THE DAILY RECORD-UNION.

WEDNESDAY. .....JANUARY 28, 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 104⅝ for 4s of 1907; 103⅝ for 5s of 1881; 107⅞ for 4½s; sterling, $4 82½@4 84½; silver bars, 113¾; silver coin, ¼ discount buying, par selling.

SILVER in London yesterday, 52⅝; consols, 98½; 5 per cent. United States bonds, 105½; 4s, 107¼; 4½s, 110¾.

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 @10s 11d for average California white, and 10s 10d to 11s 3d for club.

THE Belle Isle Mining Company have levied an assessment of 30 cents per share.

IN the mining share market at San Francisco yesterday morning there was a sharp rise in three of the extreme north-end stocks, Utah showing a gain of $2 50, Sierra Nevada $5 50 and Union Consolidated $4. Comstock shares to the south of the Union line rose from 10c to 75c, and Belcher was $1 better. The outside stocks were without material change.

THE San Francisco Board of Supervisors have voted to saddle Lake Merced upon the city.

AN Italian Government steamer has left Aden for Assab Bay, Abyssinia, with artificers and laborers.

THE new American Union Telegraph Company opened for business yesterday at New York.

THE two sons of Frank Leslie have filed objections to the probate of their father's will.

PETROLEUM is being found in Australia in large quantities, and of good quality.

THE trade of Australia with the United States is but $3,000,000 per year, while with Great Britain it is over $70,000,000.

A DUEL was fought yesterday at New Orleans between State Treasurer Burke and Major H. J. Hearsy. After firing two shots, friends adjusted the difficulty.

A DISPATCH from Seattle, W. T., says the anticipated rush to the Skagit gold mines is now fairly under way.

MIKE OWEN, who recently killed P. L. Travers at Candalara, Nev., has been captured near Tehachepi, in this State.

LARGE losses of sheep by the recent snow-storm are reported from Port Townsend, W. T.

A RECENT telephone test between Omaha and St. Louis, a distance of 410 miles, was completely successful.

THE Rattler mine at Deadwood, D. T., has been purchased by a Californian for $50,000.

THE Governor of Rhode Island, in his annual message, recommends that women be allowed to vote on school questions.

THE Republican State Committee of New York will meet Saturday.

JOHN GRAY died in a hospital at Portland, Or., yesterday, under suspicious circumstances.

A HEAVY snow-storm prevailed in Oregon yesterday.

THE Finance Committee of the United States Senate yesterday decided to report favorably on the nomination of John M. Morton as Revenue Collector for the First California District.

GEORGE H. SOUTH was drowned at San Francisco Saturday night.

A REDUCTION in cable rates to Europe is announced by the Western Union Telegraph Company.

SNOW again fell at various points on the coast yesterday.

FRANK KING, a newspaper reporter, was tarred and feathered yesterday morning at Ogden, Utah, by a mob of masked men.

THE Governor of New York having refused to commute the sentence of Orlando Greenfield, the Oswego wife murderer, he will be hanged Friday.

THE Supreme Court of Maine yesterday "sat down" upon the Fusionists, in its answer to their questions.

BAYARD delivered his promised speech in the United States Senate yesterday on his legal-tender resolution.

A METHODIST preacher hanged himself yesterday near New Albany, Ind.

DENIS KEARNEY spoke in his usual style last evening at Chicago.

IN the United States Senate yesterday Edmonds introduced a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the facts of the settlement between the Government and the railroads, and the discussion of Bayard's legal tender resolution was resumed. The House passed a bill appropriating $100,000 for a monument at Yorktown, and $20,000 for the Yorktown celebration. A bill was also passed setting apart for park purposes certain lands in California on which are growing redwood or "big trees."

IN the State Senate yesterday the usual heavy day's work was done, the file being entirely cleared up. The Sprague bill was indefinitely postponed by a vote of 19 ayes to 10 noes, and a notice was given of a motion to reconsider to-day.

IN the Assembly a large number of bills were introduced, and the balance of the day was spent in discussion of retrenchment measures.

STEED AND STABLE DOOR.

In the light of recent events the action of the Legislature in repealing the Rogers Act serves to furnish a remarkably apt illustration of the adage about locking the stable door after the steed has been stolen. For the San Francisco Supervisors, paying no attention whatever to the repeal of the bill, have coolly gone to work and passed a resolution accepting the award of the Commissioners who acted under the bill, and providing for the issue of bonds to pay for the purchase of Lake Merced. And as the Supervisors appear to have the law on their side, since the award upon which they have acted was made while the bill was in full force, and since the repeal of the bill cannot affect any contract entered into under its provisions, it is in order to inquire why so much anxiety was manifested to get this bill repealed? When the repealing Act came before the Legislature the Commissioners had met and made their award, and the repeal could not undo what they had done, supposing their action to be otherwise legal. No doubt the case will be taken into Court in any event, but it is not clear that it has been helped at all by the repeal of the Rogers Act. Indeed this whole matter seems to be involved in that peculiar kind of mystery which suggests the idea of having been manufactured expressly. It has never been at all definitely demonstrated in what interest the repeal of the Rogers Act was sought, and now it appears doubtful whether it could have been in the interest of anybody, seeing that it came too late to change the situation. The Courts may repeal the award of the Commissioners, but, unless they do, it looks now as though San Francisco would be the owner of Lake Merced, *nolens, volens.*

EGYPTIAN MASONRY.

It is stated that in removing the Egyptian obelisk at Alexandria, for shipment to New York, a number of articles have been found buried under it, which demonstrate the existence of Freemasonry in ancient Egypt. A Mason of erudition is said to have examined these objects, and to have satisfied himself that the connection is clear. The New York *World*, which has been taking a special interest in the matter, cautions its readers against too ready acceptance of this story, and probably the caution is not unseasonable. For while we think it capable of demonstration that many of the forms of Freemasonry are derived from Egyptian legends or ceremonials or scientific instruments, it by no means follows that anything resembling Freemasonry as now known existed among the ancient Egyptians. There are few religions or beliefs of any kind which have not some traces of old-world mythology or ritual about them, but it would be very rash to argue from the presence of such traces that these religions were known to the ancients. That somewhat has been filtered down from the mysteries of Isis and Osiris into modern Freemasonry, is tolerably certain, but we do not believe that the obelisk or any other repository of relics can prove that Masonry, as now understood, had an existence in Egypt four thousand years ago.

OBSTRUCTIONISTS IN THE LEGISLATURE.

The absolute necessity of adopting some means of facilitating legislation, and especially of securing the enactment of a revenue law in time to put the new revenue system in operation on the date fixed by the Constitution, moved the Republican members of the Legislature to propose a joint committee. This was the only practicable method available for the avoidance of delays which threatened to prevent the passage of a revenue bill. The proposal was distinctly and entirely in the line of duty, and in the interests of the people. There was no ground for rational objection to it. It had been advanced by the majority in both chambers most properly, seeing that they represented the political organization upon which the main responsibility for action must rest. It was a business-like and sagacious plan, and it ought to have obtained the unhesitating indorsement and acquiescence of every member of the Legislature. But though the increasing pressure of business is patent to all; though the necessity of prompt action upon the revenue bill is clear as day; though every hour is precious until that vital measure is disposed of; a clique of members of the Assembly compelled the absolute loss of the better part of a working day, on Monday, in resisting an arrangement which they had not the shadow of justification for opposing, and which they knew from the outset they could not defeat. A more flagrant piece of obstruction for the mere sake of obstruction has seldom been perpetrated. The Workingmen in the Assembly put themselves in the discreditable attitude of fighting the serious business of the session, and of fighting it in such a way as to show that they only cared to hinder progress. Opposition to specific measures is quite a different matter, but in this case it was the endeavor to do the work of the session in the most businesslike way that was so persistently resisted. The obstructionists knew perfectly well that unless the revenue bill can be, not merely enacted, but put into the hands of the Assessors, before the first of March, the provisions of the new Constitution on taxation cannot be applied this year. They knew, further, that if the ordinary course were followed it would be impossible to get the work done in the time; that if each Chamber drew up a separate bill it would take at least twice as long to make an agreement as if both Chambers worked in concert. Yet, despite these notorious facts member after member rose and protested against the efforts of the Republicans to put the new Constitution in operation.

The grounds of objections stated by the obstructionists were frivolous. The attempt to make it appear that the Republicans sought to coerce them was absurd. They exhibited an equal ignorance of parliamentary methods, of their duty to the people, and of the proper limitations of partisan opposition. There was no partisan question at issue, and there could not be one. The Republicans, recognizing their predominant responsibility, and resolved not to be accused of any effort to evade the new Constitution, had determined to put an end to the dilatory and futile habits which had grown up, and to do the work before them energetically. That was the whole proposition, and it was this practical and public-spirited and honorable determination to give the new Constitution fair play, that was so obstinately opposed by the very men who pretend to be its special champions and supporters. Of course it was certain from the first that the obstructionists could not carry their point, and this fact aggravated the wantonness and perversity of their action, for as they had nothing to hope from resistance, it was clear that they had no object but the obstruction of business. Their folly will be seen by inquiring what course they would have followed if they had been in the majority. According to their own statements they would have insisted upon adhering to the ordinary practice, and, as everyone can perceive, this would have resulted in the defeat of the revenue bill, and probably would have rendered an extra session necessary. We should therefore have had the spectacle of the new Constitution members arraying themselves in opposition to the new Constitution, and if the Republicans, being in the minority, had taken the position they have now done, it is obvious that the obstructionists would have been forced to follow their lead in order to save themselves from political wreck. A more fatuous policy than these members have pursued, indeed, could not be conceived. They have shown themselves animated by a blind and narrow partisanship precisely when their own partisan interests should have dictated a course of liberal accord with their colleagues, and in doing this they have rendered the sincerity of their devotion to the new Constitution liable to sharp suspicion.

GOVERNMENT RAILROADING IN GERMANY.

Bismarck is about to enter upon the experiment of placing all the railroads of Germany under Government ownership and control. It is an undertaking which will no doubt be productive of valuable experience for the rest of the world, but the grounds for believing that it must ultimately prove a failure are so strong that very little doubt on the question can be entertained. A similar tendency toward state ownership has been developed in Belgium, and M. de Laveleye, the distinguished Belgian economist, has been studying the arguments for and against the movement with characteristic thoroughness and impartiality. In a recent paper on this subject he sets down the advantages and disadvantages of the system in regular order. He thinks that the Government will profit from the increase of traffic; that shippers will derive benefits from a lower and more uniform tariff; from continuity of transportation; from economy of time, through the avoidance of transhipments; and through the equalization of rates earned by the covering of the losses on ill-paying lines by the profits on the lucrative roads. On the other side are to be set the disadvantages, which are as follows: "(1.) Employes "will be more numerous under the State "than under the company system. Po-"litical considerations superadded to "those influencing corporations will give "place-hunters an advantage. (2.) The "law of self-interest and responsibility is "always less active in the service of "the State. (3.) The exigencies of "electoral interests have an in-"fluence on the construction of lines, "their route, and on the tariff; and this is "simply detestable. (4.) If there is any-"thing objectionable in the management "the Government is held responsible. If "there is delay or accident, the cry will "be 'Down with the Ministry!' (5.) The "patronage of the Government will be "enormously increased under the state "system, and the party in power will "naturally use this power as a means of "carrying measures and maintaining its "ascendancy." On a candid comparison M. de Laveleye considers that the disadvantages by far preponderate, and this is unquestionably the opinion which has been reached by all who have examined this question carefully.

The governmental control system has often been proposed in this country, but it is evident that every one of the objections to that plan discerned by M. de Laveleye would operate with greater force under a democratic government than they could possibly under a monarchy or an absolutism. The measure which Bismarck is about to force through the German Parliament may not produce its worst effects while his strong hand is on the helm of State, but when he is gone and weaker ministers succeed him, and faction becomes powerful, the governmental railroad ownership will become a powerful factor in politics, and as it does so its usefulness to the public will diminish. There is in every such scheme the possibility of enormous corruption and waste, and the temptations to use such agency for political purposes are certain to be so strong that it can only be a question of time for this prostitution to take place. In the United States a government railroad system would, under existing conditions, be at once and immediately utilized as part and parcel of the spoils of party warfare. It is probable that in a very few years the profits which corporations have derived from transportation would disappear, being absorbed in extravagance, waste, inefficiency, and peculation. Rival politicians would promise reductions of rates without any regard to the cost of operation and repair, and presently deficiencies would begin to appear in the annual returns, and taxation would have to make them good. Thus the people would be made to pay through the nose for the luxury of Government transportation, and they would discover, when it was too late, that they had only succeeded in increasing enormously the army of office-seekers, and in intensifying all the worst evils of faction by enlarging the spoils of office, and attracting greater numbers of ambitious men from legitimate avocations to the devious and demoralizing ways of professional politics. Ten years hence it will be in order to inquire how Bismarck's experiment has succeeded. By that time it will probably be realized that Government ownership of transportation is not what its advocates have hitherto imagined.

FEES.

Mr. Satterwhite calls our attention to the fact that his fee bill requires all fees to be paid into the county treasury. This is doubtless an improvement upon the old system, but the question whether the fee system is a desirable one is not settled by it. A principal cause of complaint in any system of the kind is the incessant and vexatious imposts placed upon the transaction of business requiring to be done through public functionaries. It is a form of taxation open to grave economical objections, and it is likely to prove seriously embarrassing to the poor at critical junctures. We are satisfied that the multiplication of fees is against public policy, whether the fees are pocketed by officials, or are covered into the public treasury. Those modes of collecting revenue are always to be preferred which entail the least inconvenience and annoyance upon the taxpayer, and the fee system cannot be regarded as one of these methods.

NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

Davisville has been made a postal money-order office.

The Inyo *Independent* has reached its five hundredth number, whereat it glorifieth.

A Colorado inventor has patented a new method of saving float gold. It is reported a success.

Prescott, Arizona Territory, wants the Western Union Telegraph line extended to that place.

The *Daily Arizona Democrat* is the title of a new paper at Prescott. It is newsy, spirited and appears in good form.

The people of Umpqua are talking of building a road from Hubbard's creek to the navigable waters of Coos river.

A half-breed boy named Thomas Bragg, aged 14, committed suicide by hanging at Civil Bend, Douglas county, Or., on the 14th instant.

A dead Chinaman was recently found near Battle Bar, Oregon. He was wrapped up in his blankets, as if asleep, with a pipe, some bottles and a satchel by his side.

For two miles between the Mountain House and Downieville the road is full to the top of the cut. The oldest inhabitant never witnessed deeper or broader snow-drifts.

In San Luis Obispo last Saturday, at a citizens' meeting, resolutions were adopted again urging Congress to make an appropriation for a breakwater for San Luis Obispo bay.

Every acre that has ever been in wheat in the San Fernando valley has been sown already. During the last sixteen days 100 six-gang plows have been busily at work on new ground.

A Deputy United States Marshal has recently been inquiring into the matter of timber land depredations in the Bodie section, and it is expected that a number of arrests will shortly be made.

The Yuba City *Journal* is a new weekly independent Democratic paper, published by J. W. Remington at Yuba City, Sutter county. Its first number appeared on the 22d instant. It presents a creditable appearance.

Prescott, A. T., according to the United States official survey, dated July 18, 1875, is 5,700 feet above sea level, in latitude 30° 29" north, and longitude 112° 30" west, and its time is 2 hours 22 minutes slower than Washington.

The Bodie *Standard* says: Another man was garroted on Main street last night. We have a very handsome chromo which will be given to the first garroter who catches an officer on the street at night and snaffles him.

G. W. Forgey, of Kittitas valley, Or., reports: "My 24 acres of wheat gave an average of 46 bushels to the acre. One acre of potatoes yielded a little over 400 bushels, and some of the potatoes weighed 3 and 4 pounds apiece."

The past week has afforded farmers a splendid opportunity to plow their land and put in grain, and it is safe to say that they have taken every possible advantage of the occasion. A large amount of seeding is being done by farmers who preferred to wait until the cold, wet season was over, but if the present state of weather continues another week most of them will have finished their winter's work and have it done in good shape. It is thought that the moderation in the weather came in time to save the early-sown wheat, which it was thought would suffer from the prolonged cold spell. Grain that has sprouted is growing finely under the influence of a genial sun, and nothing except unpropitious spring weather, which it is not likely will occur, can prevent a beautiful crop. The season has been quite severe on stock not provided with shelter, more especially in the foothill ranges where sheep have been exposed to the storms and cold. Early lambs have suffered extremely, and in some cases we have been told that out of bands of several thousand sheep not a single lamb was saved. But we can scarcely look for any more severe weather this season, and unless an adverse Providence intercedes, we may confidently hope for one of the largest crops ever produced in Yolo county, and a season of business revival and prosperity to follow.—[Willows Democrat.

TELEGRAPHIC.

LAST NIGHT'S DISPATCHES TO THE RECORD-UNION.

NATIONAL CAPITAL MATTERS.

The Internal Revenue Collectorship Question.

PRESENT ASPECT OF AFFAIRS IN MAINE.

Decision of the Supreme Court Regarding the Fusionist Questions.

PASSENGERS COMING WEST BY RAIL.

Prospects in Regard to the Grant Presidential Boom.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF FOREIGN NEWS.

Alleged English League with Persia and Beloochistan.

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

DOMESTIC NEWS.

The Situation in Maine.

AUGUSTA, January 27th.—The Fusion House to-day accepted the report of the Committee on Investigation, that they had notified Wallace R. White, against whom charges of bribery were made, to appear before them, but that he had failed to do so.

Adjourned until to-morrow.

The Senate did not have a quorum, and adjourned.

FUSIONIST PROGRAMME.

The more ultra of the Fusionists say that should the opinion of the Court be adverse to their position they will adjourn in a body, subject to the call of Governor Smith; that Sawyer will continue to discharge the duties of Secretary of State, and that all returns and other documents from Fusion towns will be sent in to him. They say that not more than half a dozen will take their seats in the Republican Legislature. Their constituents are bolstering them up to this. Meanwhile they will memorialize Congress, but a conversation with the more conservative element shows that this opinion is entertained by but few.

OUT IN THE COLD.

PORTLAND, January 27th.—The proprietors of Congress Hall have decided not to let it to the Fusion Legislature on any terms. It will therefore probably not come here.

GATHERING OF FUSIONISTS.

BOSTON, January 27th.—The *Herald's* Augusta special says: The arrival of a body of Fusionists from Lewiston and Auburn will be followed this afternoon (if information received at the Adjutant General's office is correct) by the coming of a company of seventy-five Biddeford Fusionists. They say any attempt to arrest the officials of their Government will be resisted by force.

The Governor has been urged to call the Portland Blues and Montgomery Guard here, and it has been suggested to have them quartered in a hall near that in which the Fusionists meet.

NEITHER GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED.

The Fusionist Treasurer, White, refused this forenoon to allow the Finance Committee to examine his books. He says he does not recognize either Government as legal. There is talk of putting him out by force.

THE SUPREME COURT SPEAKS—THE FUSIONISTS "SAT DOWN UPON."

BANGOR, January 27th.—The Supreme Court Justices to-day set forth their reasons in answer to Fusionists' questions for declining to recognize the Fusionist Legislature. They say that while not admitting, even by implication, that any legally organized body has submitted those questions, yet they would be lacking in duty if they should fail to give the reasons which may guide citizens in pursuing their duty. As the Supreme Court must eventually, in all cases like the present, pass upon the laws which so-called or actual legislative bodies pass, it is proper that that tribunal should consider it at once, with or without question, which is the one and only Legislature of the two claimants. The Court say that a large portion of this question has been decided in its answers to Governor Garcelon's questions. By these answers it appears that Governor Garcelon and the Council, in issuing certificates of election to certain men as Senators and Representatives, who did not appear to be elected, and declining to issue to certain others who did appear to be elected, were in violation of their legal and constitutional obligations and duties. They cannot ignore the fact that Garcelon disregarded the opinion of the Court given in answer to his questions and omitted to revoke the summons illegally issued to men not elected, nor did he issue summonses to men who were elected. The officers who presided in the Fusion branches of the Legislature recognized men as members who were unlawfully introduced into them by unconstitutional means, and refused to recognize certain ones who were lawfully elected. It cannot be claimed that the Fusion House ever had a quorum, without counting men whom this Court had declared not elected, and therefore they cannot recognize the Fusion House as the legal body. The same is true of the Senate. They then considered whether there is in existence a legal Legislature, and conclude that the organizations made peaceably on the 12th of January—the Republican House and Senate—were made by a majority of the members appearing to be elected. They traverse the point raised that the Republican organization was illegal because no notice of intended action was given the minority, so as to enable them to participate, and say the minority was not excluded. The organization was publicly made, and the want of notice did not invalidate the organization. Although the manner was irregular, yet the voice of the people is not to be stifled on that account, nor the Government fail to be maintained. Full quorums were present, and the houses were therefore legal bodies.

The Justices conclude by saying that they only perform a solemn duty in deciding that the Senate presided over by Joseph A. Locke, and the House presided over by George E. Weeks, are the legal and constitutional Legislature of the State. All the Justices signed the decision.

Affairs at the National Capital.

(Special to the RECORD-UNION.)

WASHINGTON, January 27th.—The favorable action of the Finance Committee to-day on J. M. Morton's nomination as Collector of Internal Revenue was a great surprise to the California Senators, for out of eight members of the committee now in Washington no less than six have heretofore expressed themselves as being in accord with the position taken by the California delegation on this subject. Careful inquiry developed the fact, however, that the changed attitude of some members of the committee is more apparent than real. The vote to-day on the question of authorizing the nomination to be reported back to the Senate favorably was: Ayes—Voorhees, Morrill, Ferry and Allison—4. Noes—Bayard, Kernan and Wallace—3. Jones of Nevada was absent. Beck, who is opposed to Morton's confirmation, yielded to Voorhees' urgent solicitations sufficiently to withhold his vote, which would otherwise have been cast in the negative, and thus made the result a tie. Allison will, it is said on positive authority, vote against confirmation when the question comes up in the Senate, but was not willing to take the responsibility of taking a deciding vote in the committee against the son of his old colleague. Ferry, who is also from a State near enough to Indiana to make a vote on his part against Senator Morton's son an embarrassment desirable to avoid, followed Allison in voting for a favorable report, on the ground of sympathetic interest; but it was evident that he was almost as strongly inclined to vote the other way, and there is no probability of his giving the nomination active support in the Senate. The committee and its action, therefore, cannot be considered by any means as significant of the ultimate fate of the nomination, as it would be under ordinary circumstances, and although Mr. Morton's friends have unquestionably gained a great advantage by it, the final result may very possibly disappoint the expectations thus raised, and be in fact very slightly affected by the committee's nominal judgment. The nomination was reported to the Senate in executive session this afternoon by Mr. Voorhees, and placed on the calendar for future consideration. It will probably not be taken up for action before next week.

The Senate, during to-day's executive session, finally disposed of a long-standing subject of contest by confirming Norman Buck's nomination as one of the United States Judges for Idaho, to succeed Associate Justice Clark, who was nominated as his own successor nearly two years ago, and then confirmed by the Senate, but whose commission was withheld by President Hayes by reason of certain charges brought to light immediately after the date of the confirmation. The case was before the Senate in the last Congress and discussed several times, but went over, from one cause or another, until to-day, when it was finally settled.

Caldwell of Kentucky, in behalf of the Private Land Claims Committee, endeavored to obtain unanimous consent to-day to report for passage a resolution directing the Secretary of the Interior to suspend action on the New Idria Company's application for a patent until Congress shall have disposed of the pending bill on the subject of the McGarrahan claim, but Page promptly objected, and the resolution therefore was not read; but doubtless it will be brought before the House within the next few days, as the committee will very soon be reached in the regular call for reports.

Senator Lamar's friends are much relieved by advices received by Senator Gordon as to his condition. He has left Jackson, and is now at his home in Oxford, and his health improves steadily. He is therefore expected to be able to resume his seat in the Senate very soon.

Presidential Prospects.

CHICAGO, January 27th.—Murat Halstead telegraphs to his paper from Washington as follows, respecting the Presidential prospects: "There is every prospect that the Grant Presidential boom will not last more than two weeks longer. It promises to end peremptorily and finally at the Pennsylvania State Convention next week. It is reliably learned here that some of Grant's most intimate friends in Pennsylvania have authority from him to act in the premises, and that they will withdraw his name from consideration as a candidate. The Pennsylvania Convention, where there will be delegates from several counties instructed for Grant, will give his friends an opportunity to speak out on the subject. His friends decline to enter into a contest for the position, and of late it has become very apparent to them that it would be impossible for him to get the nomination without a contest."

Halstead ably quotes James R. Young (a Grant man) as saying that Sherman has been doing stalwart work in his own campaign, and has alarmed Blaine's followers and supporters, and that it is expected that Blaine will devote himself to getting the Grant votes, should Grant be withdrawn from the canvass.

Grant and the Presidency.

NEW YORK, January 27th.—A Philadelphia special to the *Herald* says that George W. Childs told a correspondent: "I have no hesitation in saying that Grant's best friends have not urged his candidacy for a third term. If he should publicly decline, he would please them. Of course they will support him if he is nominated, and not one of them would attempt to influence the General by persuasion, one way or the other."

Garfield's Choice.

COLUMBUS (O.), January 27th.—State Senator Horr, having written Senator Garfield, asking a public expression from that gentleman on the Presidential question, Garfield replied that on the grounds of the best interests of the whole country and of harmony in Ohio, and in answer to the question on what candidate can the Republicans of Ohio most cordially and effectively unite, he had no doubt a majority of the Republican party in Ohio favor the nomination of John Sherman. He gives Secretary Sherman warm words of praise, and hopes that he will be nominated.

Duel Forthcoming in Louisiana.

CHICAGO, January 27th.—The *Times'* New Orleans special says: The conversation to-night at the hotels and public places is the forthcoming duel between the State Treasurer, Major E. H. Burke, and Major H. J. Hearsy. Burke, besides being State Treasurer, is the editor of the New Orleans *Democrat*, the organ of the Democratic party. Hearsy, a few months ago, was editor of the *Democrat*. The difficulty arose from a newspaper discussion regarding the contract for the city printing, which was awarded to the *Democrat*. Major Burke was challenged by Hearsy, and the challenge was promptly accepted. Yesterday the seconds were engaged in arranging the details of the duel. The affair is arranged to take place to-morrow morning. A peaceable settlement of the affair is regarded as impossible.

NEW ORLEANS, January 27th.—The duel was fought this afternoon at Metario Ridge, near this city, with pistols, at a distance of ten paces. After firing two shots each, friends interfered and the difficulty was adjusted.

The New American Union Telegraph Company—Open for Business.

NEW YORK, January 27th.—The new American Union Telegraph Company opened for business yesterday to Buffalo, Boston, Baltimore and Canada and intermediate points. The rates charged were exactly the same as the Western Union. The officers said they were not really ready for business, and would not be until about March 1st. They had consented to anticipate that date merely to accommodate the new French Cable Company, which desired to begin the transmission of messages to France and the Continent yesterday. The rates asked by the latter company are also similar to those of their competitors, the Anglo-American and Direct Cable Companies. When asked whether a reduction was intended, the officers of the American Union Company said that the question of rates had not yet been considered by the Board of Directors, and they really could not give any definite information on the subject.

New York Stock Market.

NEW YORK, January 27th.—Stocks were buoyant the greater portion of the day, and prices advanced ½ to 5½ per cent., the latter Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis. Pullman Palace Car stock rose 5, Kansas and Texas 2¼. During the afternoon Kansas and Texas declined 13¾. The remainder of the list reacted a fraction in sympathy. In the final sales the market was firm at a partial recovery.

Silver bars, 113¾; money, 5@6; Governments steady; stocks closed firm; Western Union, 103½; Quicksilver, 19¾; Pacific, 39¾; Mariposa, 1½; Wells Fargo, 101; New York Central, 130½; Erie, 46½; Panama, 180; Union Pacific, 94½; bonds, 109½; Central, 109½; Sutro, 3⅜; Leadville, 3¾; Caribou, 4⅝.

Tildenites and Tammanyites.

CHICAGO, January 27th.—The *Journal's* New York special says: The Tildenites and Tammanyites have gone in force to Albany, each striving to obtain an advantage over the other in filling vacancies in the State Committee. Urgent telegrams were received here by friends of the rivals commanding their presence. It is understood that the two Tildenites are to be appointed will be Clausen, the great brewer, and Henry Havemeyer. The former will represent the Germans on the committee, and is regarded as favored by Oswald Olendorfer, proprietor of the *Staats Zeitung*.

The Electric Light—Edison's Progress.

NEW YORK, January 27th.—The *Sun* says: The electric light in Menlo Park looked yellow in contrast with the light of the full moon last evening—as yellow as gas lights appear in contrast with the electric lights. A number of the globes containing the lights that have been up 200, 300 and 400 hours have been found to be cracked where the wires pierce the glass, and have been taken down. Their places have been filled with new lamps, none of which have yet cracked. Edison said last evening that these new lamps gave him reason to believe that they would not crack at all. He says that now 82 lights are aglow on the circuit. This is the largest number yet used. Three new buildings are now in course of erection on the laboratory grounds. One is for the glass-blowers, the second for fourteen dynamo machines, by which Edison proposes to start 700 lights, and the third is the machine shop.

Frank Leslie's Will—Objections Filed by His Sons.

NEW YORK, January 27th.—Objections to the probate of the late Frank Leslie's will were filed yesterday by his two sons, Alfred and Henry. Henry, who calls himself Frank Leslie, Jr., avers that the making of the will was caused by frauds, circumvention and undue influence, practiced against decedent by the person named as executrix in the will, whose maiden name was Marion Florence Follin, otherwise known as Mrs. Squires, otherwise known as Mrs. Frank Leslie; that such person was not, at the death of Frank Leslie, nor at any time, the wife of Frank Leslie; that at the time he executed the will, if he did execute it, he was insane and incompetent.

The Rancho Panoche Grande.

WASHINGTON, January 27th.—In the House to-day Caldwell of Kentucky, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, asked leave to report a resolution instructing the Secretary of the Interior and his subordinates to cease and desist from hearing, or in any way considering, an application for a patent to any portion of the lands known as the Rancho Panoche Grande in California, until the bill relative to that land now before Congress shall have been disposed of. Page objected.

Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad Company.

NEW YORK, January 27th.—At a meeting of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad Company to-day, the following Directors were elected: Jay Gould, Russel Sage, Wm. Bonti, George J. Forest, Sidney Dillon, Fred L. Ames, G. M. Dodge and F. H. Bond. The following officers were then elected: President, Jay Gould; Vice-Presidents, F. H. Bond and B. P. McCready.

The Internal Revenue Collectorship.

WASHINGTON, January 27th.—The Senate Finance Committee to-day decided, by a vote of four against three, to report John M. Morton's nomination favorably.

Westward-Bound Passengers.

OMAHA, January 27th.—The following through passengers were on to-day's train, leaving at 12:15 P. M., to arrive in Sacramento January 31st: Miss E. White, Auburn, N. Y.; Mrs. E. B. Crocker, Miss Annie Crocker, Master Elwood Crocker, Miss Rose Burns, Sacramento; J. H. Rhodes, Cleveland; Mr. Patterson, New York; J. E. Partland, Beloit, Wis.; Joseph Milvern, Davisville, Cal.; G. H. Lester, Binghamton, N.Y.; Mrs. Withington, Miss Platt, Isaac M. Merrill, Sol. Goldsmith, Jeremiah Lynch, San Francisco; Mrs. E. C. Hagar and child, Oakland; Richard Reiff, Yokohama.

Five through emigrants left on last night's emigrant train, to arrive in Sacramento February 3d.

Charles Francis Adams on the Reagan Bill.

WASHINGTON, January 27th.—Charles Francis Adams, Jr., addressed the Commerce Committee on the Reagan bill to-day. He advocated the extension of the Massachusetts plan of an Advisory Railroad Commission, to which all complaints should be referred. This had worked admirably in Massachusetts, and an extension of the system over the country at large, he thought, would be beneficial. He believed in the main provisions of the Reagan bill, but thought a Commission better.

An Important Suit—Suicide of a Preacher.

LANESVILLE, January 27th.—Three suits were filed in Court to-day against the owners of a New Orleans packet, on which the suitors were bound for Cincinnati, and which burned on the passage, crippling all of them for life, and doing them other damage. The suit is for $20,000 damages, and is considered very important.

Charles Ponder, aged 30, a preacher of the M. E. Church, hanged himself to-day, four miles west of New Albany. Cause, insanity.

His Usual Style.

CHICAGO, January 27th.—Denis Kearney spoke to-night to a good-sized audience in McCormick Hall, in his usual style.

The Alleged Masonic Discoveries in Egypt.

NEW YORK, January 28th—A. M.—The *World* publishes a card from Garringe, received by cable from Alexandria, as follows: "I do not consider myself to be competent in point of Masonic knowledge to confirm the views and statements of Dr. Fanton in regard to the emblems discovered under the obelisk."

FOREIGN NEWS.

The British Grain Trade.

LONDON, January 27th.—The *Mark Lane Express'* review of the British grain trade for the past week says: All outdoor work is again stopped by frost. Thrashing occupies the attention of farmers, and home-grown wheat is consequently more liberally offered. In some districts, notably Yorkshire, fears are expressed that recently sown wheat has been frosted, or from some other cause is deficient in vitality. Many of the early sown fields elsewhere, however, are looking well. Some improvement is noticeable in the condition of the home-grown wheat offered at the country markets, but all except the choicest lots have been neglected. Imports of foreign wheat into London have been moderate, and American especially small. Business has been quiet, and the week's demand was of an ordinary consumptive character, principally for descriptions of foreign wheat available as a substitute for English. According to a moderate computation, it is estimated that the requirements of Great Britain and France will reach 12,000,000 quarters between this and August, exclusive of the quantity now afloat. Notwithstanding this, the trade continues discouraging to holders. As a consequence of the liberal stocks to select from, and the bad demand for flour, millers have shown no desire to do more than meet present requirements. It seems scarcely likely that any marked rise can be expected before May or June. Under any circumstances it will be necessary for the American ring to hold its overstocks some time longer. Arrivals at ports of call have been small. The demand for wheat has been quiet, and somewhat irregular, at a decline of a shilling to two shillings per quarter. Wheat for shipment was very inactive, though offered at a shilling to two shillings per quarter less. Maize was slow, at a decline of six pence. Sales of English wheat last week were 36,903 quarters at 45s 7d per quarter, against 540,792 quarters, at 39s 1d per quarter for the corresponding week of last year. Imports into the United Kingdom during the week ending January 17th were 593,855 cwts. of wheat and 228,510 cwts. of flour.

English Newspaper Suppressed at Constantinople.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 27th.—A newspaper here printed in English has been suspended for criticising the recent honors bestowed on Hafiz Pasha, Minister of Police, and the printing office has been closed by the police. The latter act is in violation of the terms of capitulation, and the Porte will be called to account for permitting it.

Germany and the Vatican.

ROME, January 27th.—A rumor is published under reserve that an agreement will be signed this week between Germany and the Vatican, asserting a point for the definite conclusion of Kultur Kampf.

Understanding Arranged.

VIENNA, January 27th.—It is reported from Teheran that under the influence of England an understanding has been arranged between Persia and Beloochistan as against Afghanistan; that Persia will occupy Herat, and Beloochistan will receive a portion of the Afghan territory in return for supporting English occupation of Candahar.

Oil Poured on Troubled Waters.

DUBLIN, January 27th.—The Lord Mayor of Dublin and the principal members of the corporation attended a levee of the Lord-Lieutenant to-night. It is hoped that this will do much to remove the unpleasantness caused by the refusal of the Lord-Lieutenant to attend the Lord Mayor's banquet.

What is Thought of It Abroad.

BERLIN, January 27th.—The *National Zeitung*, alluding to Parnell's tour in America, declares it a disgraceful act on the part of the Home Rulers to make political capital of their country's distress, thus turning the necessities of their starving countrymen to account for party purposes.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Consul-General at Melbourne writes to the State Department December 1st that several companies have been formed to develope the production of petroleum, found in large quantities and of good quality in various parts of the Colony.

The trade of the United States with Australia is only four per cent. of the total trade of the latter with all other countries. With Great Britain it is over $70,000,000. With the United States it is less than $3,000,000.

A St. Petersburg dispatch says: The reports of an attack on the Russians at Tchikislar arose through a raid having been made on a Russian convoy on the 7th instant between Tchikislar and Chatte, resulting in the capture by the Tekke Turcomans of a part of the transports.

An Italian Government steamer has left Aden for Assab Bay, Abyssinia, with artificers and laborers. The Italian Consul invites traders to settle there.

A telephone test was made Sunday between Omaha and St. Louis, a distance of 410 miles, and was completely successful. Conversation was carried on plainly. The "Sweet By-and by" was sung in St. Louis in a clear baritone voice, and every note was distinctly heard in Omaha. The song was then repeated at Omaha for the benefit of St. Louis.

The Rattler mine, a southern extension of the Homestake, at Deadwood, D. T., was sold Saturday to a Californian for $50,000.

The Governor of Rhode Island, in his annual message, recommends that women be given the right to vote on school questions, and that prohibition take the place of the present liquor law.

The Republican State Committee of New York will meet Saturday.

The Governor of New York has refused to commute the death sentence of Orlando Greenfield, the Oswego wife murderer, and he will be hanged on Friday next.

Indian Jim came to town Thursday, bringing portions of a huge bear. He brought the paws and gall to sell to the Chinese, and sold a ham to one of our citizens. The ham weighed nearly forty pounds, so that its original possessor must have weighed nearly 800 pounds, although from Jim's description of the animal we should believe it weighed twice as much. He would have brought it all to Truckee, but had no means of transportation. It was killed on the other side of Lake Tahoe, near the headwaters of the American river. Jim says that in capturing it he had a pretty close call. He discovered the bear in a brush thicket near dark, and came close upon him before he know of his presence. He fired at him, but, it being near dark, made a bad shot and hit him back of the heart, only wounding him. Mr. Bru