THE DAILY RECORD-UNION.

TUESDAY.....JANUARY 13, 1880.

THE San Francisco office of the Daily RECORD-UNION and WEEKLY UNION is at 208 Montgomery street.

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

IN New York yesterday Government bonds were quoted at 104½ for 4s of 1907; 103⅝ for 5s of 1881; 107½ for 4½s; sterling, $4 83@4 85½; silver bars, 112⅜; silver coin, ¼ discount buying, par selling.

SILVER in London yesterday, 52⅝; consols, 97⅞; 5 per cent. United States bonds, 106¾; 4s, 106⅝; 4½s, 110⅝.

IN San Francisco half dollars are quoted at par; trade dollars, 95 buying, 96½ selling; Mexican dollars, 96 buying, 96½ selling.

AT Liverpool yesterday wheat was quoted at 10s 8d to 11s 6d for average California white, and 11s 5d to 11s 10d for club.

THE following bullion was shipped from Virginia, Nev., last night: Union, $100,713 23; California, $50,473 47; Consolidated Virginia, $48,451 56.

MINING stocks were tolerably interesting in San Francisco yesterday morning. Union Consolidated sold up to $53, a gain of $2 50 over the best price on Saturday, but subsequently fell back to $48. Alpha rose $1 and Belcher $1 12½. The variations in other kinds were moderate.

FIRE at Oroville.

A TERRIBLE disaster was averted yesterday on the New York and New England Railroad by the vigilance of the engineer and the use of an air-brake.

AT Milwaukee, Wis., Sunday night, Captain W. G. Wilkinson killed his wife and then committed suicide.

M. L. H. JACQUELIN fell dead yesterday in San Francisco.

A TERRIFIC hurricane at Portland, Or., did great damage to property and caused the loss of several lives.

THE corner in grain at New York is producing great excitement there.

INDIAN affairs in New Mexico are still serious.

IN a fight at Grass Valley, one of the participants suffered a fracture of the skull.

THE annual election of the San Francisco Stock Board took place yesterday.

PETER H. BURNETT has retired from the Presidency of the Pacific Bank at San Francisco, and is succeeded by R. H. McDonald.

IN Joint Convention yesterday the Maine Legislature proclaimed John D. Lamson Acting Governor.

A CANDAHAR dispatch announces that the leader of the Herati troops has been put to death by Ayoub Khan.

JOSEPH HALFNER, charged with murder, committed suicide in jail at Doylestown, Pa., yesterday.

THE distress in Ireland is increasing.

THE Louisiana Legislature organized yesterday.

THE Kellogg-Spofford inquiry was resumed at Washington yesterday.

CHARLES FOSTER was inaugurated Governor of Ohio yesterday at Columbus.

THE funeral of Sarah Smith Stafford was largely attended yesterday at Trenton, N. J.

THE Commissioners of Arapahoe county, Col., have decided to build a $125,000 Court-house.

THE Republicans executed a flank movement at Augusta, Me., last evening, by taking possession of the State House and organizing a Legislature.

IN the State Senate yesterday a large number of bills were introduced and most of the time was devoted to discussing the reference of the Act repealing the Rogers Act. It was referred to the San Francisco delegation. In the Assembly yesterday a number of bills were introduced, and business on the general file taken up and the bills acted on.

DRIFTING IN MAINE.

They appear to be drifting in Maine toward more and more serious difficulties. The Fusionists, reluctant to abandon the vantage ground won for them by Garcelon, but unable to effect any legitimate organization by themselves, are said to be contemplating further usurpations. They think of securing a quorum by the very practical method of causing enough Republican members to be arrested and dragged into the House; and they also talk of conferring upon the President of the Senate the functions and powers of the Executive office. As they have no authority for either of these steps; as they are not in any proper sense an organized legislative body; it is inevitable that their opponents should be strongly exasperated by the report of what is intended. It is consequently intimated that an attempt to oust the Republican members would almost certainly be met with forcible resistance, while General Chamberlain is said to have declared his intention of refusing recognition to the proposed sham Acting Governor. The significance of these proceedings lies in the evidence they afford of the extent to which the people of Maine are drifting away from constitutional and legal government. Every new step taken by either side is bringing them nearer to the danger of anarchy. Probably the best thing that could happen at this juncture would be the occurrence of some event which would justify the intervention of the Federal Government. For if the Fusionists do not quickly abandon their illegal attitude, and allow the people's lawfully elected representatives to take their seats and proceed constitutionally to the election of Governor, it is plain that they must in their very embarrassment be tempted to take further unwarrantable steps, and that in so doing they must sooner or later reach the limits of Republican patience and forbearance, and thus bring about a collision. If the leaders of the national Democracy have any influence with their friends in Maine, now is the time for them to counsel submission to the law, and abandonment of a course which all the country sees to be untenable save from the standpoint of sedition.

A TRIUMPH FOR THE AIR-BRAKE.

Our dispatches this morning record one of the most signal triumphs ever won by the air-brake, without the aid of which a hideous catastrophe must have occurred. A large steamer was approaching a railroad bridge near Boston, when the pilot rang to stop her, but the bell-wire breaking the engineer failed to receive the signal, and so sent the vessel with great momentum full on to the bridge. The blow shook the structure very much, throwing the rails eighteen inches out of place. At that moment a train was within its own length of the bridge. The engineer saw what had happened; instantly applied the air-brakes, reversing his engine at the same time, and brought the train to a standstill some fifteen feet from the wreck. It is perfectly apparent that nothing but the air-brakes could have averted the accident in this case. With the old hand-brakes the train could not have been stopped in less than six hundred yards, and it would therefore have plunged on to and through the broken bridge, and a great loss of human life would have followed. The efficiency of the air-brake was perhaps never demonstrated in so striking and conclusive a manner. It literally saved the train under circumstances when nothing else could have done so. It is possible that the account of this case may have some effect in determining the contest which has been going on among the English railroad men for a long time, as to the relative merits of different kinds of brakes. In that highly conservative country there are still, according to Mr. Charles Francis Adams, railroad superintendents who maintain the superiority of the ancient hand brake. It is certainly time that they were enlightened on so important a question, and an occurrence like that in Boston is peculiarly well calculated to open their eyes.

OVER 500 POSTOFFICES IN CALIFORNIA ALONE.—*The* SEMI-WEEKLY UNION *circulates at over 500 Postoffices in California. No other journal approaches it in the extent of its circulation.*

LEGISLATION AGAINST LOBBYING.

Section 35, Article IV., of the new Constitution, declares lobbying to be a felony, and prescribes that "it shall be the duty of the Legislature to provide, by law, for the punishment of this crime." The Constitution declares that "any person who seeks to influence the vote of a member of the Legislature by bribery, promise of reward, intimidation or any other dishonest means, shall be guilty of lobbying." Assemblyman Braunhart has, in pursuance of this constitutional direction, drafted a bill to punish the crime of lobbying. It covers more ground than the constitutional clause upon which it is ostensibly based, for whereas the latter defines lobbying as the influencing of members of the Legislature by improper means, Mr. Braunhart has extended it so as to include not only legislators, but all public officers, State, county and municipal. We observe in much of the new legislation now being introduced a disposition to ignore the limits of constitutional prescription. Members appear to imagine that the Constitution is merely an outline or skeleton framework, which they are at liberty to fill up, to amplify, and to extend or alter, as they please. Mr. Braunhart's bill, however, declares that "any person or persons, who shall directly or indirectly, by offer or promise of money, office, appointment, employment, or other thing of any value; or who shall by threats or intimidation endeavor to influence any member of the Legislature, or other public officer, whether State, county or municipal, in the discharge, performance or non-performance of any act, duty or obligation pertaining to such office, shall be deemed guilty of the offense of lobbying, and be liable to indictment for felony; and on conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to imprisonment in the State Prison for not less than one, nor more than five years." It will be observed that this ingenious and sweeping measure not only aims at the suppression of lobbying as it is generally understood, but contemplates a veritable revolution in American politics, and a practical regeneration of the whole business from beginning to end. The Legislature, when called upon to pass this bill, must, if satisfied of its constitutionality, experience considerable embarrassment. For this case is one of those in which members, however pure their motives, can hardly escape calumny if they oppose the measure. Opposition to it is tolerably certain to brand those who take that ground, as defenders of the lobby; and though it is very well known that the relations usually existing between the members of the three houses are the reverse of hostile, it will require much moral courage to offer any resistance to a law which is supposed to possess so strong a popular indorsement. It is said that they have in Pennsylvania a law somewhat similar to this one. That being the case it would be both interesting and important to ascertain whether the thing called lobbying has been eliminated by the passage of the statute.

As the Constitution has decreed it, of course there must be legislation in the premises, and we do not suppose that any factious opposition to it will be offered. Mr. Braunhart's bill may not be quite the right measure, but some law on the subject must be enacted, and it really does not greatly matter what it is. For no legislation can put a stop to lobbying, and every man capable of reflection knows this to be true. Legislation may render the business more difficult and dangerous; may drive it from the open daylight, and compel it to burrow underground; but statutes are powerless to control a practice which has been engendered in the venality and corruptness of human nature. Given a perfectly pure and incorruptible Legislature and lobbying would die of inanition, without any legislation at all. But perfectly pure and incorruptible Legislatures never assemble. All such bodies have their black sheep, and wherever there are black sheep there will be found means to purchase them and to use them. Attempts to suppress lobbying are in the nature of efforts to cure wounds by putting medicaments on the weapons with which they were inflicted. That sort of vicarious surgery was commonly practiced during the Middle Ages, but it has been abandoned now for several centuries. Laws against lobbying are indeed calculated in some respects to render it more dangerous, by giving to it the cover of a deeper secrecy. Under such a law the professional lobbyists would cease to be seen in their old haunts. They would no longer be regular attendants at legislative sessions. To all outward semblance they would have withdrawn. But the motives which bring them here would be as strong as ever, and unless the venal members were all regenerated by the operation of the statute, there would be no difficulty in bringing together the itching palms and that "Balm of Gilead" which is supposed to possess such sovereign virtue in allaying this kind of irritation. The proposal to put down lobbying by legislation was one of those attempts to solve difficult problems by sheer force, which are very apt to be made by ignorant men who find themselves confronted by such difficulties when they have the power to legislate. Such people commonly believe that if abuses and evils exist it is only because they have not been attacked with sufficient vigor and violence, and their first impulse always is to solve the Gordian knot by cutting it.

We anticipate no substantial benefits from the legislation proposed in this direction, because we know that human nature cannot be molded by statutes. The only infallible method for doing away with lobbying is to see to it that none but honest and intelligent and fair-minded men are elected to the Legislature. So long as this cannot be done, or is not done, there will be as much lobbying as there has ever been, no matter what laws are enacted against the practice. So long as the majority of men are ruled by self-interest there will be legislators who are amenable to bribery of various kinds, and if they are not sought out they will themselves go in quest of a market. There is a certain quality of childishness in the idea that what is called lobbying can be swept out of existence by the wave of the legislative wand; but the Constitution has ordained that the experiment should be made, and so we must be prepared to contemplate it patiently. One result is certain to flow from the experiment, and that is the enhancement of the value of the services of lobbyists. When a stigma is placed upon their business, and they are compelled (in theory, at least) to encounter the risk of the Penitentiary while pursuing it, it is obvious that they will have to be paid much higher rates than heretofore. For this reason among others they may not feel disposed to offer any objections to the proposed legislation. It will please the simple-minded folks who believe in the plenary power of statutes, and it will not appreciably discompose the class at which it is aimed. At the close of the session, however, it will be in order to review the effects of the new law, and to ascertain whether any marked improvement in the character and quality of the work done has resulted from this crusade upon the Third House.

SENATOR MORELAND'S PRISON BILL.

Senator Moreland has introduced a bill defining the duties of the State Prison Directors, and providing for the management of the State Prison. We shall not at this time examine it at any length, but we desire to point out that in the very first section it contravenes the Constitution. Section 1, Article X., of that instrument, provides that "There shall be a State Board of Prison Directors, to consist of five persons, to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, *who shall hold office for ten years*, except that the first appointed shall, in such manner as the Legislature may direct, be so classified that the term of one person so appointed shall expire at the end of each two years during the first ten years, and vacancies occurring shall be filled in like manner." Senator Moreland's bill provides for the appointment of five Directors, "one of whom shall be appointed for a term of one year, one for a term of three years, one for a term of five years, one for a term of seven years, and one for a term of nine years." It will puzzle Senator Moreland to show how this arrangement can be made to consist with the language of the Constitution. We notice also that he provides for the letting of contracts for employing convict labor, for two years. Governor Irwin in his late message pointed out that contractors would not undertake to invest capital in machinery for such purposes for so short a time, and we have no doubt that this will be found to be the case. Practically the contract system is dead already, and therefore it would be useless to calculate upon the employment of the convicts in such a manner. The State will have to employ them henceforth itself, beyond a reasonable doubt.

PACIFIC SLOPE NEWS.

DISPATCHES OF LAST NIGHT.

WESTWARD-BOUND PASSENGERS.

Several Buildings Destroyed by Fire at Oroville

THE SUIT AGAINST THE BONANZA FIRM.

A Destructive Hurricane Reported from Portland, Or.

CALIFORNIA.

Election of Officers—The Bonanza Case—Pacific Bank Presidency.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 12th.—The election of the San Francisco Stock Board today resulted as follows: President, E. P. Peckham; Vice-President, Geo. T. Mayre; Caller, B. H. Coit; Treasurer, J. M. Shotwell; Secretary, Charles S. Neal.

Judge Sawyer, of the United States Circuit Court, to-day rendered a decision on the motion to remand back to the State Court the case of John H. Burke vs. Flood, Mackey, Fair and the Pacific Wood, Lumber and Flume Company, which has been taken to the Circuit Court on an application of all the defendants under the recent decision by the United States Supreme Court. Judge Sawyer decided that plaintiff and part of the defendants, being residents of California, his Court could not acquire jurisdiction, and the case must go back to the State Court. Mackey and Fair having made a separate motion for transfer as to them only, the matter will be argued Wednesday.

Peter H. Burnett retires from the Presidency of the Pacific Bank, which position he has filled since the Bank was organized, and R. H. McDonald, formerly Vice-President, becomes President.

Body Found—Fell Dead—Terrific Hurricane in Oregon.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 12th.—A body was found in the bay to-day, supposed to be that of one of the boys recently drowned by the upsetting of a skiff while duck-shooting near the Potrero.

M. L. H. Jacqueline, a native of Texas, aged 55 years, formerly quite a wealthy citizen but lately in reduced circumstances, fell dead in his room, 617 Mason street, this morning.

A dispatch from Roseburg, Or., says a terrific hurricane has prevailed in Portland. Several houses are reported blown down and some lives lost. The wires are down, and no further particulars are obtainable at present.

Change of Management.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 12th.—Messrs. Barton & Hill have retired from the management of the California Theater, which is assumed by Samuel Colville.

Fire at Oroville—Losses and Insurance.

OROVILLE, January 12th.—A fire broke out at about 2 o'clock this morning in Klein's cigar manufactory, on Montgomery street, between Myers and Downer, which burned the row of frames extending from the Union Hotel to the corner. The origin of the fire is yet a mystery. The losses and insurance are about as follows: Friesleben, two frame buildings and damage to brick hotel; loss, $1,000; insurance, $500. Martin, shoemaker shop, tools and stock; loss, $500; no insurance. Cardy, harness shop; loss, $400; no insurance. Klein, cigar factory; loss, $500; fully insured. Presley, watchmaker; loss, $250; no insurance. Thomas Johnson; loss, $6,000; insurance, $4,000. When the water works were established here, two years ago, our town voted against paying anything to establish fire-plugs and hose. Friesleben put one in at the Union Hotel himself, and to its use alone last night is due the preservation of the hotel, and also, in all probability, the greater part of the business portion of the town.

Unknown Dead.

SAN RAFAEL, January 12th.—On the 10th inst. a body was picked up in the bay near Saucelito. It was that of a man aged about 50 years, five feet ten inches in hight, bald on the top of the head, brown hair, slight gray goatee, had on a brown frock coat and overalls, striped woolen shirt, blue undershirt, low-cut shoes, gray striped vest and canton flannel drawers.

Skull Fractured.

GRASS VALLEY, January 12th.—Billy Wills and Sam Blight had a misunderstanding late last night. The former was struck with an ice-pick, fracturing his skull. His recovery is doubtful.

NEVADA.

Passengers Passing Carlin for California.

CARLIN, January 12th.—The following passengers passed Carlin to-day, to arrive in Sacramento to-morrow: R. E. Paraga, New York; E. W. Hitchins, Indiana; S. Wootten and wife, California; Dr. A. S. Adler, San Francisco; F. Silver, Paris; James Coe, Brooklyn, N. Y.; B. F. Baker, Philadelphia; Dr. G. P. Lee, Merced, Cal.; O. H. Perry, Texas; T. E. Champion, San Francisco; G. W. Colton and wife, South Australia; O. Smith, Oakland, Cal.; Mrs. S. M. Norcross, Syracuse, N. Y.; Annie E. Turner, Washington, Me.; Kittie Habermehl, New York; Sarah Veitch, J. G. Lewis, Michigan; W. S. Johnson, New York; Mrs. S. Dismond, Oakland, Cal.; R. H. Smith, Salt Lake; 53 emigrants, including 35 males, to arrive in Sacramento January 14th.

The Belcher Mine—Bullion Shipments.

VIRGINIA, January 12th.—A prominent mining magnate of the Comstock, whose opinion is entitled to full weight, but who refuses to allow his name to be used, says of the Belcher development that it is a fine prospect, and that he thinks very well of it. It has bunches and stringers of good ore.

Bullion shipments to-night: Union, $100,713 23; California, $50,473 47; Consolidated Virginia, $48,451 56.

SEE THIS.—*The* SEMI-WEEKLY UNION *is sent in clubs of from 10 to 125 copies to over 500 Postoffices in California. It stands unrivaled as an advertising medium.*

A RECENT picnic was turned into a hollow mockery by every fellow remembering a corkscrew and depending on somebody else to furnish the bottle.

TELEGRAPHIC.

LAST NIGHT'S DISPATCHES TO THE RECORD-UNION.

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS.

Bill Reintroduced in the House Concerning Chinese Immigration.

PASSENGERS COMING WEST BY RAIL.

Narrow Escape from a Terrible Disaster Near Boston.

THE INDIAN SITUATION IN NEW MEXICO.

Presidential Preferences in Pennsylvania and Indiana.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF FOREIGN NEWS.

Increase of the Distress in Ireland—People on the Verge of Starvation.

Etc.....Etc.....Etc.

DOMESTIC NEWS.

Affairs at the National Capital.

[Special to the RECORD-UNION.]

WASHINGTON, January 12th.—The bill introduced by Horace Davis to-day concerning Chinese immigration is a copy of a bill introduced by him in the last Congress, providing for the collection of a capitation tax of $100 on every Chinese passenger landed in the United States in excess of one passenger for each 100 tons measurement of the vessel on which they arrive. His object in re-introducing this bill is simply to stimulate the attention of the Education and Labor Committee to the Mongolian problem, and help to furnish them with all possible aids to its solution.

Pacheco introduced a bill appropriating $6,000 for the erection of a fog signal at the entrance of the harbor of San Luis Obispo.

Page introduced a bill for the relief of Green & Trainor, of Sacramento, for a balance claimed on contract for furnishing supplies to troops in 1862, and for the relief of Melinda Thurston, the latter's claim being for property captured by the Indians.

Representative Page to-day received from Collector Wm. Higby a protest against his removal, signed by Murphy, Grant & Co., Wm. T. Coleman & Co., Sisson & Wallace, and about forty other business firms of San Francisco. Senator Booth appended a certificate as to the high standing of the signers of the protest, and then handed it to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee to serve as an additional block against any favorable action on Morton's nomination, now awaiting consideration by that committee. A remark is made concerning this protest, however, that its signatures do not include any liquor or tobacco manufacturers, or other persons engaged in branches of business which have brought them in contact with Collector Higby's administration of his office.

Representative Belford to-day introduced a bill providing for the creation of a Mining Bureau, somewhat similar in its organization to the present Department of Agriculture, its chief officers to gather information, in person or by competent deputies, concerning the mineral resources of the various regions of the United States, the processes for reducing ores, etc., and report annually to Congress. He is also required to respond to the application of any citizen for specific information, by furnishing whatever may be on file in the Bureau in regard to the special subject of inquiry.

Delegate Otero to-day introduced a bill to give the Probate Courts of New Mexico chancery as well as common law jurisdiction in all causes involving amounts less than $2,000. Writs of error are to be allowed to the Supreme Court and appeals to the District Courts.

An intimate friend of Governor Tilden, who has very recently conversed with him in New York, expresses a firm belief that Tilden does not desire the Presidential nomination for himself, but that he would like to be in a position where he can decline the nomination gracefully in favor of some candidate known to be acceptable to him. Who Mr. Tilden would really prefer is not developed, but the indications point to General McClellan. There is no foundation for the widely published statement that his influence will be exerted in behalf of Speaker Randall for the Presidential nomination, other than the suggestions of some personal friend of Randall. It seems to be generally believed, both here and in New York, that Tilden is opposed to Senator Bayard, for some reason or other, but many of the most influential New York Democrats in Washington have expressed their decided preference for Bayard, and August Belmont is credited with the assertion that Bayard can carry New York by 50,000 majority. The opinion is prevalent among the most sagacious Democratic leaders that if Horatio Seymour will take the nomination he will certainly get it, but that if he decisively declines, all the probabilities point to the nomination of Bayard. There appears to be no longer any apprehension of a split in the New York Democracy this year. The friend of Tilden above quoted says that Tilden spent at least $100,000 in the late State canvass for election expenses, and that he will spend a still larger sum in the coming Presidential canvass, if the nomination be acceptable to him.

Denis Kearney left Washington last night for New York.

Delegate Cannon and family have arrived from Utah.

A local paper reports that the wife of Congressman Pacheco is writing a play for Fanny Davenport.

The Ute Question.

WASHINGTON, January 12th. — Secretary Schurz says that he does not at present desire to say anything regarding his conference with Ouray. He has not yet decided whether he will hold an open council with the entire delegation or not. Inasmuch as it has been stated that the Indians are being guarded as captives, the Secretary desires to announce that such was not the intention of the Department. The Indians, he said, were here as a delegation, and would be treated as such; but, in view of the rough treatment they received at several railroad depots while on their way, and as some of them are unwell, he has adopted his present course. The Secretary says there will be plenty of material for publication in this connection in a few days.

The Kellogg-Spofford Case Again.

WASHINGTON, January 12th.—The Senate Committee on Elections to-day resumed its work in the Kellogg-Spofford case.

General J. H. Sypher, Ex-Congressman, was called in further rebuttal of the testimony of Barney Williams, given before the sub-committee at New Orleans, one of Williams' statements being that Sypher was present in Senator Kellogg's room at Willard's Hotel on the night of June 4th last, and witnessed the distribution of money by Kellogg to five specified witnesses, whom he (Williams) had conducted thither. Sypher this morning testified that he was in Kellogg's room twice during the evening between the hours of 7 and 8, and also at 10 o'clock, but swore positively that he did not see any of the five witnesses, and that neither then nor at any time had he seen Kellogg give money to these or any other witnesses. The only two persons he remembered seeing in Kellogg's room that evening besides the Senator and perhaps Clark, his Secretary, were John A. Walsh and William L. Randall. He contradicted Williams in other particulars.

Williams, recalled, admitted that he was in New Orleans in November to defend himself in a criminal suit for defrauding the Government in a distillery.

Indian Affairs in New Mexico—Schurz and Ouray.

WASHINGTON, January 12th.—A telegram bearing date Mescalero Agency, New Mexico, January 8th, at Mesilla, has been received by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, announcing serious trouble between the Mexicans and Indians and Agency employes, but the property is reported all right. General Pope has order all the cavalry in southern New Mexico to march rapidly against these Indians. Advices at the War Department state that the renegade Apache Indians, recently followed across the border into Mexico by General Morrow, have returned. The Mexican authorities have requested that they be permitted to assist in the pursuit of those Indians on the American side. The Secretary of War has granted the request.

Secretary Schurz had a long conference to-day with Chief Ouray.

The Isthmus Canal Scheme.

NEW YORK, January 12th.—The *Post* this evening says: It is not premature to say that the people of the United States expect their Government to take suitable action forthwith respecting De Lesseps and his proposed Isthmus canal. To neglect it longer is inconsistent with the national honor.

A Washington special to the *Post* says: Secretary Evarts says the dispatches asserting that he, as attorney of the Panama Railroad Company, had advised Grant not to accept the Presidency of the Darien Canal Company, are false. The Panama Railroad Company has never, he says, been a client of his. Personally he favors the Nicaragua cut as the most feasible, although the geographical superiority of the Tehuantepec route for an American canal is obvious. The high levels and limited supply of water, however, seem to make that route impracticable. He has little faith that De Lesseps will put through his Panama scheme.

Narrow Escape from a Terrible Disaster.

BOSTON, January 12th.—The sudden breaking of the bell-wire on board the steamship Lancaster came near resulting in a terrible disaster to a passenger train on the New York and New England Railroad. The Lancaster, a large iron vessel, heavily loaded with coal, had passed the Congress street draw and was approaching the railroad bridge, when the pilot rang to stop. The engine-wire broke, and the engineer failing to receive the signal the vessel kept on, striking the bridge with great force. The timbers were badly twisted, the bolt which locks the draw when closed was broken, and the railroad tracks upon the bridge were bent eighteen inches from their proper position. The passenger train was approaching but a train's length from the break when the engineer noticed the disconnected rails, reversed the engine and applied the air-brake, bringing the train to a stop about fifteen feet from the edge of the wreck.

Denis Kearney on the Lake Merced Scheme, etc.

NEW YORK, January 12th.—Denis Kearney is in the city from Washington. He expresses himself well satisfied with the result of the Greenback Conference there. He expects to remain here a week, and probably will speak before leaving. He denounces the Merced water scheme as outrageous, and believes the Legislature will repeal the law, and the Courts will declare the Commission illegal. He says he has the utmost confidence in the honesty and integrity of the Mayor and Auditor, but "don't go a cent on the District Attorney." He said to an acquaintance this morning: "I'll be home to take care of the water question in the Legislature. The people are to blame for electing a rotten Board of Supervisors, but the Constitution settles the water question for all time to come. When the voters get ready to fix the rates, they will be fixed, and not before." He has confidence that the sand lot will protest against the scheme, and that the people of the State will rise up against it.

Wife Murder and Suicide.

MILWAUKEE, January 12th.—Captain W. G. Wilkinson, leader of the band at the National Soldiers' Home, shot himself and wife sometime during the night. Both are dead. Cause, domestic troubles. Wilkinson had been on a spree for ten days past, and on Thursday night his wife got General Hincks to stop his beer. Sunday night he procured several drinks of whisky and went home, where his wife had been answering advertisements and writing to her relatives, and both were dejected. Both were high-tempered, and the meeting was unpleasant without doubt. The manner of the murder and suicide is, however, merely conjectured. A jagged hole was found behind her left ear, from which the brain protruded as she lay with both hands clasped across her breast, and he was lying in a ghastly heap, with his head near the young babe's crib. Three children sleeping in the next room heard nothing of the affair. Wilkinson is from Pennsylvania, and his wife from Chicago.

Presidential Preferences of the Pennsylvania Press.

CHICAGO, January 12th.—A *Tribune* Philadelphia special says: The *Times* has polled the Pennsylvania press on the choice for the Presidency, and will publish this morning the replies of 60 Republican newspapers, as follows: For Blaine, 26; for Grant, 22; for Sherman, 3; for the field, 5; for the best man, 3; for the nominee of the National Convention, 7. A considerable number of those expressing a personal preference for Grant, name Blaine as the second choice, or report that the sentiment of the Republican portion of the community is in favor of the latter rather than Grant. The returns from the Democratic and Independent newspapers will be printed in a subsequent issue of the *Times*.

Westward-Bound Passengers.

OMAHA, January 12th. — The following through passengers were on to-day's train, leaving at 12:15 P. M., to arrive in Sacramento January 16th: C. Bernstein, New York; F. B. York and wife, St. Louis; C. L. Dimon, Mrs. C. L. Dimon, Oakland; J. M. Taylor, Joe Gain, San Francisco; Anthony J. Miller, Baltimore; M. H. Godfrey, Louisville; W. H. Horner, Cleveland; Henry Cummings, Syracuse, N. Y.

Twenty-nine through emigrants left on Saturday night's emigrant train, to arrive in Sacramento January 18th, and 23 last night, to arrive January 19th.

New York Stock Market.

NEW YORK, January 12th.—The stock market was ⅛@1½ per cent. lower early in the day, but the decline was followed by an active buying movement, under which an advance of ½ to 6⅝ per cent. took place. The feature of the late dealings was Western Union, which advanced sharply under purchases of round amounts. The syndicate have paid Vanderbilt $5,000,000 on account of the last batch of New York Central stock.

Silver bars, 113⅜; money, 6; Governments strong; stocks closed strong; Western Union, 104½; Quicksilver, 23¾; Pacific Mail, 39; Mariposa, 2; Wells, Fargo & Co., 101; New York Central, 133½; Erie, 43⅜; Panama, 170; Union Pacific, 88⅜; bonds, 109; Central Pacific, 109½; Sutro, 3⅞; Leadville, 4⅛; Caribou, 5.

Assassination in Kansas.

FORT SCOTT (Kansas), January 12th.—A special to the *Monitor* says: Last night, at Weir City, Charles L. Wallace, a young lawyer, was waylaid, shot and mortally wounded while passing along the street. Wallace refuses to give any account of the shooting, or any information regarding its cause. It is stated, however, that there is a lady in the case, and the assassination last night was the result of a contest for her hand.

The Postmaster-General and the Lottery Swindlers.

WASHINGTON, January 12th.—Postmaster-General Key, answering the congressional inquiry to-day, submitted a mass of evidence and information respecting the lottery swindlers, all of which are more or less open-faced and palpable. He calls attention to the Texas Gift Concert Association, of Denison, Texas, as the most successful and fraudulent, and also to the Denver Land Company and Kansas Land Company, and denounces them in strong terms.

The Next Presidency in Indiana.

CHICAGO, January 12th.—Returns received from 5,338 interviews in Indiana with Republicans of all grades of opinions give the Indianapolis *Journal* the following result for choice for Presidential candidates: Blaine, 1,882; Grant, 1,600; Sherman, 1,352; Hayes, 874; Washburne, 71; Garfield, 37; Thompson, 12; Colfax, 18; Harrison, 6; Bristow, 11; Conkling, 17; Edmunds, 10; Fremont, 6. The *Journal* says the strength of Sherman among the Republicans of Indiana is a great surprise to many.

Reading Railroad Company.

PHILADELPHIA, January 12th.—The report of the Reading Railroad Company, and of the Coal and Iron Company, shows a cash deficit in the operations of the two companies of $970,958, as against $824,950 the previous year. To this cash deficit must be added $1,846,899, the amount of the year's fixed charges previously paid in scrip. At the annual meeting to-day President Gowen and the other officers were re-elected.

Inaugurated Governor.

COLUMBUS, January 12th.—Charles Foster was inaugurated Governor to-day.

The Solar Eclipse in Colorado.

DENVER, January 12th.—The partial eclipse of the sun here yesterday was observed by many. At a few minutes past 4 o'clock it began and was under headway at sunset, the sun being at that time half obscured.

Sarah Smith Stafford's Funeral.

TRENTON (N. J.), January 12th.—The funeral of Sarah Smith Stafford took place this afternoon. Thousands of persons visited the residence and church. A wreath of flowers from President Hayes and the flag of the Bonhomme Richard lay on the coffin. A message of condolence was also received by the family from President Hayes.

The Great Corner in Grain.

NEW YORK, January 12th.—The excitement is very great at the Produce Exchange over the corner in grain. Crowds of persons interested in cereals are eagerly discussing the ways and means to defeat the action of Keene's syndicate.

Troops Called Upon to Quell a Mob.

WEST HUNTINGTON (Va.), January 12th.—The military are expected here to quell the mob, who are intimidating those miners who wish to work in the Hawk's Nest mine. The State troops will arrive to-morrow.

Tennessee Climate.

NASHVILLE (Tenn.), January 12th.—During the past ten days strawberries have bloomed and all kinds of trees began to bud. To-day a cold snap set in.

Suicide in Jail.

DOYLESTOWN (Pa.), January 12th.—Joseph Halfner, of Andalusia, was committed to jail Sunday evening on a charge of murdering Jacob Gerber. His wife and child called to see him this morning, but when the cell door was opened he was found dead, having cut his throat from ear to ear.

Louisiana Legislature.

NEW ORLEANS, January 12th.—The Legislature organized to-day, Lieutenant-Governor Wietz presiding in the Senate. P. N. Ogden, of New Orleans, was elected Speaker of the House.

Marauding Oystermen.

RICHMOND, January 12th. — Marauding oystermen have invaded the Rappahannock river in armed vessels, and are driving the citizens from the oyster beds. Two citizens were killed. The Governor has petitioned the General Assembly to send State militia to the rescue.

Congressional Election.

SEDALIA (Mo.), January 12th.—John A. Phillips, for Congress, receives 3,500 majority. The Greenback vote was not one-quarter that of 1870.

Arrived at Washington.

WASHINGTON, January 12th. — General Adams, of the Los Pinos Commission, arrived to-day.

General Strike Ordered.

PITTSBURG, January 12th. — A general strike was ordered this morning of all the miners of Allegheny county, to secure a uniform rate of 3½ cents per bushel for all the coal mined.

New Railroad.

BURLINGAME (Ks.), January 12th.—Grading was commenced to-day on the Manhattan, Alma and Burlingame Railroad. The new road runs from Burlingame, on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, to Manhattan, on the Kansas Pacific.

Senator Lamar Paralyzed.

JACKSON (Miss.), January 12th.—Senator Lamar was stricken with paralysis last night. His attending physicians pronounce his case hopeful.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Afghanistan Advices.

LONDON, January 12th.—A dispatch from Candahar says: The leader of the Herati troops has been decoyed into the city and put to death by Ayoub Khan.

No reports have reached here confirming the announcement that Abdul Rahman Khan, pretender to the Afghan throne, had arrived at Balkh.

The Russian press and continental correspondents freely discuss the probabilities of British occupation of Herat.

The Distress in Ireland

LONDON, January 12th.—Correspondents of the Press Association report the distress in Ireland as increasing. Five hundred inhabitants of Skulebog District, County Limerick, are on the brink of starvation. They proceeded to-day in a body to Croom and obtained four cart-loads of bread by an urgent representation of their extremities. The streets of Cork are patrolled by mounted police, and the magistrates of that city have passed resolutions urging greater activity in suppressing demonstrations partaking of the nature of bread riots, and asking for the appointment of additional police. At a meeting at Birkenhead yesterday, the Mayor presiding, it was resolved to raise a subscription for the Duchess of Marlborough fund. Davitt, Daly, Killen and Brennan to-day received notices commanding them to appear before the Court of the Queen's Bench at Dublin on the 16th instant.

Russia and England.

VIENNA, January 12th.—The *Presse* is of the opinion that a collision between Russia and England is inevitable. The *Presse* says that General Skobeloff recently declared at a banquet that Russia is on the eve of a national war.

Preparing to March.

LAHORE, January 12th.—A Persian correspondent writes that the Herat and Balkh regiments of Afghans are preparing to march to Ghuzni to join Mohammed Jan.

Summoned to Rome.

ROME, January 12th.—The Pope has summoned all the German Bishops to Rome, to confer on the affairs of their respective dioceses.

Chinese Emigration to Cuba.

HAVANA, January 12th.—Among the passengers by the Spanish mail steamer is De Espana, Spanish Minister and Plenipotentiary to China. The object of the voyage of the latter is apparently in relation to Chinese emigration to Cuba.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In the Catholic churches in the diocese of Southwark, Eng., Sunday, a letter from the Bishop on the subject of the distress in Ireland was read, and a collection taken up. The amount received was about £1,000.

Steps are to be taken for erecting three new elevators in Chicago, with a capacity of 2,000,000 bushels each.

The weather continues mild and delightful in New York, resembling more that of September than January. From all quarters come apprehension of the ice crop. Sunday's trains to Coney Island were so crowded that many passengers were obliged to stand—a fact unprecedented in winter.

A stay of proceedings has been granted at New York in the case of Pietro Balbo, sentenced to be hanged on Friday next.

Two of the leasing hotels at Denver, Col., have discharged the members of the Waiters' Protective Union and substituted colored waiters and females.

The County Commissioners of Arapahoe county, Col., have decided to build a Court-house in the spring. Estimated cost, $125,000.

St. Louis yesterday sold $475,000 in 5 per cent. bonds at from $1 25 to $1 30 per thousand premium.

THE COURTS.

SUPREME COURT.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 5, 1880.

Chief Justice R. F. Morrison, and Associate Justices A. L. Thornton, S. B. McKee, M. H. Myrick, E. W. McKinstry, J. R. Sharpstein and E. M. Ross, respectively elected Justices of the Supreme Court of California, under and by virtue of a general election held throughout the State on the 3d day of September, A. D. 1879, appeared and produced their commissions.

Frank W. Gross, Clerk-elect of the Supreme Court, having duly qualified, appeared and assumed the discharge of his duties as Clerk, and appointed John B. Martin, Charles N. Post and John O. Wheeler as Deputy Clerks.

This being the first meeting of the Justices, they proceeded, pursuant to the provisions of Section 6 of Article III. of the Constitution of the State of California, to classify themselves by lot so that two Justices shall go out of office in three years, two in seven years and two in eleven years, with the following result: E. W. McKinstry drew a term of eleven years, J. D. Thornton drew a term of eleven years, M. H. Myrick drew a term of seven years, J. R. Sharpstein drew a term of three years, S. B. McKee drew a term of seven years, and E. M. Ross drew a term of three years.

Ordered that a calendar of all cases be prepared and called on Monday, the 19th instant.

10,468—Ex parte Julia Francis Elvira Melvin on habeas corpus—Upon reading and filing