong, the famous ex-Yale half-back, said that this would positively be his last game, as he will retire permanently from the "gridiron" after this season. It is a hard matter to predict which team will win, for both are very evenly matched, and in good condition. The Hampton team is now in training and doing hard practice.

THE BOYS HAVE FUN

Coasting on Their Sleighs—The Most Deliques on the Streets.

The small boys' sleigh which requires but little motive power, was conspicuous today where there was the slightest suspicion of a steep hill. The happy youths had possession of most of the hills in the city. The boys were not alone in their enjoyment of the sport for the girls were also in evidence. Some had trim little sleighs, while the less fortunate brought into requisition the old split bottom chair. And the pleasure of the latter was none the less genuine.

Probably one of the best coasting places in the city is the sidewalk South of the Union depot. Some forty or fifty children had possession of the place this morning. Noticeable among the many coasting outfits were two delivery wagons on runners. A dry goods box attached to two saplings, which were used both as shoves and runners, was one of the most unique sleighing traps on the streets today. A white mule was hitched to it.

Snow Bound in 1857.

Charlotte News.

Forty years ago, in January 1857, Col. Bradshaw was a conductor on the North Carolina railroad. There were sixteen passengers on the train, most of them bound for Raleigh. It has been snowing for a long while when the train started on its trip and the snow was piled in great drifts. It kept on snowing and when they got to Jamestown the train was stopped by the snow-drifts.

Four days the train and snow bound passengers were the guests of Dr. Coffin and Col. Bradshaw says they really enjoyed their four days' stay.

Col. Bradshaw, conductor, and Mr. Frank Snider, of this city, who was baggage master, are the only persons on that train now living.

The late W. J. Yates was one of the passengers.

A Handsome Catalogue.

Messrs. H. Mahler's Sons have issued a very handsome catalogue descriptive of their elegant stock of goods, which is not surpassed by any in the South. This firm always keeps abreast with the times. The catalogue is the perfection of the printers art and it does the young men at the head of the firm great credit. Everything to be found in the jeweler's realm is included in the catalogue and the public is invited to call at the store and secure a copy.

BISHOP HAID

To Begin a Series of Lectures in the City Sunday Next.

Bishop Haid, the Roman Catholic Bishop of this State, will begin on Sunday a series of lectures on the Catholic religion at Metropolitan Hall. The first lecture will begin at 7:30 p. m., the others will take place the nights following at 7:30 o'clock. These lectures are entirely free and the public are cordially invited. Reserved seats free of cost can be obtained by applying at King's drug store. It is stated, however, that all seats that are vacant at the hour appointed for the lecture will be free.

A QUESTION BOX. As the object of these lectures is to explain and make clear Catholic christianity, there will be placed at the entrance of the hall a question box into which the public are invited to place questions concerning faith and morals and practices of the Catholic Church. These questions will be answered publicly by the Rt. Rev. Bishop before the lecture.

TODAY'S MARKETS.

New York, Dec. 4.

Market quotations furnished by E. B. Cuthbert & Co., 30 Broad street, New York, and 305 Wilmington street, Raleigh, N. C., over their special wire:

Table with columns: MONTHS, OPENING, HIGH, LOW, CLOSING. Rows for January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

Closed weak; sales, 234,500.

The following were the closing quotations on the New York Stock Exchange today:

New York Stock Market.

Table with columns: Sugar, American Tobacco, Burlington and Quincy, Chicago Gas, Des. and Cal. Food, General Electric, Louisville and Nashville, Manhattan, Rock Island, Southern Preferred, St. Paul, Tennessee Coal and Iron, Western Union.

New York, Dec. 4.—In view of the talk regarding a possible dividend on Southern Railway preferred it may be of interest to know that for the year ending June 30th, the company earned a surplus over charges paid of \$556,478; deducting the increase in fixed charges this year leaves \$143,871. The net decrease of the system for four months ending Oct. 31, was \$84,260, which leaves \$59,611. The company therefore assuming that it did no better and no worse than last year for the remaining eight months would earn about \$9,000 on the preferred for the year. Southern Railway directors will meet today and it is thought the dividend question will come up. There are strong intimations that a dividend will be declared, because of the expressed desire of one of the leading interests in the company to have it done. It requires \$543,000 for a dividend.

The room has been full of talk about Morgan buying and preparing for a general advance in the market. This has been intensified by the rumors of a dividend on Southern Railway preferred in which Morgan & Co., have been buyers.

Chicago Grain and Provision Market. The following were the closing quotations on the Chicago Grain and Provision market today: Wheat—December, 77; May, 87. Corn—December, 23; May, 26. Oats—December 18; May 21. Pork—December, 7.93; January, 1.80. Lard—December, 4.10; January, 3.90.

Clear Rib Sides—Dec. 4.00; January 3.85-87.

Liverpool Cotton Market.

Table with columns: December, December-January, January-February, February-March, March-April, April-May, May-June.

Closed easy. Quail have been selling for a quarter in the market since the snow storm.

AN EXTRA SESSION.

Babcock Brings Word That It Will Probably Be.

By Telegraph to the Press-Visitor.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 4.—Representative Babcock of Wisconsin, chairman of the republican congressional committee, arrived in the city late this afternoon. He came direct from Canton, where he held a long conference yesterday with Maj. McKinley and Mr. Hanna. This fact gives importance to the views of Mr. Babcock expressed below. "In my opinion," said Chairman Babcock to a Star reporter this afternoon, "there will be an extra session of congress, and I think it is likely to be assembled within a short time after Maj. McKinley is inaugurated President. I do not believe that any attempt will be made to pass the Dingley bill at the session of Congress which will convene next Monday.

"The time for the passage of the Dingley bill has passed. It was framed and offered to meet a special emergency; to prevent the issue of bonds. The bill failed of passage, as every one knows, and the bonds were issued to the amount of \$100,000,000.

"Even if the Dingley bill were passed at the coming session it would not obviate the necessity for an adequate revision of the tariff at some later date. The condition of the country would not permit the lapse of time which would intervene between March 4 and the date when a tariff bill could be passed at a subsequent regular session.

"The business interests of the country demand a prompt solution of the problem that is responsible for the general depression. It is better, therefore, that the new Congress should convene early, take up the tariff and act upon it, so as to allow the country to settle down to business under a wise and beneficent tariff law.

"In your opinion, what policy will be pursued in dealing with the tariff?" Mr. Babcock was asked. "I think the bill which Congress will pass will be so adjusted as to afford ample protection to American industries and American labor, but framed upon conservative lines."

Upon the matter of cabinet selections Mr. Babcock expressed the opinion that nothing was settled in this direction. He was of the opinion that Maj. McKinley had not yet reached any decisions.

When questioned upon the prospects of District legislation at the coming session Mr. Babcock said he did not think the District committee would recommend any radical legislation at the short session. The pending bills will be acted upon according to the circumstances of the time. In view of the probability of an extra session he did not think Congress would attempt to solve any of the larger problems of District legislation at the short session.

Mr. Babcock stated that Mr. Mark Hanna would leave Cleveland tomorrow for Washington. He comes to make arrangements for the inauguration of Major McKinley, and will arrive Saturday.

TO BRIDGE THE HUDSON.

It Will Cost \$25,000,000 and Contracts Will Soon Be Ready.

By Telegraph to the Press-Visitor.

New York, Dec. 4.—Secretary Swan, of the New York and New Jersey Bridge Company, said today:

"The New York and New Jersey Construction companies have today made a contract with the Union Bridge company, of this city, for the building of a bridge over the Hudson river at a cost not to exceed \$25,000, the Union Bridge company agreeing to give a bond for \$1,000,000 for the faithful performance of the contract.

"We shall soon be ready to offer to financiers the bonds for the construction of the bridge over the Hudson river, its approaches there and stations. The plan of construction will do much towards restoring to this city its lost-commerce because of the inadequate facilities for handling the traffic of all kinds crossing the Hudson river.

Papers Talk of a Famine in Cuba.

By Telegraph to the Press-Visitor.

HAVANA, Dec. 4.—A dispatch to the Imperial from Havana reports that local newspapers there are urging the necessity of carrying on farming operations on the island, otherwise a disastrous famine is inevitable.

SHORT STATEMENTS.

Minor Matters Manipulated for the Many.

AROUND THE CITY.

Post-Portrait of the News Pictured on Pauper-Points and People's Pertinently Picked and Pithily Put in Print.

Mr. J. A. Spence returned from a hunting trip to Moore county yesterday, bringing back with him five large wild turkeys. The Board of Agriculture, which has been in session in the city for several days adjourned this morning. No business out of the ordinary was transacted. Mr. Jas. Wright, of Vance county who is on his way to Washington City to accept a position there, is spending a few days with Mr. J. B. Collins on N. Person street.

See the new announcement of the popular clothing establishment of Messrs. Berwanger Bros. and call on them for the best holiday bargains in their line. They are up to date as they always are.

In consequence of the inclement weather Mr. Frank Strosach decided to postpone his great combination horse sale today and it will be held tomorrow, the weather permitting. There will be some desirable bargains offered, and these who are interested in making purchases should be sure to attend.

A telegram from Goldsboro says that the romantic marriage which is on the tapis to take place at Apex has been postponed on account of sickness in the family of the prospective groom at the former place. In the mean time the fair managers of the occasion at Raleigh are keeping the secret strictly to themselves.

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Co. announces the completion of the new connecting cable known as the United States and Hayti Telegraph Cable Co. This connection with the Postal Co. causes a reduction in rates to points in the West Indies and South America from ten to thirty per cent.

The Seaboard Air Line, through Mr. C. Ironmonger, the advertising agent, is preparing to issue a book to be published monthly and will contain valuable information concerning the South and its products. It is to be handsomely printed with lithograph paper. Mr. George McP. Battle was yesterday soliciting advertisements for the new book. The book is to be called the "Star of the South."

THE PAMLICO COST

In the Oyster Cases Amount to More than the County's Taxes for Four Years.

A great many suits were brought under an act of the legislature by the solicitor of the first district to vacate entries of oyster lands in Pamlico county. No less than 684 of these cases were lost and the costs aggregated \$4,800. The auditor drew a warrant for the amount and the Treasurer declined to pay it.

Treasurer Worth has retained Maj. W. A. Guthrie and Ex-Judge McRae to fight the case in the courts if necessary.

Mr. Worth was asked today his reasons for not honoring the warrants. He said: "I think the charge is excessive. Instead of bringing action in 684 cases the Solicitor should have gotten up a test case and then the costs would have only been a trifle. The amount of costs that the clerk of Pamlico county asks is larger than the amount of taxes paid into the State Treasury by the Sheriff of Pamlico in four years. For the years '94 and '95 the county only paid \$2,119."

"I do not say that I will not pay the costs, but I will not do so until I am forced to."

Brother Worth said that the State's finances are very low.

Judge Avery received a telegram today from Morganton stating that his son, Mr. Alphonso Avery was badly hurt, but that he was resting easy now. The wires have been down most of the and Judge Avery has been unable to obtain any particulars of the injuries sustained by his son. It is hoped that Mr. Avery is not badly hurt.

TEMPERATURE RISING.

Fair Weather Predicted—Sleighing Was Good this Morning.

The snow is not melting very rapidly. The temperature has risen only a few degrees since yesterday. Weather Officer von Herrmann predicts fair weather tonight and Saturday with slowly rising temperature.

Sleighing was good this morning and many cutters were on the streets in the morning. It will be equally as good tomorrow morning.

The high barometer has moved to the middle and north Atlantic States, with the lowest temperatures for the winter Friday morning over North Carolina and Virginia. A storm is moving eastward north of the Lake region, with some cloudy weather and snow in that vicinity, but over the greater portion of the country the weather is fair, and generally clear. The temperature has risen considerably in the central Mississippi and Ohio valleys. No temperatures below zero are reported now from any station.

FOUND DEAD IN SNOW. Ruf. Smith of Swift Creek Was Caught in the Storm. Mr. Hugh Smith, a white man who resided in Swift Creek's Township was found dead last evening near Mr. Rufus Powell's farm.

Smith was partly covered in snow and is supposed to have been caught in the storm Wednesday night.

"Teddy" Roosevelt. There is alarm among the republicans over a report that "Teddy" Roosevelt is tiring of his New York job and wants to come back to Washington as Assistant Secretary of the Navy under the McKinley administration. They don't want "Teddy" to come back to Washington, but he has a knack of getting what he wants; hence their alarm. They know what a wonderful capacity "Teddy" has for stirring things up and keeping them stirred up. They think the extra session of congress and other McKinley inflections will be troublesome enough without "Teddy."

The newspaper men are a unit in desiring "Teddy's" return to Washington as a member of McKinley's administration; as an all around copy-maker-readable copy, too—he beats the band, as the yellow kid says.

Change of Business. As anticipated by the Press-Visitor yesterday we are pleased to call public attention through our columns to the change of business connected with the Southern Wall Paper Co. Mr. L. C. Weathers, the enterprising manager has bought and has at his disposal in connection with his wall paper business the entire stock and business of the Glasgow Mantle Co., as formerly managed by Mr. S. A. Temple; and has the pleasure to announce to his customers that he has secured the services of the only expert tyler and mantle placer in the city. A number of nice heaters on hand.

Mr. Weathers will hereafter operate both businesses at office of Oberhart & Baker on Fayetteville street. All orders appreciated and given prompt and careful attention.

Pointers for Governor-Elect Russell. The Gazette has mapped out inaugural plans for Judge Russell. Among other things it says: "Again, we would suggest that the inaugural ball, which, under the Democratic party, has usually cost the State the snug sum of five hundred dollars, be dispensed with, and that that sum of money be left in the State Treasury to help swell the educational fund for the benefit of the children who attend the public schools. Our people were elected for business and not for fun, and we hope that they will begin the business of looking after the people's interests and removing Democrats at once."

Amos Rusie Again a Giant. By Telegraph to the Press-Visitor. MUNCIE, Ind., Dec. 4.—Amos Rusie will sign an 1899 contract to pitch for President Freedman's club. He intimates that the long standing differences have finally been adjusted and that he will receive a salary of \$4,000 for next season's work and will also receive pay for the time he spent on the bench last season. He says that as soon as Captain Joyce took charge of the team, the ex-Washingtonian began negotiations which have finally terminated in settlement.