

PROMINENT MEN AND WOMEN.

Susan B. Anthony has been lecturing in Wisconsin. Mrs. Gen. Hancock will make Washington her permanent home. Mrs. Secretary Whitney is leading lady in the play of Washington society.

Henry M. Stanley will write another book. The public will be glad to see it. Mrs. Gen. Grant is to visit Washington during the winter. She has not been there since 1884.

Mr. Howell writes in Harper concerning a "Mouse Trap." He recommends roasted cheese for bait. Isaac Murphy is a colored jockey not yet so well known as Archer was, but his income is \$15,000 yearly.

Dr. Magoon, the eminent Baptist divine, whose death occurred a few days ago, was in his younger years a bricklayer. Mrs. Cutting, divorced wife of the border nuisance, was recently married at Kansas City. She has three little Cuttings.

James Russell Lowell enjoys a good dinner or a Greek play. He regards a newspaper interview, however, with pronounced disfavor. Ex-Gov. Kirkwood's recent defeat in Iowa was the first he had sustained in forty years, and he was always running for something.

The oldest son of the Prince of Wales is coming to this country. Grandmother said he might if she got her castle sold at a good figure. Joaquin Miller has cut off his curls. Un fortunately this action did not affect him as a similar one did Sampson, and he still has strength to misuse a pen.

Mrs. Lucy Parsons is a brunette, with a suspicion of kindness in her raven hair. She is a bad crowd from away back, and often imagines herself a dynamite bomb. The widow of the dashing confederate officer, Gen. Jerome, has just died in a New York tenement. Her last years were marked by abject poverty, but she steadily refused assistance.

Frances Hodgson Burnett's directions for writing a novel are to have pen, ink and paper in readiness, and combine them generously by the aid of brains and imagination. Some writers omit the brains and imagination.

CRUSHED TO DEATH.

An Atlantic Steamer Meets With a Terrible Experience.

New York, Dec. 2.—The steamer Westerland from Antwerp, which arrived to-day, encountered a terrific hurricane from the north-northeast last Sunday, during which an immense sea struck the vessel over the bows, staving in the turtle back, killing four seamen and two steerage passengers named Gabriel Levadoff and Max Frank, and more or less severely injuring fifteen other seamen and passengers.

An inspection of the vessel afforded some idea of the terrible blow she had received. The crushed deck was known as the forward whale back. The mainmast, the funnel, the main planks, resting upon massive iron beams upheld by three inch iron stanchions. The vast volume of water struck the whale back about fifteen feet from the stem and crushed in a section twenty-nine feet in length and extending the full width of the steamship.

Second Officer Ehsaft said: "At 2:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon, November 27, I was on the main bridge when I noticed an enormous wave on the starboard bow. The next instant another towering wave joined it from the port side. They seemed to leap into the air as they mingled. They must have been nearly forty feet high, as I saw their united mass above the lower part of the funnel. There came a crash of the water upon the deck. It sounded louder than a dozen cannons fired at once. The water swept from one end to the other of the main deck, carrying everything before it. The disaster was not met with in a storm. Merely a good strong breeze was blowing from the southwest with a chopping sea. The vessel was steaming at half speed—seven knots an hour. The day was clear, but most of the cabin passengers were below. A group of sailors were on the upper deck on what is technically known as the forward 'turtle-back.' Moving around among them were several steerage passengers who were idly watching the sailors weaving 'sennel,' a material for matting used for sale. The first officer was below. It was the starboard watch and the captain and second officer who were on deck, the latter being on the bridge."

THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

Secretary Lamar Gives to the Public His Annual Report.

The report of Secretary of the Interior Lamar consists of seventy-eight pages and is a comprehensive document, exhibiting great care in preparation. It notes a steady, thorough and rapid improvement in the condition of the Indians and commends individual property-holding, education of the youth and the punishment of crimes as the three indispensable adjuncts to their civilization. On all these points it enlarges. It notes an increase among the farm products of the Indian and recommends the passage of a law to use the grass upon their reservations in the most profitable manner. It treats briefly of railroads through Indian lands and of surplus lands, suggesting their legal appropriation to settlement. It recounts briefly the difficulty with the Apaches and discusses the condition of the five civilized tribes—the Cherokees, the Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks and Seminoles. The secretary asks for an increase in the salary of the Indian commissioner from \$4,000 to \$5,000. There is shown a balance in the Indian fund June 30 of \$1,660,023.30. Cash sales of public lands amounted to \$9,031,084.34. The total surveys embraced 250,237,667 acres. In many instances reported surveys are erroneous and misleading. Considerable unsurveyed land exists in Arizona, California, Colorado, Dakota, Florida, Idaho, Minnesota, Nevada, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. This land is largely mountainous, heavily timbered, or used as cattle ranges. The marshable surveys are severely scored by the secretary. He recommends the repeal of the desert and timber culture acts. Considerable space is devoted to the subject of unlawful fencing. The railroad showing is an interesting one, including the annual reports of the Pacific and other roads, but cannot be intelligently considered.

November 1 there were 3,710 pension cases standing upon the appeal docket of this department. There was in the pension fund \$67,798,035.27, of which all was expended but \$118,636. The applications for patents were 40678; receipts for the year \$1,265,167.80. The work of the bureau of labor, of the geological survey and the bureau of education are all reviewed. The recommendations of the capitol architect for additional room are given at length. The progress of the territories is mentioned, special attention being given to Utah and to Yellowstone National park. He also suggests that the authority given for building a road through the park.

JORDAN AND MANNING.

What the Former Says Concerning Treasury Matters—Will Mr. Manning Retire?

Washington special: Treasurer Jordan, speaking of the appointment in the treasury, said: "I should like to see any of them come about here and say who should be in the treasurer's office. That cannot be done so long as I am treasurer and responsible for the money under my bond. No, sir, as long as I am treasurer I am going to know who have charge of the money, and these gentlemen are doing very well. Mr. Manning seems to be getting on very well. It is not at all necessary for him to do as much routine work as before, but he is working easily and does not fret as much as he did when he first returned."

Mr. Jordan is one of the men in the public service who speaks his mind freely. There can be no doubt that as long as he is treasurer, he will have his own way in the matter of appointments, but how long will he be treasurer? There can be no doubt that a syndicate of wealthy men stand ready to purchase a lot of the stock of one of the leading New York banks and make him president of it if he will accept the place. This purchase is dependent upon his acceptance. This project has been under consideration for some time. Mr. Jordan is devoted to Secretary Manning. He wishes to remain to help Mr. Manning as long as he can, and Mr. Manning relies upon him for all the great financial work of the department. If Mr. Jordan goes, it means undoubtedly that Mr. Manning is soon to follow. And will Mr. Manning remain in the department? A friend says he will not if he can leave his own way. He had an aversion to returning. He feels now that he is being made a martyr. The work does not interest him as it did. He does not like to go about in a conspicuous place dragging that right leg after him and having to sit in an immense arm chair when he reaches the elevator. He came back against his own will. He was strongly opposed to it. Those nearest to him in the home circle opposed his coming, and regret that he did so. He has his mental health, but he gets tired easily. He is forgetful. His brain lags in the latter part of the day and he does not like it. The drudgery is distasteful to him. He does not sign his name to as many documents as he did, and there is no reason why he should. He might easily attend to the duties of the treasury, but the work of the secretary of the treasury is not attractive to him now, and it may grow dangerous, and it would not be surprising to hear of his retirement any day.

SOME WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

A delegation from Boston, New York and Chicago business men are urging the president to recommend in his message to congress the passage of a bankruptcy bill. The secretary of war has granted a request recently made by General Hazen to allow Lieutenant A. W. Greeley to remain on duty in the signal service as assistant to the chief signal officer. General Hazen's health is not good at present and he desired to be relieved of some of the duties of his position. Great importance is attached by the Washington newspapers in announcing that Lieutenant James S. Powell, of the signal office, has been detailed to proceed to Omaha to organize the meteorological service of the Union Pacific railroad, which is to co-operate with the United States signal service bureau. It is believed that this is to be the inauguration of a valuable epoch in meteorological utility.

New York is becoming alarmed over the prospects of removing the depot of Indian supplies from that city to Omaha or some other western point. A delegation from the New York board of trade and transportation has laid before Secretary Lamar an elaborate communication on the subject, showing the advantages in retaining it where it now is. It is claimed that New York is the headquarters for Indian supplies; that most of them are either manufactured there or come there before they reach consumers, and that, therefore, it is the best market for the government and one that must be patronized in any event. The Omaha delegation, expected here early next week, is anticipated with genuine interest at the Indian office. The impression at the interior department seems to be that Omaha has a good chance of being successful if the depot is removed.

Another Railroad Purchased. Little Rock dispatch: The fact that Jay Gould, president of the Missouri Pacific system, has become possessed of a majority of the stock and bonds of the Little Rock, Mississippi & Texas railroad company was announced here to-day. This road is part of the Arkansas valley route, extends from Little Rock, Ark., and is advertised to be sold under foreclosure on the 15th inst. Its total indebtedness on first and second mortgages, bonds, coupons and interest, aggregating \$4,712,000. It is believed here that Gould will buy in the road without opposition at the sale, and it is also known that the present management of the road will not be changed.

Gov. Lamar's purchase of the Little Rock, Mississippi River and Texas railroad will give him weight to make contacts with the Little Rock and Fort Smith and Kansas and Arkansas valley railroads that will divert the Kansas and western traffic, with New Orleans and the southeast to his iron main line and newly purchased line to the Mississippi river. The work of construction of the Kansas and Arkansas valley extension to Gibson, I. T., is to be commenced as soon as the contracts can be awarded.

The Congressional Outlook. Washington special: A great many members of congress say that congress will do a good deal of work in the way of legislation during this short session. Those who want to reform the tariff are particularly eager and energetic, and each man who has his pet project hopes to get some action on it. Some of the old heads predict that there will be no legislation to speak of this winter beyond the passage of the appropriation bills. Others equally as old and wise say that as a matter of fact there is more chance for work during a short than a long session, and they expect it to be very active from now until March 4. A great part of the long session is wasted in committee work. Now this work is all done, and everything is ready to go ahead. The days and means committee men are bound to have a terrific fight. The strong position taken by the president on that question has given them new courage. They insist that a tariff for revenue only must be the party cry. The straight issue must be made and all who cannot stand under that banner cannot march in their lines. The war is now being waged. They will start the fight almost at once.

The government of Queensland, Australia, are eager to establish a government in the island of New Guinea.

SECRETARY WHITNEY'S REPORT.

The Information Which He Conveys Concerning the Navy.

The report of Secretary of the Navy Whitney opens with a renewal of his former recommendation of the consolidation of the bureau so as to insure responsibility in the purchase and care of supplies, and so far as his power extended he had consolidated, in one bureau, the general purchases of the department, the care and custody of the stores, and the creating of a system of book-keeping by which responsibility for care and disposition can be had. The report says: "There is at present no real responsibility for the care and disposition of the property. In one bureau a property account is kept and in others none. Property lost, misused or stolen cannot be traced or accounted for, and no person can be held responsible. The fourth addition in his report, just issued, calls attention to this remarkable circumstance, which, was also referred to in my last annual report. An inventory shows a very large and unnecessary accumulation of stores and supplies by the different bureaus, aggregating over twenty millions of dollars in appraised value. The report reports between three and four millions of value to be absolutely useless at the present time, only entailing an expense for keepers and a constant care to preserve them in condition. Among these accumulations, some very absurd facts appear. Eighty navy yards have large accumulations of tin snips and bits of tin, valued at 25,274 have been lying for several years at closed yards where no work has been or is likely to be done."

Regarding the new cruisers the report says: "The experience of the department in its first attempt at the construction of iron vessels of war has been such as to excite the greatest concern and disappointment. The examination of facts with reference to them demonstrated that an entirely new departure was necessary in undertaking further similar construction. One characteristic of the iron vessels of war is that they possess great speed. This is determined by the function which is expected to perform in modern warfare. She is a 'commerce destroyer.' She must be able to escape from ironclads and outrun, so as to overhaul, merchantmen. How slow in ironclads which are intended to move as well stay in port. This division of ships, by the functions which they are expected to perform, is one of the things which has come about of recent years. When it became impossible to concentrate, in one ship, the greatest speed, the strongest armament and the largest displacement, without reaching a tonnage displacement wholly out of the question, division into classes, according to the duties which they were expected to perform, came about. Unarmored cruisers have become a distinct class, and the characteristic absolutely necessary to them is speed. When the Dolphin, Boston, Atlanta and Chicago were projected and contracts for their construction entered into, it was well known what speed ought to be attained and what weight and character of machinery per ton of displacement was necessary to obtain it. Commercial vessels had at that time attained a speed of sixteen to eighteen knots, and cruisers were built in other countries attaining the same speed."

The secretary compares the trial trips of the Dolphin and Atlanta with those of the Boston and French boats only recently completed, to the disadvantage of the former. The Dolphin was designed for 2,300 indicated horse-power, and developed less than 2,300, while the Albatross and Surprise, English boats of 3,000 horse-power, developed 3,173 and 3,079, respectively. The Atlanta was designed to attain 3,500 horse-power, but she developed less than that. The report says: "These facts are stated without the intention of locating the responsibility or blame upon any person. It is impossible to ascertain where it should be placed. They indicate a simple abandonment, on the part of the department, of the attempt to reach the conditions which should have been attained, and a failure on the part of the contractor to reach the limited results expected by the department. In considering the matter of constructing additional vessels authorized by congress in the fiscal year 1886, the department is determined to exhaust every effort to avail itself of the most advanced thought and knowledge attained by our own and other countries on the subject."

The report says that the department has accumulated a large amount of information regarding the construction of commercial vessels in the United States. The report gives a resume of the bids and awards for the new cruisers and says, regarding cruiser No. 1 for which no bids were received within the limit fixed by congress: "Orders had been given to reduce her size and the purpose of carrying out the intention of congress, by bringing the expense of her construction within the limit, \$1,100,000. It requires a redesigning of a new vessel, which necessarily takes some months. Meanwhile it is hoped that congress will be able to remove the cap to reduce the cost of the plans, which have been the result of many months of careful labor on the part of officers of the department."

The reports treat of armor and guns for monitors and armor-clads, at great length, and appreciate that the country should be contented to depend upon the manufacturers of other nations for the fabrication of armor and high powered guns.

DRUNKENNESS AT DAYTON.

Pittsburg special: A gentleman who has been visiting friends at the soldiers' home, Dayton, O., told a reporter to-day a startling story of the orgies caused by the introduction of beer at that institution. He stated that since the sale of beer began on July 10 a state of confusion and disorder has existed there almost to an unbearable degree to the inmates who do not drink. He said: "Since the beer hall was opened over 3,000 barrels have been sold to the inmates. It has brought the management \$18,000 in money, and is a paying experiment financially. The soldiers can drink all they want if they pay for it. There are 5,000 soldiers in the home, and I will say that fully 3,000 of them will drink all they can get. The beer is sold in pints at 5 cents. They get too drunk and too noisy they are locked up in the guard house and the beer is shut off from them for a few days. The sober and temperate men are much opposed to the sale of beer. The governor of the home, General Patrick, told the managers that he could not keep any kind of discipline at the home if they allowed beer to be used, but they paid no attention to his desire. The men who do the drinking cursa and swear and fight, making a pandemonium of the place. On Thanksgiving day a Cincinnati contractor sent up a lot of beer for a treat. The beer hall holds about four hundred people, and so great was the rush into the building that part of the floor gave way and a great many persons were hurt. I know that three of those injured have since died. Outside the building a crowd of more than 1,500 veterans was pushing to get in. There are men there who spend every cent of their pension for beer."

The German government has decided to dissolve the reichstag if it rejects the military estimates.

THE PURPOSE OF HIS BILL.

Representative Adams, of Illinois, Explains Position of His Measure.

Washington special: Representative Geo. E. Adams, of Chicago, has introduced an important bill relative to bank circulation, and has had interviews with several of the prominent greenbackers in the house, from both of which the possible drift of legislation upon this subject in this session may be ascertained.

Mr. Adams, speaking of his bill, says: "The purpose of the bill is to reduce the amount of bonds which national banks are required to deposit with the treasury as security for circulation. Under the existing law every bank under \$150,000 capital has to deposit bonds to the amount of one-quarter of its capital stock. On the bonds so deposited the bank can take out circulation to the extent of 90 per cent if it wishes to do so, but it is not obliged to do it. It is obliged, however, to deposit the bonds. The statute relating to the reduction of national banks provides that they might reduce it as much as they wish, but not below \$50,000 in any case. The effect of the law is that the small banks have to deposit one-quarter of their capital, while a bank of \$1,000,000 capital is now required to deposit not more than \$50,000. In the large cities the banks have already generally reduced their circulation to the minimum. There are several of the large banks of Chicago that have only \$50,000 out, and two or three of those banks don't issue any circulation whatever on that amount. The effect of the bill I have introduced is that banks having a capital of \$50,000 or less shall not be required to deposit bonds amounting to more than one-tenth of their capital stock. The change is from one-quarter to one-tenth. That is about all there is in the bill. The effect of it will be, I think that banks in the cities will reduce their circulation. Whether the banks in the country will do this or not, I am not certain, but if circulation is a burden to the banks as some maintain them, they will not have to assume so much of it. I consider it the first step to the ultimate divorce of the national banking system from the business of issuing circulating notes. I am in favor of this bill, not because I am opposed to a national bank circulation, but because, among the greenbackers and the extreme silver men, I find one of the main objections to national banks. This prejudice mainly consists in their opposition to the circulation of the national banks and the less circulation they have the less the prejudice will be. I should be willing to vote for the McPherson bill, giving them right to issue circulation to the value of their deposits, but I know that such a bill could not pass the congress. I should be willing to vote to repeal the tax on circulation from all the banks, or from the small country banks, but I doubt if such a bill would pass. I think that this measure that I have introduced is about the only thing that can be done under the existing law to relieve the banks of the circulation must go, and I want the national banking system, apart from the circulation feature is not the essential feature of the banking system. I am not certain that anything will be done this session, but I introduced the bill to evoke discussion."

SENTENCED TO BE HANGED.

Lee Shellenberger Will Answer for His Terrible Crime, March 25th. Nebraska City special to the Omaha Herald: The motion for a new trial in Shellenberger's case before Judge Pound this morning was overruled and the prisoner was sentenced to be hanged March 25, 1887. When asked what he had to say regarding his guilt or innocence, in a low trembling voice he replied: "I am not guilty." An appeal will be taken to the supreme court and the defendant's attorney says it will not likely be argued before July. Affidavits in the case of Mrs. Shellenberger were filed for a change of venue to Lancaster county, and the change was granted. When Shellenberger's case was called this morning there were but few present and the prisoner underwent the terrible ordeal with seeming indifference. After a motion for a new trial had been entertained and denied, the court instructed the prisoner to stand up. "Have you anything to say why the sentence of the court should not be pronounced against you?" With a firm voice the prisoner replied: "I am not guilty." Judge Pound then proceeded to pass sentence in the following words: "You have been found guilty of one of the greatest crimes in the whole catalogue of crime, the murder of your own child. It shocks human nature to believe that so foul a crime should be committed by a man whose soul should be the property of the human soul. The untimely taking off of any human being for any cause is calculated at all times to arouse our emotions and stir our sympathies. But when a father, out of the deep depravity of his heart, regards his child as an enemy, and the obligations of love, humanity and barbarously slays his own child, we are heart-broken and stand aghast at the immeasurable wickedness. The father who would do a deed like this is no longer a man; he is a monster at whose sight innocence shudders and from whose side all men stand away as from a beast of prey. You are a standing menace to society while you live. If you can destroy your own children, whose child, whose life is safe? But your wickedness and depravity will soon culminate in your own destruction. You have a year to live, and the doom that awaits the murderer will soon be visited on you. For the young and innocent life you destroyed, the law now demands yours. I am persuaded that your hard and cruel heart cannot be touched by any sense of mine, and I leave you to contemplate the ruin, and misery, and desolation you have wrought, and to prepare for that unseen world into which you will soon be hurled. Nothing now remains for me but to pronounce upon you the sentence of the law, which sentence is that you be taken hence to the jail of Otoe county, whence you came, and there be kept in close confinement until the 25th day of March, 1887, and that on said day you be taken thence to the place for your execution, to be prepared as provided by law, and that between the hours of 10 o'clock in the forenoon and 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the said day you be executed by the neck until dead, and may God have mercy on your soul."

The prisoner was at once taken to his cell. He has great hopes that the supreme court will give him a new trial.

A COSTLY GLUE BLAZE.

AMES, MASS., Dec. 2.—The William A. Beder glue company, which occupied a large brick structure and a wooden building owned by the Ames plow company, was burned out this morning at an early hour. Nothing was saved. The origin of the fire is unknown. The glue company estimated their loss on stock at \$15,000 and on machinery at \$25,000. The Fitchburg railroad will lose several thousand dollars.

THE SENATE AND HOUSE.

What is Being Done in Both Branches of the National Congress.

SENATE, Dec. 6.—The galleries of the senate chamber, in spite of the inclemency of the weather, were filled with spectators when at noon the second session of the Forty-ninth congress was opened. In his prayer the chaplain, Rev. J. G. Butler, feelingly alluded to the mourning draperies with which the chamber was hung, in memory of the late Senator Pike, of New Hampshire. Presiding Officer Sherman laid before the senate several annual reports of heads of departments, which were read and printed. Several bills were introduced and referred, among them the following. By Allison—To authorize the construction of a bridge across the Missouri river. By Everts—To authorize the construction of a bridge across the East river, New York. A recess was then taken for ten minutes. The recess was extended to 2 o'clock, at which hour Senator Edmunds reported that the joint committee of the two houses had waited on the president, and that the president had asked the committee to congratulate the senate and the house on the safe return of the commander in chief and that he would communicate with them in writing. Immediately thereupon the message was received.

HOUSE, Dec. 6.—At precisely 12 o'clock Speaker Carlisle rapped the house to order and the chaplain delivered a prayer, in which he feelingly referred to the deaths of Representatives Bench and Arnot, and invoked Divine supervision over the proceedings of congress. The clerks then proceeded to call the roll, when 241 members responded to their names. On motion of Mr. Reagan, (Tex.), a resolution was adopted for the appointment of a committee of three members to join a similar committee appointed by the senate to wait upon the president and inform him that congress was ready to receive any communication on his part. Messrs. Messrs. Reagan, Breckenridge (Ky.) and Reed were appointed sub-committee. At 12:40 recess for thirty minutes was taken, after which further recess was taken until 2 o'clock. Upon reassembling of the house, the committee appointed to wait on the president announced it had performed its duty and that the president would communicate in writing forthwith. The president's annual message was then presented to the house and immediately read by the clerk. Mr. Hewitt, of New York, announced to the house the deaths of the congressmen from New York, Lewis Beach and John Arnot, Jr.; and a similar duty was performed by Mr. Caswell, of Wisconsin, who announced the death of his colleague, W. P. Price. A committee consisting of Messrs. Gunther, Morrill, Frederick, Toulbee, Osbourne, Field and La Follette was appointed to attend Mr. Price's funeral, and then, as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased representative, the house adjourned.

SENATE, Dec. 7.—The credentials of Senator Cheney of New Hampshire, appointed to fill temporarily the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Pike, were presented by Mr. Blair and the oath of office was administered. Mr. Beck introduced a bill to provide for the retirement of United States legal tender and national bank notes of small denominations and for the issue of coin certificates. The committee on Finance, by Mr. Van Wyck, introduced a bill to exempt from duty imported sugar and molasses; also imported boards, lumber and timber. Mr. Ingalls made a statement as to withholding from homestead entry the Atlantic & Pacific railroad lands in New Mexico, declared forfeited by the act of July 6, 1886, intimating that the fault lay with the commissioner of public lands, who seemed to regard every pre-emptor as a kleptomaniac, bound on pillage and plunder. He offered a resolution (which was adopted) directing the secretary of the interior to inform the senate whether such lands had been restored to entry, and if not restored, the occasion of the delay.

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SENATE, Dec. 8.—Senator Edmunds presented a memorial in favor of a constitutional amendment empowering congress to pass uniform laws on the subject of marriage and divorce. Mr. Manderson introduced a bill authorizing a railroad company to extend its track across Fort Meade military reservation in Nebraska, also to increase the efficiency of line officers of the army, providing for examinations, as in the case of ordinance and engineer officers. Senator Dolph offered a resolution instructing the select committee on fish and fisheries to inquire and report as to the power of congress to legislate for the protection of food fisheries in the rivers and navigable waters of the United States, and especially in rivers that form boundaries between states and as to the propriety of such legislation. Adopted. A message was received from the president, and the senate immediately went into executive session, and soon afterwards adjourned.

HOUSE, Dec. 8.—Mr. Cutcheon, of Michigan, on behalf of the committee on military affairs, called up, and the house passed, a bill amending the act "for the muster and pay of certain officers and enlisted men of volunteer forces," so as to provide that in all cases arising under the same, any person who was duly appointed and commissioned, whether his commission was actually received by him or not, should be considered as commissioned to the grade therein named, and shall be entitled to all pay and emoluments as if actually mustered at that date. The speaker then presented the house a letter from the director of the mint, enclosing the draft of a bill for the issue of subsidiary silver coin. Referred. Mr. Dockery, of Missouri, on behalf of the committee on postoffices and postroads, called up the bill extending the free delivery system to towns having 10,000 population and where the revenue of the postoffice amounts to \$10,000. I did over.

A DISASTROUS COLLISION. TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 5.—A wreck was caused on the Pennsylvania railroad near Bristol early this morning by one freight train running into another. A wrecking train had arrived and was at work clearing the track when the Pittsburg passenger train bound east ran into the wrecking train, badly smashing up several cars, and so it is reported, killing several passengers and wounding others. No more definite can be learned regarding the wreck to-night.

Baldwin Gardiner, president of the Pacific stock board at San Francisco, has disappeared. He owes \$300,000 mainly to customers.

MEXICANS NICELY DONE UP.

The Alleged Agent of Patti Plays a Sharp Game on Amusement Goers.

City of Mexico dispatch: A tremendous sensation occurred here to-day and is the subject of gossip in all the clubs, cafes and places of public resort. For the last two days there has been great excitement over the sale of tickets at the National theatre for the Patti season, five nights in January. The crowd around the theatre has fairly blocked the streets. The police were required to preserve order and it seemed as if the city had gone mad over the expected advent of the songstress. Prices of boxes were \$50 a night, and seats \$6. These were three times the ordinary prices. The ostensible agent of Abbey who was conducting the sale of tickets, was a man giving his name as Mayer, and claiming to be a brother of M. R. Mayer, Abbey's friend and business associate. He had with him letters, one of which purported to be from Abbey, which he showed to Minister Manning and other people. The theatre had a ready been engaged for the Patti season. The advance agent gave to some of the best-known people here a name one suspected the fraud. The sale of tickets began Thursday morning, people waiting at the theatre door to get the first choice. Seats were bought in whole blocks, some persons paying a thousand dollars for boxes. In the course of the day the box-office had taken in \$18,000, and on the previous day private sales amounted to \$6,200, making the total of cash sales \$24,200. The governor of the district was somewhat suspicious and sent to "Mayer" to inquire if any one was responsible for the large amount of money being taken from the public, but Mayer managed to avoid any act that would further arouse suspicion. It is understood that every seat was taken for the whole five nights, but some well-known persons, as is the custom here, did not pay in advance, but merely gave orders; so that the amount in cash actually taken, as stated, does not come to half the seating capacity of the theatre for five nights. Last night the "Mayer" went to the hotel where he lodged, accompanied by a policeman, nominally appointed to guard him, but in reality to see that he deposited all the money in the hotel safe. In some ingenious way, it is said, "Mayer" transferred the cash \$20,000 to the National bank and the Bank of London to the pockets of his overcoat, and deluded the policeman into believing that all had been deposited in the safe. At all events this morning "Mayer" did not appear at the box office of the theatre, nor was he seen at the hotel. The money is that and there was only found \$4,300 in silver, which of course could not be taken away. Now the authorities are looking for "Mayer" and speculators are weeping and receiving, as best they can, the condolence of friends. It is said to be the biggest thing of the kind ever known in the capital. The story is that Mayer is an American, but he spoke English with a marked foreign accent, and had a German cast of countenance. This afternoon "Mayer's" interpreter was arrested at Arizona, whether it is said he had gone to make some arrangements for excursion trains to the city, saying that Mayer has gone north by the railway, and another that he is secreted here until the matter blows over.

NATIONAL TARIFF ASSOCIATION.

Pittsburg dispatch: The Commercial Gazette is authority for the statement that a national tariff association is being formed among the working men of this country. By the time of the presidential election of 1888 it says thousands of clubs will be in existence in the north and in five of the southern states. The organization was started in Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. In the coming year organizers will be placed in the states of Virginia and West Virginia. These will be the only southern states in which a club will be made. In the north such clubs will be organized. In Massachusetts an organizer has already been appointed and clubs will be organized in every town and village. State organizations are being placed in the other northern states. The organization will in no way antagonize the Industrial League of Philadelphia or the League of New York, while it is to be entirely independent of either.

A BATTLE WITH BURGLARS.

A Neenah (Wis.) special says: This morning at 3 o'clock burglars entered the house of E. M. Hulce, who lives just outside of the city. They chloroformed Hulce and proceeded to ransack the house, but Hulce awoke and had a battle with them. In the struggle he pulled the mask off, one of his assailants and identified him as a tramp who had hung around the house for a week past. Hulce was alone in the house. The burglars got about \$50 in money and then set fire to the house, burning it to the ground. Hulce narrowly escaped burning to death, but he crawled out and lay down in the snow, dazed from the effects of the chloroform. His hands were badly frozen. He lay in the snow about half an hour when he was picked up and taken to a neighbor's house. The house and contents were worth \$10,000, and were insured. Hulce is quite wealthy. The burglars have a good start and will probably not be captured.

A NEW NAVY ORDER.

Washington dispatch: The secretary of the navy to-day issued an order directing that on January 1 all stores, records and property at the navy yards and stations belonging to the navy department, except such as vessels and supplies coming under cognizance of the bureau of medicine and surgery and the marine corps, be transferred to the bureau of provisions and clothing. The order also covers the transfer of officers, employes and laborers and designates the duties of the former order intended to carry out Secretary Whitney's idea concerning the concentration in one bureau of the responsibility for stores and supplies, as far as possible under the existing order.

GERMANY PREDICTS WAR.

Berlin special: In the reichstag to-day Count Von Moltke made an impassioned appeal for unanimous vote in favor of a military bill, and the aged soldier's words made a deep impression on his hearers. He stated with the greatest earnestness that it would be impossible for France and Russia to long bear the strain caused by increasing their armies, a strain which would test the resources and the riches of these countries. The soldier said, must be near. Count Von Moltke's speech converted many of the government's opponents, and it is now certain that the bill will be passed.

IRISH AUTHORITIES HOAXED.

DUBLIN, Dec. 5.—The police were early on hand to-day to frustrate any attempt that might be made to hold the proclaimed national league meeting on the hill of Keash at Ballykeating Sligo, but no attempt was made, and indeed, no one in that section belonging to the league seemed to know that any meeting had been called. It transpired this afternoon that the call for the meeting had been issued by ways for the purpose of hoaxing the concert, in the accomplishment of which the jokers were eminently successful.