SENATE BILL 2806.

PRESIDENT POLK'S ARGUMENT TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE.

A Measure Made Necessary by the Great Agricultural Depression—L. L. Polk, President of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, Appears Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture—Startling Statistics—The Cause of the Evil and the Remedy for It.

Some time ago Col. L. L. Polk, President of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, appeared before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and spoke on the bill known as No. 2806 or the Sub-Treasury bill. He said:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Committee:

A convention of representative farmers was held in the city of St. Louis, Dec. 3, 1889. That body represented the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, represented twenty-three States and a constituency approximating at that time fifteen hundred thousand voters; they outlined what they conceived to be a measure of relief. They appointed a Committee on National Legislation, which, under their instructions, has formulated and presented to both houses of Congress a bill embodying, as it believes, a safe, proper and just solution of the financial trouble which threatens the agricultural interests of the country with bankruptcy and ruin. I refer to Senate bill No. 2806, introduced into your body by Senator Vance, of North Carolina.

DECLINE IN AGRICULTURAL VALUES.

In 1850 the farmers of the United States owned 70 per cent. of the total wealth of the country. In 1860 they owned about one-half the wealth of the country. In 1850 they owned about one-third the wealth of the country. In 1880 they owned a fraction less than one-fourth of the wealth of the country.

DEPRECIATION IN THE VALUE AND ACREAGE OF FARMS.

In 1860 the value of farms	$6,645,045,037
In 1850 the value of our farms	3,271,575,421
Total increase of value in ten years	$3,373,469,586
Average yearly increase in value	337,346,958

Now take the twenty years following:

In 1880 the value of farms	$10,197,096,776
In 1860 the value of farms	6,645,045,008
Total increase in value in 20 years	$3,352,051,669
Average yearly increase in value	177,602,587

That is, the average yearly increase in the value of our farms dropped from 10½ per cent., as in the years 1850 to 1860, to 2½ per cent., as in the years 1860 to 1880. And this fearful depreciation in the value of our farms occurred during a period of unexampled prosperity and development in the commercial, financial and manufacturing enterprises of the country.

	Increase acreage.
1850 to 1860, 10 years	113,640,000
Average yearly	11,364,000
1860 to 1880, 20 years	128,881,835
Average yearly	6,444,090

That is, the increase in the farm acreage from 1850 to 1860 was 38 per cent., while from 1860 to 1880 it dropped to 31 per cent. This heavy decrease took place during the same prosperous period to which I have referred, and during which the population of the country had more than doubled:

	Farm Values Increased Per Cent.
From 1850 to 1860	101
From 1860 to 1870	43
From 1870 to 1880	9

Yet, notwithstanding this alarming decline in farm values, the aggregate wealth of the country increased from 1870 to 1880 45 per cent., and the agricultural population increased over 29 per cent.

AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURING.

It may not be uninteresting or uninstructive to note in this connection the comparative progress between agriculture and manufacturing. From 1850 to 1860 agriculture led manufacturing in increased value of products 10 per cent. From 1870 to 1880 manufacturing led agriculture 27 per cent., showing a difference of 37 per cent. in favor of the growth of manufacturing.

The exports of American labor products show equally disparaging and discouraging exhibits:

	Agriculture.	Manufactures.
In 1881	$730,394,943	$89,219,380
In 1888	500,840,086	130,300,687

An increase during these seven years in our exports of manufactures of 46 per cent., and a decrease in those years of agricultural products of 31 per cent.

VALUE OF STAPLE CROPS.

The average price of our cereal crops in 1867 was very nearly $1 per bushel, and in the year 1887 it was less than 50 cents per bushel. The loss on the crop of 1887, as compared with that of 1867, was over $1,300,000,000.

The average value per acre in yield of all our crops in 1867 was $19; in 1887, twenty years later, it was about $9.

To show that this depression in prices, this shrinkage in values, does not proceed from local conditions, and is not confined to any section, or crop, or department of husbandry, let us examine the statistics of the four leading staple crops of the country:

WHEAT.

Crop.	Bushels.	Price.	Value.
1885	421,086,160	$1.10	$463,194,776
1889	490,560,000	.86	421,881,600

As will be seen, the crop of 1889 exceeded the crop of 1885 by 69,473,840 bushels, yet the crop of 1885 would have brought, at point of export, $41,313,186 more than that of 1889.

The wheat crop of 1880, although 41,090,595 bushels less than the crop of 1889, would have brought, at point of export, $280,036,551 more

1870, average price per bushel	$1.99
1880, average price per bushel	1.38
1887, average price per bushel	1.07
Price to-day, at point of export	.86

So that the wheat farmer to-day pays of the products of his labor two and one-third times as much for a dollar as he did from 1869 to 1870.

CORN.

Crop.	Bushels.	Value.
1888	1,987,790,000	$677,561,580
1889	2,112,892,000	597,918,820

So while the crop of 1889 exceeded that of 1888 by 125,102,000 bushels, yet it would have brought at point of export $79,642,760 less money.

1860 to 1870, average price per bushel	96 cents
1870 to 1880, average price per bushel	63 cents
1880 to 1887, average price per bushel	46 cents
Price to-day	37 cents

So that the corn farmer to-day pays in the products of his labor over two and one-half times as much for a dollar as he did during the years 1869 to 1870. Indeed, throughout the great corn belt of the Northwest and West it is claimed that he cannot sell it to-day at a price covering the cost of its production. The State Board of Agriculture of the great corn State of Illinois recently published officially that the farmers of that State lost on the corn crop of last year $9,935,823; that is, it cost that much more to produce it than it is worth on the market.

The yield of the three great staple crops of corn, wheat, and oats for 1889 exceeded the yield of 1888 by 242,355,840 bushels, and yet the crop of 1888 was worth $144,599,178 more to the farmers.

COTTON.

Crop.	Bales.	Price.	Value.
1871	4,352,317	20 cents.	$391,708,630
1887	6,513,623	10 cents.	293,093,035

So that the crop of 1871 was 2,161,306 bales less than the crop of 1887, yet it brought the cotton farmers $98,613,595 more money. The two crops of 1886 and 1887 aggregated 13,063,838 bales, three times as many bales as the crop of 1871, and yet these two crops brought our farmers only $196,164,080, or about 50 per cent. more than the crop of 1871.

In 1870 the value of agricultural lands in the ten cotton States was $1,478,000,000. In 1880 it was $1,019,000,000, a decrease of $459,000,000, or 31 per cent.

	Cents.
1860 to 1870, average price	48½
1870 to 1880, average price	15 7-10
1880 to 1887, average price	11
Price to-day	11

So that the cotton farmer pays in the products of his labor over four times as much for a dollar as he did in the years 1860 to 1870.

THE QUESTION OF INDEBTEDNESS.

If a farmer had given a mortgage in 1870 for $1,000 he could have paid it with 1,052 bushels of corn, but if he had paid one-half of it, the remaining $500, without interest, would now require 1,350 bushels of corn to pay it. He could have paid the $1,000 with 606 bushels of wheat in 1870, but if he owed $500 of the debt to-day it would require 593 bushels to pay it. He could have paid the $1,000 in 1870 with 10 bales or 5,000 pounds of cotton, but if he owed $500 of it to-day it takes 10 bales, or 5,000 pounds, to pay it. In other words, the farmer must pay his debts with the products of his labor, and he must work twice as hard and give twice as much cotton, corn or wheat to-day as was required in 1870 to pay the same debt.

In 1881 we produced 498,549,869 bushels of wheat, or 9½ bushels per capita, and its price was $1.15 per bushel. In 1889 we produced 490,560,000, or 7½ per capita, and its price is 79 cents per bushel.

WILL THE PROTECTIONIST EXPLAIN?

I assert, and statistics will sustain the assertion, that there has been no change in the great staple products relatively to demand or to population to justify this great depreciation in prices; unquestionably the demand has not diminished. Where, then, has been the change? Has the weight of the dollar been increased? Has the area of our acreage of land been curtailed that it should have fallen in value from 83 to 50 per cent.? Does not a pound of beef weigh now sixteen ounces? Do we not now measure our wheat or corn by the same measure? Does not the cotton farmer give now the same number of ounces to every pound? Has the change been made in the quantity or quality of the commodity, or has it been made in the money measure of its value? This is the great question that the farmers of the country desire and expect this Congress to explain.

So that in this single county the assessed value of the property is $1,567,642.96 less than the recorded indebtedness of that county.

THE HOME MARKET HUMBUG.

Let us take a State possessing pre-eminently advantages superior to any State in the Union for the successful and profitable prosecution of that "diversification" which is "essential to our agricultural salvation." I refer to that beautiful garden spot in the broad field of American agriculture—the State of New Jersey. Diversified farming, I presume no one will deny, should be most profitable where it has easy access to ready markets or to great centers of population. Not only have the farmers of New Jersey advanced to the front rank in all the appliances and most improved systems of agriculture but the whole State is or should be the kitchen-garden of a population in towns or cities within and immediately on its borders, of not less than four and three-quarter millions of people. The county of Salem has splendid facilities for reaching markets. It is adapted to truck-growing. The Board of Agriculture of that county made an official report to the Governor of the State only a few weeks since in response to inquiries propounded by him to the various boards, in which it was stated that the lands of that county had decreased in value 40 per cent.

NEW JERSEY'S TOTALS.

I quote from Mr. T. E. Willson, an able statistician and editor of the *Weekly World*. He says: "The wealth of the State of New Jersey more than doubled in ten years. The individual wealth very nearly doubled. Between 1850 and 1860 the total value of the farms increased $60,012,827, or 50 per cent. The individual value of each farm increased $1,420, or 28 per cent. Over 25 per cent. of the increase in wealth was divided among the farmers and went into their pockets for the increased value of the land alone. Between 1860 and 1880 the total increase in the value of the farms was only $10,645,495, or 5 per cent. each, or one-quarter of 1 per cent. yearly, which is not the natural rate of 'unearned increment.' The value of each farm declined during these years from $6,519 to $5,561. Only 2 per cent. of the increase in wealth went into the pockets of the farmers."

A SPECIMEN COUNTY.

From a reliable business man in the town of Flemington, the county seat of Hunterdon, I have obtained some statements. Be it remembered that Hunterdon is the best agricultural county in the State, and is within two hours' ride of either of the cities of Jersey, New York, Brooklyn or Philadelphia, and is traversed in all directions by important lines of railway. I quote from his statement of the sale of six farms, all of which, except one, are located within five miles of the town of Flemington, and all sold at public sale:

1. A farm of 120 acres sold in 1876 for	$10,800
The same farm sold in 1889 for	5,280
2. Twenty-five acres sold in 1870 for	5,000
The same sold in 1886 for	3,600
The same sold in 1889 for	2,600
3. Two hundred and eighteen acres sold in 1880 for	17,876
The same sold in 1890 for	8,000
4. One hundred and ten acres sold in 1881 for	7,150
The same sold in 1888 for	4,510
5. Two hundred acres sold in 1872 for	21,000
The same sold in 1881 for	16,400
The same sold in 1889 for	8,200
6. Ninety-eight acres sold in 1877 for	8,832
The same sold in 1890 for	4,132

He says these are all strictly good farms, and are kept in good condition, and adds, "the above is about a fair average of depreciation in farm lands throughout the county."

NEW ENGLAND'S DECAY.

Go to the States of Vermont and New Hampshire, whose every farm almost is within the sound of the bells or whistles of villages, towns, cities, workshops, mills or factories—the land where the farmer is peculiarly blessed with what is popularly known as "home markets." Where is the picturesque beauty and charming loveliness that once crowned those hills in the glories of "diversified farming?" The doleful answer comes back from fields abandoned to brier and brush, and from thousands of once happy homes, now given over to the spider and the bat. I hold in my hand a pamphlet of 104 pages, descriptive of some of these abandoned farms in New Hampshire, and issued by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Immigration for that State. On page 9 he tells us: "There have been reported to us by the Selectmen of the various towns (townships) 1,442 vacant farms, with tenantable buildings." The reason given for the abandonment of these farms, whose "large and comfortable buildings, substantial fences and permanent improvements make them in every way desirable," is, in some instances, by death of former occupant, but chiefly the occupants have gone into other business. He distinctly states that it is for "reasons traceable to other sources than inferiority of soil."

THE RICH GROWING RICHER.

From 1870 to 1880 the number of farms in the United States under three acres decreased 38 per cent., while those of one hundred to five hundred acres increased 300 per cent. The number of farms of three to ten acres decreased 21 per cent., while those from five hundred to one thousand acres increased 478 per cent.

The number of ten to twenty acres decreased 13 per cent., while those of one thousand or more acres increased 770 per cent. In 1880 we had 145,553 less farms under fifty acres than we had in 1870, and yet our agricultural population had increased during that decade 29 per cent.

To my mind no more serious aspect of the situation or of the downward tendency of the times can be found than is presented in these figures. They stand as a strong witness to the fearful and deplorable truth that through the rapid congestion of wealth, enriching the few at the expense of the many, our population is being rapidly resolved into two classes—the extremely rich and the extremely poor—classes which in all ages have proven themselves to be the weakest defenders of civil liberty.

To the student of history and to those who have given thought to the theory of our Government and the genius of our free institutions, this rapid absorption of the small farms and this rapid expansion of large landed estates portends the sure approach of the crucial era of our republican form of government. And when that day shall come, upon whom will devolve the responsibility and task of preserving and perpetuating the blessings of free government and of civil liberty but the great conservative, patriotic middle class of our population? Will the people be prepared to meet it? In seeking a true answer we cannot turn a deaf ear to the ominous declaration proclaimed in the following figures, which point unerringly the road which is strown with the ruins of wrecked republics:

WEALTH OF THE UNITED STATES.

	Taxed and untaxed property.
1850.	
Total value	$818,500,000,000
Assessed value	5,275,000,000
Farmers were assessed	4,500,000,000
1860.	
Total value	31,000,000,000
Assessed value	12,000,000,000
Farmers were assessed	10,500,000,000
1870.	
Total value	30,000,000,000
Assessed value	15,350,000,000
Farmers were assessed	12,500,000,000
1880.	
Total value	43,500,000,000
Assessed value	17,000,000,000
Farmers were assessed	14,000,000,000

In 1850 the farmers of the United States owned 70 per cent. of the total wealth of the country and paid 85 per cent. of its taxes. In 1860 they owned half the wealth of the country and they paid 87 per cent. of its taxes. In 1880 they owned only one-fourth of the wealth of the country. The increase in their farm values during the twenty years, from 1860 to 1880, had dropped from 101 per cent. to only 9 per cent., and yet in this desperately reduced and weakened condition they pay 80 per cent. of the taxes of the country.

ORGANIZING FOR RELIEF.

Mr. Chairman, retrogression in American agriculture means national decline, national decay, and ultimate and inevitable ruin. The glory of our civilization cannot survive the neglect of our agriculture; the power and grandeur of this great country cannot survive the degradation of the American farmer.

Struggle, toil and suffer as he may, each recurring year has brought to him smaller reward for his labor, until to-day, surrounded by the most wonderful progress and development the world has ever witnessed, he is confronted and appalled with impending bankruptcy and ruin. Crops may fail, disaster may come and sweep away his earnings by a breath, prices may go below the cost of production, but the inevitable tax-collector never fails to call upon him with increased demands. Is it any wonder these struggling and oppressed millions are organizing for relief and protection?

THE CAUSES.

We protest, and with all reverence, that it is not God's fault. We protest that it is not the farmers' fault. We believe and so charge, solemnly and deliberately, that it is the fault of the financial system of the Government—a system that has placed on agriculture an undue, unjust, and intolerable proportion of the burdens of taxation, while it makes that great interest the helpless victim of the spacious greed and tyrannical power of gold. A system through which, despite the admonitions of history and the experience of all countries in all ages, despite the teachings and warnings of the ablest men in the science of political economy in this and in all countries, our currency has been contracted to a volume totally inadequate to the necessities of the people and the demands of trade, and with the natural and inevitable result—high-priced money and low-priced products.

THE REMEDY.

1. Restore to silver its dignity and place as a money metal, with all the rights of coinage and all the qualities of legal tender which gold possesses.

2. Issue sufficient amounts of currency direct to the people, at a low rate of interest, to meet the legitimate demands of the business of the country, and which shall be legal tender for all debts, public and private.

3. Secure to such issue equal dignity with the money metals by basing it on real, tangible, substantial values.

These were the central ideas which prompted the action of the St. Louis Convention when that body asked for the free and unrestricted coinage of silver, and for an increased volume of currency to meet the increasing demands of the country, and presented, through Senator Vance, to the Senate the bill now under consideration.

PATERNALISM.

It is charged that to adopt this bill, which provides for the lending of money by the Government to the farmers at 1 per cent., on the security therein provided for, would be to establish paternalism in our Government. Is it paternalism for the Government to lend to the farmers of the country money on short time at 1 per cent. on evidences of wealth, when for a quarter of a century it has been lending money to the banks at 1 per cent. on evidences of indebtedness? Is it paternalism to lend money to the farmers on those products which the world needs and must have, and which are stored in warehouses, when the Government has for these long years been storing whisky in warehouses, whose certificates of deposit on the same are negotiable in all the banks of the land? Is it paternalism or criminal for the Government to accept the voluntary tender of a valid and substantial security in the property of the citizen for a loan of money, when that Government, for all time, has based its faith and credit for the issue of money on its power to tax that same property?

The wheat farmers of California have built their own warehouses for the storage of their wheat, which are in charge of agents of their own choosing. These agents grade or classify the grain, and issue to the farmers certificates of deposit. The Grangers' Bank of San Francisco, which was incorporated April, 1874, with an authorized capital of $1,000,000, which has a paid-up capital and reserve fund of $800,000, which has paid dividends to stockholders of $627,500, freely makes advances on these certificates of deposits held by the farmers. I am informed that it loaned to the wheat farmers of that State $3,000,000 during the year 1889 on these certificates.

A DEMAND FOR EQUAL RIGHTS.

We submit this bill, Mr. Chairman, with due deference to the intelligence, judgment and wisdom of your body. We do not claim that it is the best or the only measure through which relief may be brought to our oppressed, suffering and distressed people, but we submit it as the best we have been able to devise. We would be only too happy to receive at your hands a wiser and a better measure. But, Mr. Chairman, these suffering millions must have relief. They ask for bread and will not be content with a stone. They are not asking for charity, but they are demanding justice. They are not asking for special legislation, through which their interest may be promoted at the expense of any other interest of the country, but they demand that the heavy hand of oppressive discrimination be lifted from them, and that they be allowed an open field and an equal chance with the other great industries of the country.

Mr. C. W. Macune, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Alliance, also spoke on the bill. He made the following statement in the course of his speech:

The following table shows the number of warehouses or elevators each State would be entitled to under the provisions of this bill, provided every county should avail itself of the plan.

This may not always be the case, but will, no doubt, be the rule. The census of 1880 furnishes the data available for an estimate on this question. The decline in prices since that year fully meets the increase in production, except in the newer States. Though in many senses incomplete, no better data are at hand. A rough estimate only can be made, but that given below is probably correct in the main:

State.	No. of Counties.	State.	No. of Counties.
Alabama	34	Nebraska	18
Arkansas	36	New Jersey	4
California	25	New York	8
Colorado	3	North Carolina	34
Connecticut	2	Ohio	41
Delaware	2	Oregon	8
Florida	4	Pennsylvania	20
Georgia	47	South Carolina	30
Illinois	48	Tennessee	26
Indiana	29	Texas	61
Iowa	41	Virginia	14
Kansas	42	Wisconsin	20
Kentucky	27	North Dakota	12
Louisiana	29	South Dakota	18
Michigan	27	Idaho	2
Maryland	6	Montana	1
Minnesota	26	Washington	3
Mississippi	47		
Missouri	22	Total counties	817

Of this number about 373 would be warehouses for the storage of cotton or tobacco, and 444 elevators for the storage of wheat, corn, and oats, and as there is never at one time subject to storage much over 300,000,000 bushels of these grains, the average capacity of elevators would be about 750,000 bushels. The most liberal estimates for the construction of elevators of that size do not exceed $20,000 each, or an aggregate of $8,880,000. The warehouses necessary for storing cotton and tobacco can be built at a much less cost; but, counting them at the same price, the 373 warehouses would cost $7,460,000, and this very liberal estimate of the cost of construction of all the warehouses and elevators possible under the law would only be $16,340,000. Of course this estimate is only designed to be an approximation, and as such is fair and reasonable.

Helping a Boy.

As we left Cleveland the Sheriff of a county about fifty miles away came into the car with a prisoner—a ragged and forlorn-looking boy of 17, who had stolen a small sum of money and been run down. Public sympathy was at once enlisted on the boy's side, and we began to plan how to aid him in making his escape. Five of us chipped in a dollar apiece, and then we gathered around and began to talk politics. The Sheriff soon became interested, and, as we purposely opposed his views and beliefs, he soon got hot under the collar. He was one of those men who can't argue sitting down. He soon got up, and as he grew hotter he had to have more room. He began to pace up and down, leaving the boy alone in the seat, and I slipped in beside him and asked:

"Why did you steal the money?"

"He owed me five times as much and wouldn't pay a cent of it," he replied.

"Would you dare jump off this train?"

"Yes, sir."

"Well, here's five dollars. Slip out on the platform and wait. If the Sheriff follows you, jump. If he doesn't, then wait for a slack."

He took the money and slid, and he had been on the platform two minutes before he was missed. The Sheriff made a rush, the boy made a leap, and as we ran to the rear and looked for him he got upon his feet and waved us a farewell. The Sheriff came in, looked our crowd over, and sat down with:

"D—— politics and you, too."—*New York Sun.*

GEORGE WASHINGTON was born Feb. 11, 1732. The adoption by Great Britain of the Gregorian calendar in 1751, which was put into effect in September, 1752, moved his birthday on from the 11th to the 22d. As this country was then a dependency of Great Britain, the change was made here at or about the same time as in Great Britain. On the site of Washington's birth-place a stone was placed by G. W. P. Custis, bearing the inscription: "Here, on the 11th of February, 1732, George Washington was born." You come out ahead on all points.

ROBERT III. created David, Prince of Scotland, Duke of Rothsay, in 1398, a title ever afterward borne by the eldest son of the Scotch king, and now borne by the Prince of Wales.

FROM THE CAPITAL.

REVIEW OF A HOT WEEK IN AND ABOUT WASHINGTON.

Still Warmer Times in Prospect for Senate and House—The Question of Rules Again—In an Individual Way It Is Bothering Both Branches of Congress—Capital Notes.

There are hot times in prospect before both house and senate. The proceedings early this week indicate this. In the house the determination of the democrats that there shall be a quorum present before even the journal of the last day's proceedings can be read is a plain indication of the intention of the minority to hold the nose of the majority down to the grindstone which they themselves have set up. Speaker Reed, however, is confident of his power to count a quorum whenever demanded, and he has made up his mind that there is to be a long seige and a strong seige notwithstanding his statement last week that the house could adjourn at the present time, it having completed all of its important business.

The Silver Agreement.

In the house the McKinley tariff bill has been shelved until the silver question can be disposed of. The republicans of the joint conference committee have reached an agreement. The provisions of the proposed bill call for the purchase of 4,500,000 ounces of silver per month, certificates to be redeemable in coin, and to be full legal tender.

Depends on a Change of Rules.

It seems doubtful whether the federal election bill can pass the senate if the democrats have the determination to fight it to a finish. There are many senators who, if it came to a vote, might vote for it, but who do not think the measure a wise one and who would be glad to see it laid aside without a vote. Others there are who will never vote for the bill under any circumstances. There is a determination on the part of the friends of the measure, however, to force it through. Speaker Reed saved the president from the necessity of vetoing a free coinage silver bill, and it is thought that in return for this service he will seek and probably get the support of the administration in the effort to secure action on the bill by the senate. It is evident that the only way that the bill can be brought to a vote is by a change of the rules of the senate, so as to have the previous question ordered and thus cut off debate. There are undoubtedly senators who might not have the firmness to resist party pressure to vote against the bill directly, but who would vote steadily against the change of rules. A republican senator said to-day that he knew personally of enough senators to defeat a change of the rules who would vote with the democrats on that proposition. He did not himself think that that there was the least chance of the election bill passing. Unless there is an understanding that the bill is not to be passed the democrats will begin as soon as the tariff comes up to talk upon every paragraph, and without saying any more than they feel like saying about that measure they can keep up the debate until the year grows cold. They may talk the tariff bill itself to death, as well as the federal election bill. If, however, they are satisfied as to the latter measure the tariff discussion may not last very long.

Council Bluffs' Kick.

Representative Reed, of Iowa, was at the census office the other day with a bundle of papers in his hand. When the bundle was opened it was found to contain the protest of the board of trade and citizens of Council Bluffs against accepting the results of the recent census enumerators of that town. The population of Council Bluffs by the count was said to be 22,000, when the board of trade and citizens generally consider that 30,000 is the figure that will suit the population of that burg. They claim that a large number of citizens have been omitted and ask for a recount of eight districts. The superintendent of the census has recommended that two or three of the best enumerators who have been employed in taking the census of Council Bluffs be authorized to investigate the cases of omissions which have been complained of in the petition. The results of this investigation will be reported to the census office for further action.

The Election Cases.

Representative Lacy, of Iowa, was instructed yesterday by the house committee on elections to notify ex-Attorney-General Garland to appear and make an argument before the committee next Tuesday in the case of Representative Breckinridge, of Arkansas. The committee at the meeting yesterday disposed of the two Mississippi contested election cases, and the decision was in favor of the sitting democratic members—Catchings and Hooker. The Florida case of Goodrich vs. Bullock was discussed at length, and the final decision was deferred until next week, although it was apparent that the majority of the committee is disposed to report in favor of the claims of Goodrich, the republican contestant.

Hot at the White House.

President Harrison returned from Cape May Point last evening. It is likely he will wish he had not left the place of breezes and salt water, for it was sweltering hot at the white house all day yesterday. In the east room, with all the wind that was available blowing through the large windows, the thermometer registered 91 degrees in the morning. It was correspondingly warm all over the big house and there was no use in trying to keep cool any where. Secretary Halford is the authority for the statement that the president will probably return to Cape May Point in about two weeks and that Mrs. Harrison will remain there until the latter part of August.

Capital Notes.

During this hot weather the Iowa Republican association is not holding any meetings. Some of the Iowa congressmen are absent from the city, and when they return the association proposes to invite them to give a little talk on the politics out in Iowa.

Col. Clarkson, the first assistant postmaster-general, is expected back in Washington from his western trip next week. He will then resign and the president will try to find some one to fill his place.

A memorial has been sent to congress by a large number of western citizens asking that body "to immediately pass a law making it treason for any man, woman or child to hoist or unfurl the rebel flag (the stars and bars) otherwise than to exhibit it as a trophy." Senator Ingalls, as president pro tem., laid the memorial before the senate yesterday, and it was referred to the committee on military affairs.

For the first time in its history flags flew from the dome of the capitol in honor of Independence day. There were four large flags flying from staffs that had been placed on the colonnade of the tholus. They presented a handsome appearance, and the unusual spectacle attracted much attention.

WASHINGTON, July 9—Special Correspondence.

A TERRIBLE SCENE.

Hundreds of Women and Children Precipitated Into the Water.

A terrible accident occurred at Dartmouth, N. S., by which a number of people were drowned, but the exact number of victims is not yet known. The disaster happened by reason of a chain attached to a ferry-boat which slipped out of place, allowing the front end of the bridge to sink and precipitate a crowd of 600 or 700 men, women and children in the water.

The people were crowded there waiting for the new ferry steamer, Annex, just arrived from New York to the dock. When the steamer got within two feet of the landing a number of persons jumped on board, and at that moment the accident occurred. The outer end of the bridge went down suddenly and the terror-stricken crowd slipped off into the harbor as though they were descending a slide, piling on top of each other, shrieking for help and scrambling for means of safety. For some minutes there was a confused mass of women and children struggling in the water, but the accident had hardly happened before a dozen men leaped to the rescue. The drowning people were rapidly passed up to the men standing above on the wharves, and the rapidity with which the rescuers performed their work resulted in a great majority of those who fell in being saved from death. When the crowd slipped off the landing stage the people around, numbering some hundreds, crowded to the sides of the wharf and threw sticks and boards to the struggling mass in the water, while a number of life preservers were thrown to them from the steamer. Many people were struck and injured by flying boards and all the bodies recovered bear cuts and bruises. The statements of the spectators show that most of those who fell in were women and children, and the scenes immediately following the disaster were frightful.

When all those in sight had been brought to land the work of grappling for the drowned ones commenced. Within two hours four bodies were recovered, but up to midnight no other victims were found. It is believed at least four others are lost, but the exact number cannot be told at present. Intense excitement prevailed in Dartmouth and Halifax when the news of the disaster spread and thousands flocked to the scene, where they remained until a late hour watching those working in the water. Owing to the confusion it is impossible to tell who are missing, but the number cannot be large. The names of those whose bodies have been recovered are:

MISS BESSIE FOSTER.
PETER BOYLE.
MISS ALLIE BYNOTT.
JOHN BUNDY (colored).

A BOLD BID.

Ex-President Cleveland to Be Asked by the Louisiana Lottery People to Take Their Case Into Court.

After the Louisiana senate had passed the resolution declaring that the vetoing of the lottery bill was beyond the governor's constitutional authority, and, therefore, of no effect, the paper was sent to the house with a request for the concurrence of that body. From 7 o'clock in the evening until 2 o'clock next morning the house sat and wrangled over the matter. The anti-lottery faction, powerless to effect the defeat of the resolution, filibustered and fought to delay action, and at one time it seemed as if the setting would last until midnight. Finally the obstructionists gave way and a resolution was offered and adopted reconsidering the vote by which the house passed the lottery bill over the veto, declaring that the governor had no right to veto it, and directing the secretary of state to promulgate it and arrange for its submission to the voters. Senator Smith, whose absence on account of illness was the sole bar to the passage of the bill over the veto by the senate, died on the afternoon of the 10th. No action was taken upon his request that the senate meet in his apartments and his condition was such that it was impossible to take him to the senate chamber. In its present shape the lottery amendment will be the source of much costly litigation. Fortunes will be spent in retainers and costs. One rumor is that ex-President Grover Cleveland will be asked to plead the case. The case will go speedily through the state courts and then almost certainly to the United States supreme court.

HOOPESTON'S MAYOR.

He Is Released, and Now Declares Himself Not a Prohibitionist.

The case against Hoopeston's mayor, Dr. W. P. Pierce, has come to naught. The doctor was indicted for selling liquor at retail contrary to United States law. The court wrestled with the case two days and the jury for twenty-four hours longer, and the latter reporting an inability to agree was discharged. The doctor now declares with a good deal of vehemence that he is not a prohibitionist, as heretofore charged, but that he has always been and expects to remain a good republican. He was elected on an anti-license ticket, but that, he insists, does not make him a prohibitionist. It is certain that, notwithstanding his temperance professions, he sold liquor, and when he saw that he was likely to get into trouble he endeavored to hedge by taking out a government license. He seems to be a prohibition republican and a whisky ring on a small scale. The Hoopeston people will probably swap him off at the next annual election and select some one for their mayor whose political status is more clearly defined.

Death of an Ex-Senator.

Ex-Senator Thos. B. McCrary died at his home near Owensboro, Ky., in the 74th year of his age. He has been a paralytic for years.

TALK about women being flighty! Look at bank cashiers.

SPANISH POLITICS.

Spain Would Seriously Consider an Offer of $200,000,000 for Cuba.

Senors Hipolito Mura and Pilicarpo Munoz, constituting a special commission from the Spanish government, has visited Washington within the past few days. Their movements have been very mysterious. A correspondent claims to have discovered the mission of the strangers. It is a quasi-diplomatic one, to ascertain the feeling, both on the part of the government of the United States and of the Cuban residents here as to the possible eventual annexation of the island of Cuba to the United States. During their stay in New York, whence they arrived last Monday, they thoroughly canvassed the views of the Spanish-American element in that city and found them almost unanimous in favor of annexation. Senor Munoz, in conversation, said:

"Prior to our departure from Spain we were fully aware of the change in the Spanish cabinet, and now that Senor Canovas del Catillo has assumed the office of prime minister, we may fully expect an almost complete and formal recognition of the republican element in Spain. The republicans there, or those who favor an overthrow of the monarchial rule, are most universally in favor of disposing of the island of Cuba to the United States."

"What price is set upon the island?"

"That I am not prepared to say, as our negotiations have not yet reached that climax," was the reply.

"And do you think that $100,000,000 would reach the limit?"

"Oh, no; not by any means."

"How about $200,000,000?"

"I am almost positive that Spain would give this offer a very serious consideration. You see, the feeling which pervades the present Spanish government is a conciliatory one. It tends toward establishing perpetual peace with all nations. The object Spain has in ascertaining the disposition on the part of the United States to acquire Cuba is that it sees a way to relieve its overburdened finances, settle its internal disputes and place it more on a par with other European nations."

"What immediate effect on Spain would the cession of Cuba produce?"

"None in the very immediate future. But with the money realized, Spain would be in a position to secure a long protracted alliance with France and the eventual absorption of Portugal and her manifold colonial interests. This project has long been cherished among the republicans of Portugal and Spain. You may take my word for it that the present cabinet change in Spain is only the initiative of a thoroughly decisive republican movement in that country, which is to take place in September or October. The queen regent is fully aware of the proposed movement, and from her, as well as from the royal household, only a passive resistance may be expected."

Senor Munoz added that Spain has about come to the conclusion that sooner or later she will lose possession of Cuba and that she will make the best bargain she can for its sale. He predicts that before the year 1890 shall have ended, negotiations will have been entered into between Spain and the United States for the transfer of the island of Cuba to the latter. Senor Mura produced some documents which he said were their credentials from the government at Madrid.

Asked how it was that the Spanish minister at Washington knows nothing of this matter, he replied that there are many affairs of state with which the ministers accredited to foreign countries are not made acquainted, and this concerning the sale of Cuba is one of them.

IN A CHINESE DEN.

Two Fashionable Pittsburg Young Ladies Caught Hitting the Pipe With Celestials.

A raid which was made the other night by the Alleghany police on a Chinese laundry at 245 Federal street, in that city, resulted in a rich haul being made, and one that gave the police much surprise. The officers surrounded the resort named and burst in the doors. As they forced themselves in screams were heard, and a white girl but partially dressed tried to get out of the back door, only to be met by the burly form of an officer. After closing every means of escape the police arrested the entire party. Beside the girl mentioned another pretty young lady and three leprous looking mongolians, all in various stages of undress, were captured. About the room pipes were strewn and opium fumes filled the air. Both the girls were at once recognized by the raiders, one of them being the daughter of a leadidg iron man. She is engaged to marry a young oil broker of Pittsburg. The other one is also well known in social circles. The entire party was escorted to the mayor's office. There they refused to give their right names. The Chinamen gave their names as King Lee, Ah Lee and Charles Gun. As they appeared in court the girls were handsomely arrayed in most fashionable attire. One of them is only 20 years of age and the other 22. King Lee was fined $25 and costs, Ah Lee and Charles Gun $5 and costs, and each of the girls $25 and costs. The Chinamen all paid, but the women did not have the cash needed to secure their freedom, and are still in the "bastile." They are ashamed to send for their friends, and have put in the entire day weeping. If they do not muster up enough courage to send for help they will have to go to the county workhouse for thirty days. Chief Murphy, however, says he will send for their parents.

NEWS FROM ICELAND.

Many Seamen Lost in the Fisheries and by Collision With Icebergs.

A letter from Capt. Ryan, of the schooner A. D. Storey, dated Dynefjord, Iceland, June 4, says that the weather has been usually stormy and that at the time of writing a heavy snow storm prevailed. Two of the crew of the schooner Senator Salisbury, Thos. Reese and Otto Johnson, were lost by the capsizing of a dory. The schooner, Wm. Rife, one of the first vessels from Gloucester this season for the halibut fishing, is missing. It is thought she collided with an iceberg, many of which are reported by the fleet during the passage. She carried a crew of sixteen men, all of whom were unmarried.

THE Djaalins have rebelled against the Mahdi, who is defended by the Baggaras.