THE RECORD-UNION.

VOLUME LXXXII.--NO. 112. SACRAMENTO, WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 30, 1891. WHOLE NO. 15,665.

WAR NOT YET DECLARED.

No Material Developments in the Chilean Affair.

OFFICIALS SAY THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE SITUATION.

Why Minister Egan Did Not Attend the Inauguration Festivities—Satisfactory Progress Being Made in the Production of Armor and Torpedoes—The Turret Armor for the Monterey Ready for Shipment.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—There was no material development in Chilean affairs to-day that any amount of investigation could uncover. When it is said that the most serious outcome of trouble is expected and that this country is merely awaiting an official announcement by the Chilean Government as to the result of the investigation of the Baltimore outrage, which unofficially is understood to be unsatisfactory, the whole situation is set forth. Time, of course, must be given the Chileans to make up their minds what to do in the matter, but it is entirely probable that they know now whether or not they will offer any reparation for the outrage, and the whole matter depends upon that.

No one appears to be in a position to declare with knowledge that an apology will not be offered, but all indications by which this country can judge of the attitude of the Chilean Government tend to the conclusion that the arrogance and defiance which have been displayed up to this time will not be abated.

The military and naval preparations for hostilities are in active progress, and the fact that every effort is being made in the interest of peace and to allay public apprehension does not lessen the seriousness of the situation.

The question at issue is not one, it is asserted, that can be submitted to arbitration. It resolves itself merely into three possibilities—an apology from Chile, a back-down by the United States or a fight.

There does not appear to be a spirit of apology in the Chilean disposition at this time, and it is hardly to be supposed that the United States will be content to maintain peace at a loss of dignity.

There is no news obtainable at the State or Navy Departments to-day respecting the Chilean matter. No movements of ships are reported, and the officials say there is no change in the situation.

Secretary Blaine was at the Cabinet meeting to-day, which lasted until nearly 2 o'clock. He had no news to give out respecting the Chilean situation, and said there was none.

This afternoon was absolutely without an incident that could be distorted into relation to warlike preparation. Such unofficial advices as have been received are to the effect that the legal authorities at Valparaiso have not completed the revision of the formal proceedings of Justice Foster. Just how long those legal formalities may be protracted before they may be regarded as "further needless delay" is, of course, determinable only by President Harrison, but there is reason to believe that there has been brought to his attention the difficulties that surrounded President Montt in the formation of his new Cabinet, and he is also desirous of avoiding the appearance of endeavoring to interfere with the due process of law in Chile, if there is any reasonable ground for the assumption that due process is being followed.

These considerations doubtless led him to the due course of patient waiting to the utmost extreme consistent with due regard to the dignity of the United States, and, as far as can be learned, it is probable no departure will be made from this attitude before the reassembling of Congress, unless further communication from the Chilean Government should give a different aspect to the situation.

If the heads of the bureaus in the Navy Department are to be believed, no extraordinary efforts are making to put vessels in condition for active hostilities. In the construction bureau the officers in charge say positively that no orders have gone forward to San Francisco to hurry up work on the Monterey. As a matter of fact, fewer orders are passing through the bureau at present than during the past three months.

In the ordnance bureau it was learned that the turret armor for the Monterey is ready for shipment to San Francisco at any time. Her great guns are also ready, and the Pennsylvania Railway has undertaken to transport them across the continent. The task is one of magnitude, as a twelve-inch rifle, without the carriage, weighs fifty-six tons, and the carriage weighs twenty-five tons. Specially-constructed cars are necessary for the transportation of these great masses of metal, and much nice calculation respecting the curves, tunnels and strength of the many bridges between the Washington and California Navy-yards have been made to insure the safe delivery of the guns. These guns are not only intrinsically valuable, but their loss at the present time would be a serious calamity, as many months would be consumed in making guns to replace them.

Satisfactory progress is being made in the production of armor and torpedoes, but it is insisted by ordnance officers that neither armor plates nor torpedoes have been nor will be accepted until they have been thoroughly tested. A lot of Howell torpedoes, about forty, are practically ready for use, and the first installment of the Whitehead, English-pattern torpedoes, made in the United States, will soon be delivered. Improvements have been made in the Howell torpedo, which is essentially an American invention, that will place it in the front rank of automobile weapons, and it is promised that the torpedoes delivered to the Government will exceed the contract requirements in speed and accuracy, but according to a statement of the naval ordnance officers, all these things are being done without reference to immediate war, and it is said they are simply satisfactory results of the energetic policy of naval rehabilitation adopted by Secretary Tracy long ago.

In the War Department matters are very quiet, and even the Mexican frontier disturbance failed to furnish an item of news to-day.

WHY EGAN DID NOT ATTEND.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—According to a Washington correspondent, Minister Egan was not invited to the festivities attending the inauguration of President Montt in Santiago Saturday.

That is the inference drawn by the State Department officials from a telegram received from Minister Egan late this afternoon, in which he states that the inauguration passed off successfully, and was followed by a banquet Saturday night.

The banquet was attended by the Chilean officials and Congressmen, and all the foreign Ministers in Santiago with which the administration is maintaining pleasant and amicable relations.

The officials at the State Department had no explanation to give of Minister Egan's course.

He had been advised to use his own judgment in the premises, and the belief prevails that the Minister felt it was not consistent with self-respect and the dignity of his position, to say nothing whatever of the degree of absolute danger to his person there would be in appearing in the streets, to attend the ceremonies, in view of the manner in which he has been treated since the revolution ended.

SUMMONED TO WASHINGTON.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 29.—Superintendent Abbott of Carnegie, Phipps & Co. has been summoned by telegraph to Washington, by the Secretary of the Navy, in relation to the armor and deck plates which the firm is supplying for the warships now building.

The telegram ordered him to leave on the first train, and he will take his departure this evening.

The rumors of the feverish rapidity with which the Government is pushing the work on the war vessels, in the light of the strained relations with Chile, have received new confirmation locally.

In relation to the above, a member of the firm of Carnegie, Phipps & Co. was interviewed this morning and said: "There is nothing unusual in relation to our contracts, nor any extraordinary rush. It is customary to receive many dispatches concerning the work, and also for some member of the firm to be called to Washington on the same business.

"We have been shipping as fast as we can the completed protected deck plates for the New York. The plate for the Monterey is yet in an unfinished condition—that is, it has not been tested, and we have received no orders to ship it without the usual results."

MOVEMENTS OF WAR VESSELS.

SAN DIEGO, Dec. 29.—According to Admiral Brown, who is now here with the San Francisco, the Charleston left Honolulu December 18th for Acapulco.

Whether the Charleston will come north or go south from Acapulco the Admiral declined to say.

In regard to the extra ammunition aboard the San Francisco, Captain Sampson says: "We have enough to fill up the Charleston and Baltimore and put them in campaign condition."

It is believed here that the San Francisco has orders to remain at this port until the diplomatic relations with Chile take one turn or another, and that her disposition in the future will depend upon the turn those diplomatic relations may take.

The Baltimore is expected here about Thursday.

The report that the cruiser Charleston anchored off Coronado late last night was unfounded. The cruiser has not arrived here, nor has she been sighted off this port.

LATEST BY CABLE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—A *Herald's* special says: For some time past large fires have occurred frequently in Santiago, attributed to incendiaries. The police last night succeeded in catching some of the firebugs in the act. There seem to be members of the same gang here, as they was a $250,000 fire here this morning, which started in the cable office, burning a theater building and a number of dwellings and warehouses. The fire burned five hours before extinguished.

The reason the President was unable to form a new cabinet is that the conservatives insist upon a larger representation in the Ministry than Montt is disposed to grant them. A probable compromise will soon be effected.

I am assured on good authority that all of Balmaceda's supporters now imprisoned will be released, except a few like Colonel Stephan and Pio Ficaro, accused of crimes deemed unpardonable. Despite contrary stories, Leon Lavin is the only person shot by order of the Junta since Balmaceda's overthrow. Clemency to Balmacedists is disapproved by many citizens.

It is rumored that British Minister Kennedy has received dispatches from London stating that the relations between Chile and the United States are apt to become strained. Similar messages have been received from New York. They were undoubtedly sent to influence the exchange. I still maintain that Chile will make honorable reparation in the Baltimore affair.

The old Cabinet will resign to-morrow. In addition to the names cabled of the probable members of the Cabinet, Luis Periera will probably be Minister of the Navy. The new Cabinet will likely maintain friendly relations with the United States.

Ex-Mayor Grace of New York has cabled that the American Cabinet entertains a feeling of anger toward Chile, with the exception of Blaine, who restrains the Cabinet from violent measures. A similar dispatch was received from London. The British Minister tried to give Minister of Foreign Affairs Matta advice on the subject, but his advances were not received in a friendly manner.

OUR TRADE RELATIONS.

COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH BRITISH COLONIES.

Articles Which Are to be Admitted Free of Duty at the Ports Included in the Agreement.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Reciprocity arrangements have been entered into between Secretary Blaine and the British Minister, to embrace the British West Indies Colonies, Jamaica, Barbadoes, Leeward and Windward Islands, except Grenada, Trinidad and British Guiana. The official proclamation and correspondence will probably not be issued for ten days or two weeks, as it must await notice that necessary legislation of the colonies has been enacted. Following are the principal articles to be admitted free: Animals (alive), beef, beef and pork preserved in cans, printed matter, bottles, bran, middlings and shorts, carts, wagons, cars and barrows (not including vehicles of pleasure), cotton seed and products, eggs, fertilizers of all kinds, fish, fresh or on ice, and salmon and oysters in cans, fruits and vegetables (fresh and dried when not canned, tinned or in bottles), gold and silver coin of the United States and bullion, hay and straw for forage, ice, India rubber and gutta-percha goods, implements, utensils and tools for agriculture, lime of all kinds, all materials and appliances for railways and tramways, paper of all kinds for printing and wrapping, photographic apparatus and chemicals, all accessories for printing, quicksilver, resin, tar, pitch and turpentine, salt, sewing machines, ship-building materials (including wire rope), starch of Indian corn or maize, steam and power engines, steam boilers and steam pipes, sulphur, tanbark, electrical apparatus and appliances of all kinds for communication or illumination; trees, plants, pines and seeds and grains of all kinds for propagation or cultivation, wire for fences and proprietary medicines.

The following affect Jamaica only: Coal and coke, sugar (refined), wire for fences, appliances for fastening the same, zinc, tin and lead sheets.

Articles to be admitted at 50 per cent. reduction of the present duty: Bacon and bacon hams, bread and biscuits, butter, cheese, lard, and compounds; lumber of pitch pine, in rough or prepared for buildings, to be reduced to 9 shillings per 1,000 feet. Articles to be admitted at 25 per cent. reduction of present duty: Beef, salted and pickled; corn and maize, cornmeal, oats, petroleum and its products; pork, salted or pickled; wheat.

Steamer Overdue.

BOSTON, Dec. 29.—The freight steamer Stockholm City of the Furness Line, which plies between London and Boston, is seven days overdue. There is some anxiety as to her whereabouts.

COAST CHRONICLES.

Proceedings of the State Teachers' Institute at Riverside.

THE FARMERS PLEASED AT THE GENEROUS RAINFALL.

A Chico Candy-Maker Gives a Bill of Sale to Two Different Parties, and then Skips Out, Leaving His Creditors to Battle for the Spoils—Jose De La Rosa Dies at Ventura at the Age of 103 Years.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

RIVERSIDE, Dec. 29.—At to-day's session of the State Teachers' Institute the following officers were elected: President, H. J. Baldwin of National City; First Vice-President, P. M. Fisher of San Francisco; Second Vice-President, F. M. Molineaux of Pomona; Third Vice-President, Melville Dozier of Los Angeles; Fourth Vice-President, Professor B. Moses of the State University; Secretary, J. P. Greeley of Santa Ana; Treasurer, G. A. Merrill of San Francisco.

In the morning one department of the convention, under Professor Baldwin, devoted itself to the discussion of written examinations and promotions. The debate was a short one between advocates of the present system and those who would modify it, the weight of argument appearing to be with the latter. Another division, under Superintendent Lucky, gave two hours to the methods of teaching science.

The afternoon session was one of great interest, Professor Kellogg of the State University and Professor Barnes of the Stanford University being the prominent lecturers.

THE STORM.

Farmers Greatly Pleased Over the Generous Downpour.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—Rain has been falling steadily here for twenty-four hours, and the fall seems to be general in the northern and central portions of the State. The farmers are all greatly pleased, as the ground will be thoroughly soaked and put in condition for plowing. Rain is reported at Dinuba, Tracy, Paso Robles, Yuba City, Newman, Salinas, Hollister, Marcuse, Martinez, Sonoma and Gilroy.

CORNING, Dec. 29.—This is the second storm this week with rain. Last night the wind was very high. Seventy-hundredths of an inch of rain fell Sunday night. The fall for the season is 3.39.

CHICO, Dec. 29.—It commenced raining at 6 o'clock last evening and rained steadily all night. Up to 8 o'clock this morning .92 of an inch had fallen. A strong south wind is blowing.

OROVILLE, Dec. 29.—There was a heavy rain here last night, 1.10 inches having fallen in twelve hours, making for the season 6.19 inches.

NEVADA CITY, Dec. 29.—The snow is seven feet deep at Meadow Lake, six feet at Lake Fordyce, three and one-half feet at Mountain House and two inches in this city.

STOCKTON, Dec. 29.—Rain commenced falling here at 9 o'clock last night and continued until late to-night, with no prospect of stopping. The rainfall last night measured half an inch. To-day the fall has been more than an inch, making 1.56 inches up to 8:30 o'clock to-night.

TRUCKEE, Dec. 29.—Two feet of fresh snow fell last night and to-day, and it is snowing steadily to-night. Large forces of men are striving to deep the various ice ponds clear of snow, but enough workmen cannot be obtained. The finest crop of ice ever known on the Truckee River is ready for harvesting, and all the companies have commenced storing. Tens of thousands of dollars will be expended, if necessary, to save the ice crop. A hundred span of horses are drawing scrapers over the ice constantly, and a regiment of men with shovels are busy. Rotary snow-plows and all push plows are engaged in keeping the railroad track clear. All is working successfully, and all trains are on time.

HOLLISTER, Dec. 29.—It has been raining lightly but steadily since 11 o'clock last night, with every prospect of a continuance.

FRESNO, Dec. 29.—Up to 3 P. M. ninety-six hundredths of an inch of rain had fallen to-day, making 3.19 inches for the season. Since that hour probably half an inch has fallen, and at midnight the rain still continues. Farmers and business men are jubilant.

HIS CREDITORS MOURN.

A Chico Candy-Maker Sells His Store to Two Parties and Clears Out.

CHICO, Dec. 29.—About twelve months ago F. W. Willette located here and started a candy factory. He was not very successful, and borrowed several sums of money from a barber named Barnes, the latter accepting a clear bill of sale of the store and contents as a guarantee of pay. Between Saturday and Monday Willette skipped. Barnes, learning this, took an attorney yesterday and went to the store, where he found a boy in charge. The latter was shown a bill of sale and asked to vacate, but refused, stating that he also had a bill of sale. On examination it was found that some of the stock and a large soda fountain were missing. Being threatened with arrest for larceny, the boy produced the soda fountain. It is thought some one is at the back of the boy. Willette left numerous creditors. The goods are now being removed from the store by the Constable and the case will come before the court.

TUG-OF-WAR.

The Craze Catches on at San Bernardino.

SAN BERNARDINO, Dec. 29.—The tug-of-war tournament commenced in this city last night at the pavilion. Six teams were entered. The first teams to pull were the Riverside and the Highland teams. This was won by the Highlands in three and one-quarter minutes. The second was between the San Bernardino and Redland teams, which was won by the Redlands in one hour and fourteen minutes. The third and last teams to pull were the Mound City and Santa Fe teams, which was won by the Mound City team in two hours and twenty-one minutes. This latter was a grand contest and a great test of endurance, as the knot never went more than two inches over the center either way for over two hours.

BASEBALL TALK.

The Question of a Coast League to be Discussed on Thursday.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—The first formal conference between representatives of the California and Pacific Northwest baseball Leagues for the discussion of the question of consolidation will be held in this city on Thursday morning. At this conference there will be present Henry Harris, representing San Francisco; M. E. Finn, representing San Jose; W. E. Rockwell of the Tacoma club, Mr. Hardie, President of the Seattle club, and a representative of Portland.

Harris has prepared a schedule of games, which provides for the opening and closing games in this State. The teams would be away from home nearly five weeks on each trip, playing one week and a half in each city.

It has not yet been decided what California cities will be represented in the league, but San Francisco and San Jose will certainly be in it. The choice for the remaining city lies between Los Angeles and Sacramento.

In the Northwest Portland, Tacoma and Seattle will have teams. Spokane will be dropped, but Manager Barnes of that club will probably have charge of one of the California teams.

Differences to be Adjusted.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—Grand Chief Ramsey, of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, accompanied by a select committee of seven, had another conference to-day with General Manager Towne of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company. This committee was chosen from thirty-six delegates who are now here representing the various branches of the service on the entire system. A final conference will be had to-morrow, at which time the differences now existing in relation to the reinstatement of operators will be adjusted.

Death at a Ripe Old Age.

VENTURA, Dec. 29.—Jose de la Rosa died here last night, aged 103 years. He was born in old Mexico January 5, 1788. He was educated for the priesthood, but failed to enter upon the office. In early life he became a printer, and was sent by President Santa Ana in 1834 to Monterey with a printing outfit, the first brought to this State. Here he printed public documents. For many years he has been a resident of Ventura. He was probably the oldest printer in the world.

Hawkins Held to Answer.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—This morning Judge Joachimson rendered his opinion in the case of Michael Hawkins. He said he was convinced the prisoner had attempted to extort money from Mrs. Donahue, and therefore held him to answer before the Superior Court. Bail was fixed at $20,000, and Hawkins, not being able to secure bondsmen, was transferred from the City Prison to the County Jail.

Ramie Culture.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—By invitation of the Department of Ramie Culture in California, Walter T. Forbes of Atlanta, Ga., will introduce in this State his chemical and mechanical process of treating the ramie plant. Forbes' process has been mentioned by the United States Department of Agriculture, and has been tried successfully in Mexico. The result of the experiments made will be published by the State Board of Agriculture.

Murder in the Second Degree.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—The jury in the case of ex-Policeman Joseph Wallace, charged with killing Saloon-keeper Albert Rice in June, 1889, returned a verdict of murder in the second degree this morning, after being out all night. Judge Troutt then sentenced Wallace to life imprisonment at San Quentin. This was Wallace's second trial. On the first trial he was sentenced to hang, but obtained a retrial on a technicality.

Gratton Dalton.

FRESNO, Dec. 29.—Rumors of the capture of Gratton Dalton, who recently escaped from the County Jail, and who is supposed to be one of the Ceres train robbers, are current every day. Sheriff Hensley of this county went south on this morning's train, as a report reached here that Dalton had been seen near Hanford.

Steamer Ashore.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—A dispatch to to the Merchants' Exchange states that the steamer Whitesboro is ashore at Little River, Mendocino County. All hands were saved. The steamer is a coaster engaged in transporting railroad ties, and was on the way to this city when she went ashore. The extent of the damage is not yet known.

Death of a Wealthy Lady.

OAKLAND, Dec. 29.—Mrs. Catherine G. Garcelon, who inherited the estate of the late Dr. Samuel Merritt, died to-day. She was one of the richest women in the State, as the property left by Dr. Merritt was valued at three million dollars.

New Feather River Bridge.

YUBA CITY, Dec. 29.—The first team crossed the new bridge, across the Feather River, this evening. The bridge will be completed in a few days.

GRAVES MURDER TRIAL.

Closing Argument of Counsel for the Prosecution.

DENVER, Dec. 29.—In the Graves trial to-day, immediately before Judge Rising's charge to the jury, Mr. Pence began his closing argument for the prosecution. In the course of his remarks he said: "You are determining an important question of life and death. The law asks you to take what the law cannot give again. The law requires you to be satisfied without reasonable doubt before you find him guilty. If Dr. Graves did not prepare the fatal draught that sent his benefactor to death, and you do not believe he did from the evidence, then let him go. It is not because counsel can create a fact or because the attorneys have any right to insist upon any unfair conclusion; it is because a solemn duty rests on us as well as you; it is because the law requires us to seek the truth, and 'tis because of this that counsel may be able to refresh your recollection so as to guide you toward the truth. With that notion of the duty of counsel, I come before you.

"Is there any doubt that Josephine Barnaby died the victim of poison? I think not. I have no fear in saying, as all the testimony showed that Mrs. Barnaby did so die. Was it at the hand of Dr. Graves, who had no allies to assist him, but unaided or aided, was he the man? That theory you are to solve. There is no excuse for any juror in the world to hesitate a moment in bringing in a verdict that he poisoned this woman. His relations with her began one year before her husband's death. She was his patient. It is evident to you, as it is to me and to her children, that a husband who has spent a long life with his wife better understands her needs and the proper limitations to be placed on her after his death than the tramp interloper who comes in after his death. Everybody knows Mr. Barnaby better knew what was good for her when he made his will than did those interlopers. But little did he dream when he dictated his will that in the city of Providence there was an adventurer of a lawyer and a tramp of a doctor who would rob the woman while he was in his grave."

Pence spoke for five hours.

At the evening session Colonel Ballou opened the argument for the defense, and spoke until a late hour, when court adjourned until to-morrow.

Man and Wife Asphyxiated.

FARGO (N. D.), Dec. 29.—Word has been received that Mr. and Mrs. John Brummells of Wild Rice were found dead in bed this morning, having been asphyxiated by escaping coal gas from a stove. They leave nine young children, some of whom are also sick from the effects of the escaping gas.

UNREST IN RUSSIA.

Disturbance on the West Coast of the Caspian Sea.

TROOPS FINALLY PUT AN END TO THE RIOTS.

Gladstone Celebrates the Eighty-Second Anniversary of His Birth—The Lower House of the Japanese Diet Dissolved on Account of Opposition to Government Measures—The Colonial Parliament of Victoria Prorogued.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 29.—A dispatch from Baku, on the west coast of the Caspian Sea, states that a riot occurred there which had its origin in the attempt of a mob to lynch a thief, caught in the act of robbing a bazar. The mob would undoubtedly have carried its intentions into effect had not the police charged them, and finally rescued him. The crowd then turned their attention to sacking the shops of the city. The police were absolutely powerless, but the soldiers made short work of the rioters, charging upon them, heedless of the consequences. A large number of the crowd were injured, some quite seriously. Order was restored in a short time.

JAPANESE DIET.

The Lower House Dissolved and New Elections Ordered.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29. — Telegrams have been received in this city announcing that on the 25th inst. the House of Representatives of the Japanese Diet was dissolved by imperial order, under the Constitution. The House of Peers was prorogued, and a new election for members of the lower House will be held within five months. The Government bases its action upon a desire to test public opinion concerning the policy of the popular party in the House of Representatives, which, since the meeting last month, indiscriminately opposed all Government measures.

Three distinct specifications are made in regard to the course the opposition pursued: First, it insisted upon a wholesale reduction in the national expenditure, which, if adopted, would be fatal to administrative efficiency; second, it succeeded in postponing debate upon urgent Government bills, especially measures for the relief of sufferers by the recent earthquakes and floods, and for repair of river embankments wholly or partially destroyed by the earthquakes, which in their present condition threaten irreparable disaster to large districts; and third, it rejected without debate Government bills for national defense, for railway extension and for lightening local taxation. These acts, the Government states, betray a disregard for the national welfare and a spirit antagonistic to the proper discharge of the duties devolving upon the Diet, and a dissolution of the House followed.

The Government, on its own responsibility, immediately issued an ordinance for the relief of sufferers by earthquakes and floods, and for the repair of river embankments, appropriating over $4,000,000, in addition to $3,000,000 already granted.

AUSTRALIA.

Colonial Parliament in Victoria Prorogued—Bush Fires.

MELBOURNE, Dec. 29.—The Governor of Victoria prorogued the Colonial Parliament to-day. His Excellency, in closing said he regretted that difficulties had arisen in dealing with the commonwealth bill, but he believed the Federation of Australian Colonies was only delayed, not defeated. He added that the financial prospects of the colony were promising, and good reports were received concerning the harvest.

BUSH FIRES.

SYDNEY (N. S. W.), Dec. 29.—Extensive bush fires have swept over the districts of Albany, Wigga Wagga, Temora and Mudgee, causing immense damage to crops. A large number of livestock have been burned to death.

INDIAN CONFERENCE.

Canadian and British Columbian Tribes to Hold a Meeting.

MONTREAL, Dec. 29.—During the first week in June next an extraordinary gathering of Canadian Indians will take place at Kamloops, in British Columbia. There will be present about 7,000 Christian Indians from various parts of British Columbia, and probably a number of pagan Indians. Rev. Father Lacombe has organized this unique gathering, and during the week the "Passion Play" will be presented by Christian Indians. This performance is not, of course, the prime reason for the gathering. There is understood to be a desire to meet one another, compare notes and consider educational matters and progress in the arts of civilization.

Lottery Tickets Seized.

OTTAWA (Ont.), Dec. 29.—The Government made an important seizure of Louisiana and Mexican lottery tickets at Montreal, for having been smuggled into Canada, such articles being dutiable. The man from whom they were seized is named L. F. May. He pleaded that he was simply a sub-agent for a Montreal tobacconist, who was general agent for the whole city. A long list of persons in Montreal, chiefly tobacco and cigar dealers, who acted as sub-agents, has been secured and interesting developments are expected.

Gladstone's Birthday.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Gladstone is 82 years old to-day. Gladstone at present is at Biarritz, a French watering-place on the Bay of Biscay, where he is seeking to recruit his strength in order to perform the Parliamentary duties before him.

BIARRITZ, Dec. 29.—The municipal authorities waited upon Gladstone to-day and congratulated him upon the occasion of the anniversary of his birthday. Fifteen members of the British Club also called, presenting him with a floral crown.

Peace and Friendship Toward All.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 29.—Owing to the report that the entente arrived at between Turkey, France and Russia was an offset to the Triple Alliance, a semi-official Turkish note has been issued declaring that the Porte will, as heretofore, pursue a policy of peace and friendship toward all powers, and endeavor to fulfill international obligations, making no exception in behalf of any power.

Redmond's Victory.

DUBLIN, Dec. 29.—Redmond presided at a meeting of the National League here to-day. The members present congratulated themselves and Redmond upon his election. He declares the victory in Waterford was the beginning of a revival of the trust formerly placed in the Parnellites, and that the prospects of that section of the Irish party are now bright.

Loyal to Great Britain.

NANGPUR (India), Dec. 29.—The Indian National Congress opened here to-day, 800 delegates being present. Expressions of most earnest love and loyalty to Great Britain were made at the opening. The Marquis of Landsdowne, Viceroy of India, has been making a tour of the country, and has been everywhere received with the warmest expression of loyalty and devotion to British interests.

A Chinaman Fined.

OTTAWA (Ont.), Dec. 29.—The Minister of Customs has inflicted a fine of $50 upon a Chinaman at Victoria, B. C., for endeavoring to defraud the department by impersonating another individual with the view of obtaining a permit to return to Canada.

Machinery Out of Order.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The British steamer Mentmore, from Liverpool, December 23d, for Baltimore, returned to Queenstown with her machinery out of order.

Tariff Bill Approved.

PARIS, Dec. 29.—The Chamber to-day finally approved the tariff bill—396 to 112.

DISASTER AT SEA.

A British Captain Reports Seeing a Passenger Steamer in Distress.

NORFOLK (Va.), Dec. 29.—Captain Hopkins of the British steamer Ocean Queen, which arrived here after the storm in which she lost four men, reported that he saw a large ocean steamer, which from all appearances was a passenger, bound from Liverpool to New York, flying signals of distress. Owing to the dense fog he was unable to go to her assistance. When the fog lifted nothing could be seen of the steamer, and the British Captain is positive she was wrecked.

NORFOLK (Va.), Dec. 29.—Nothing is known in shipping circles here of the wrecked steamer said to have been reported by Captain Hopkins of the Ocean Queen. There is no such vessel here named the Ocean Queen.

WORLD'S FAIR.

Liquor to be Sold at Restaurants on the Ground.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—A local paper says liquor is to be sold at the World's Fair. It was not known definitely until yesterday that the directors had agreed on a liquor programme. President Baker said: "It was definitely decided months ago that liquor should be sold at the exposition. It will only be on sale in the restaurants." It is stated by Director Butler, Acting Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, that no final action was taken by his committee, but it is understood by all members of the committee that liquor is to be sold on the grounds. The National Commission has yet to be consulted in the matter.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

DECISION RENDERED IN THE CONTESTED CASES.

The Democrats Gain Control of Both Houses—Great Excitement Prevails.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

ALBANY, Dec. 29. — A decision was handed down this afternoon by the Court of Appeals in the contested election cases, which appears to give the Democrats control of the Senate. In the Onondaga Senatorial and Assembly Districts the Democratic candidates get certificates; in the Steuben Senatorial District the court holds Sherwood ineligible; but William A. Sutherland, the Republican's attorney, however, says the court's opinion says that the board cannot give a certificate to Walker, the Democratic candidate. In the Rensselaer County Senatorial District, Derby, the Republican candidate, will get a certificate. In the Dutchess County District, Judge Cady, counsel for Deane, says the court's decision says, while the "Mylod" certificate could be canvassed, so far as regards its form, yet the allegations as to its truthfulness and regularity on behalf of the Republicans have not been met by the Democrats, and therefore the State Board of Canvassers should await another return from Dutchess County.

The decisions have caused great consternation among the Republicans, but they have not yet given up the fight and the leaders are now in consultation as to what is best to be done.

The Democrats are jubilant and a prominent one says: "Hereafter the Republican party in this State will be a dream of the past so far as its political standing goes."

The Democrats have now complete control of the State government, and an enumeration bill will be rushed through and at once followed by a reapportionment and redistricting bill.

The Democratic counsel claim, under the court's decision, the State Board of Canvassers can give a certificate to Walker, the Democratic candidate for Senator in Steuben district. In Dutchess district they agree with the Republicans, that the State Board of Canvassers must await a modified certificate from Dutchess County before canvassing the vote in that district.

The State Board of Canvassers have not yet met, but the members are in consultation, having the court's decisions and opinions before them.

The excitement is intense about the office of the Secretary of State. The Republican lawyers are all present, as well as politicians of high and low degree.

An immense crowd of lawyers and politicians gathered around the anteroom to the Court of Appeals early in the forenoon awaiting the decision. When noon passed without the appearance of the Justices, the Republicans began to lose hope, since it indicated that a council was being held, and as the court stands five to two Democratic, the Republicans knew a dispute on party lines was fatal to them. The Justices finally appeared at 1:30, and handed down documents which were carried to the office of the Secretary of State, where the opposing lawyers struggled for some time to learn what lay within the fifteen thousand words of legal verbiage. The result was as given above.

When the Board of Canvassers met this evening they awarded a certificate in the fifteenth district to Osborn, Democrat; in the sixteenth to Derby, Republican; in the twenty-fifth to Mitchell, Democrat. In the twenty-seventh no award was made, the board leaving it to the Senate to determine whether any candidate was elected. In view of the decision of the Court of Appeals Sherwood (Republican) is ineligible.

With this district in abeyance, the Senate will stand: Democrats 16, Republicans 15, one doubtful (Sherwood's district). The importance of the Democrats controlling the Senate is national, and may possibly decide the next Presidential election, as there will surely be a reapportionment of the State by the Democrats.

Death of an Aged Minister.

CHARDON (O.), Dec. 29.—News was received here to-day of the death of Rev. Wm. Potter at the age of 95. "Father" Potter was the oldest Congregational minister in the world. His ministerial age was 71 years, 9 months and 12 days.

BLOODY ENCOUNTER.

Fight Between Moonshiners and United States Officers.

TWO MEN KILLED AND ONE MORTALLY WOUNDED.

By a Mistake in Train Orders a Disastrous Collision Occurred Between Two Freight Trains on the Hannibal and St. Joseph Road, Near Chillicothe, Missouri, Resulting in Four Men Being Killed, Two Fatally Injured and a Number of Cattle Roasted to Death.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

MEMPHIS (Tenn.), Dec. 29.—An *Appeal* special from Gadsden, Ala., says: Meager details have been received of a bloody encounter near here last evening between United States Commissioner Charlson and twelve deputies and a gang of moonshiners. The officers located a still in a Sand Mountain gorge, and awaited dusk for an attack. As they approached the moonshiners opened fire with Winchesters from behind a barricade. The officers returned the fire, but were unable to fight against the heavy odds, and were forced to retreat. It is learned to-day that Moonshiners Kirk and Sprouse were killed, and United States Marshal Jackson mortally wounded.

BORDER TROUBLES.

Much More Importance Being Attached to Garza's Raid.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 29.—A *Republic's* San Antonio special says: Much more importance is now attached to Garza's raid. Captain Bourke is authority for the statement that every Mexican on the American side is a supporter of Garza, and the masses of Northern Mexico are similarly inclined. The fact that Garza continues to recruit followers from the American side increases the responsibility of the American Government in permitting violations of the neutrality laws, and the American officials concerned are much worried. All available American troops, it is said, are out now, and General Stanley had instructions that, if necessary, to use all the men in his department.

Authentic information has been received that Garza and his men are being protected by Mexican ranchers in Texas, but the bands are so badly scattered, and the troops so watchful, that it will be impossible for him to throw any large body into Mexico at one point, as has been his intention.

Captain Hardie and troop reported from Alice this morning that they had been scouting up and down the river, but nothing of importance was discovered. At Rio Grande City warrants have been issued against Garza's men for the killing of Corporal Edstrom, and several suspicious characters have been arrested. As matters look now exciting developments may be expected in a short time, as the United States troops are likely to come into contact with the revolutionists soon.

MEXICAN TROOPS REVOLT.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 29.—A *Picayune's* Brownsville (Tex.) special says: Rumors from the Mexican side of the Rio Grande are to the effect that 4,000 Mexican Government troops stationed at Mier, have revolted, killed the commanding officers, and are off to join Garza's band.

MISTAKE IN TRAIN ORDERS.

Fatal Collision Between Freight Trains in Missouri.

CHILLICOTHE (Mo.), Dec. 29. — By a mistake in train orders a disastrous collision occurred between two freight trains on the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, seven miles east from here early this morning, resulting in the death of four trainmen and the fatal wounding of two others.

The dead are: Engineer Busbee, Fireman Barry, Fireman Price and Brakeman Gilmore.

Brakeman Bell and Engineer Nannan will die.

Eleven cars filled with cattle were wrecked. The wreck caught fire and the poor animals slowly roasted to death.

Two Negroes Killed.

BUNKIE (La.), Dec. 29.—Yesterday a Constable and deputy, in trying to arrest a negro, were fired upon and both wounded. The Sheriff to-day, with a posse, attempted to arrest the negroes who did the shooting. They had taken refuge in a cabin where there were a number of other negroes. As the officers approached the negroes fired, one white man being wounded. The posse then fired, killing two negroes, the others dispersing, most of them surrendering to the Sheriff. Further trouble is apprehended.

Baby's Body Found in a Trunk.

ROCKAWAY BEACH (L. I.), Dec. 29.—An old leather trunk, around which was a stout rope, was found imbedded in the sand at low-water mark, opposite the Ocean House yesterday, by Charles Young, Jr. Young opened the trunk and was surprised to find the body of a colored infant, apparently three weeks old. The trunk evidently had been washed up by the tide.

Blown Up With Dynamite.

ALTOONA (Pa.), Dec, 29.—The Clearfield Hotel livery stable was blown up with dynamite early this morning. The debris took fire and spread to the adjoining property, destroying five other buildings and consuming eight horses. The greatest excitement prevailed, as it was feared by the people that an organized attempt to destroy the city was being made.

Five-Year-Old Morphine Eater.

PLAINFIELD (Ind.), Dec. 29.—Keeley Institute at this place has something of a curiosity in the shape of a patient five years old who is a confirmed morphine eater. The child has been fed poison from its infancy to make it sleep, and the serious consequences are easily to be seen.

Fatal Snowslide.

DENVER, Dec. 29.—A *Times* special from Leadville, Col., says: A snowslide occurred at Alicante, a mining camp ten miles from here, last night. John A. Samms was instantly killed, and a number of other men were severely injured. Several cabins were demolished.

Tin-Plate Factory.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 29.—The N. & G. Taylor Company, which has been operating a small tin-plate factory here, to-day completed arrangements for the erection in this city, which, when completed, will be the largest establishment of the kind in the United States.

A Dozen Men Injured.

LONG ISLAND CITY (N. Y.), Dec. 29.—This afternoon a new building in course of erection on Ninth street and Jackson avenue collapsed, injuring a dozen men.