THE RECORD-UNION.

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MEETING OF TOILERS.

Twelfth Annual Convention of the Federation of Labor.

REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY READ.

Officers of the Amalgamated Association Emphatically Deny the Story That the Organization Countenanced a Plot to Poison Non-Union Workmen at the Carnegie Mills at Homestead—The Operators' Strike on the Rock Island Road Growing Serious.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 12.—The twelfth annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor convened here to-day. The labor situation of the entire country is to be canvassed thoroughly, and steps looking to the reorganization of the entire mode of procedure in labor matters will be taken.

President Gompers called the convention to order.

George Chance delivered the address of welcome on behalf of the United Labor League.

A Committee on Credentials was appointed and the convention took a recess till afternoon.

At the afternoon session the delegates were entertained for half a hour by John Swinton, the New York journalist, in a savage attack on "Black-legging Pinkertonism and Trickery." "The labor of the country," he said, "has been paid millions of dollars in this city which it would surely have lost without the help of striking brethren at different points." The speaker concluded with an appeal for the union of all labor organizations on fundamental principles.

The Committee on Credentials reported 801 delegates entitled to admission, and the report was adopted.

A resolution was introduced, at the request of Typographical Union No. 16 of Chicago, denouncing the proposed awarding of the contract for the World's Fair catalogue to a non-union house, and demanding that the work go to a union house. After considerable debate the resolution was somewhat modified and adopted.

President Gompers read his annual report. He said, in part: "Events have transpired on the field of labor in the last six months which have aroused public attention, because the incidents connected with them were of more or less unusual character. In each of these labor struggles the employers, corporations, simply made the request, and armed forces of the State and United States were at their bidding.

"At Cœur d'Alene, at the bidding of the mine owners, United States troops were brought to Cœur d'Alene and the men overawed and subdued, the commanding General of the United States forces issuing an order that any employer who would operate the mines with union labor would not be allowed to continue work. A United States Judge had issued an order prohibiting union miners from holding a meeting.

"In other words, the constitutional right of free assemblage was violated by a United States Judge and the General of our army by declaring and enforcing an edict that employers shall not carry on business because they dared to employ union men. Acting Judges and officers of the United States had flagrantly violated the law, and I believe it is our duty to demand that the Congress of the United States institute an investigation.

"It is plainly evident that the militia of our several States are now never utilized except for purposes of ostentatious show or as an element in labor struggles. There is not even a pretense that they should be what they were originally designed for. Instead of being a popular organization in defense of homes and firesides, it is deflected into a machine of monopolistic oppression against labor. The toilers need at this time answer with bitterness and vindictiveness the oppressors of organization.

"With the object of financial aid in view, December 13th, this year, has been designated as 'Homestead Day,' and all are requested to contribute a portion of their earnings of that day for the purpose stated. It is idle to say that because we were not entirely successful in the enforcement of the eight-hour movement for all labors in the past, it is useless for us to again make an effort to establish limitation of the daily hours of labor. There can be no question but that unrestricted immigration is working a great injury to the people of our country.

"Notwithstanding our petition and protest, Congress has practically closed the World's Fair upon the day most readily at the disposition of workers. We should urge Congress to repeal it.

"Congress some time ago granted subsidies to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, and incorporated a provision that seamen employed by the company should be American citizens. The company in question has since violated the provisions of the law by employing Chinese sailors. I would recommend the convention enter its most emphatic protest against supplanting our American sailors by Chinese, and call upon the President of the United States to either compel the company in question to abide by the provisions of the law, or withdraw the subsidy granted.

"In obedience to the unanimously adopted instructions, the counter propositions to those submitted by the Knights of Labor were submitted to the general officers of that order. The officers' answer was discourteous and insolent. Since then we have heard nothing in reference to the matter."

The report of Secretary Evans was then submitted. Evans said: "During the year commencing November 1, 1891, and ending October 31, 1892, 277 charters were issued to National Unions, making a total of 285 for the year. National Unions affiliated also received through the office of the American Federation of Labor 37 charter applications."

In a comparative statement as to the receipts and expenses, he said the receipts for the last year were $25,999, and the expenditures $18,324, as compared with $21,346 received the year before, and $13,190 expended.

The convention then adjourned until to-morrow.

THAT POISONING PLOT STORY.

Officers of the Amalgamated Association Say It Is Preposterous.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 12.—The offices of the Amalgamated Association say that the story that their organization countenanced the plot to poison the non-union men who were at work in the Carnegie mills is preposterous.

The attorneys for the Carnegies, however, says that the chain of evidence against the leaders is growing stronger daily and promises to be so complete that none of them will be able to escape.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 12.—R. J. Beatty, who was arrested here for alleged complicity in the Homestead poisoning plot, secured a writ of habeas corpus this morning, which was made returnable to-morrow.

THE STORY GIVEN BUT LITTLE CREDENCE.

HOMESTEAD, Dec. 12.—The report of the wholesale poisoning of the men employed by the Carnegie Company, last September, is given but little credence by the people here generally. Dr. Barton, a prominent physician, said he attributed the sickness to typhoid fever, and the idea of the men being poisoned was absurd. All of the physicians and druggists soon expressed themselves in like manner.

A small sized strike occurred at the mills to-day. Eighteen men employed in the transportation department struck, and were immediately discharged.

ANOTHER DEATH REPORTED.

TORONTO, Dec. 12.—Charles Stanford died in this city to-day. He worked for the Carnegie Company as bridgemaker at Homestead during the recent strike. He was suffering from chronic diarrhea, supposed to have been caused by drinking water which it is alleged had been poisoned by strikers at Homestead.

REQUISITION FOR BEATTY.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 12.—Captain Breck, counsel for the Carnegie Steel Company, and Deputy Sheriff Farrell left for Louisville to-night with requisition papers from Governor Pattison for Robert J. Beatty, who is under arrest there for complicity in the Homestead poisoning conspiracy. They had with them the confession of the cooks. Before leaving Breck said no more arrests would be made until his return, unless something unforeseen should happen. Notwithstanding the denials of prominent members of the Amalgamated Advisory Board, he said it would be shown that members of that board and members of the association and Knights of Labor were implicated in the plot.

A PRIEST ON TRIAL.

Father Corrigan Charged With Insubordination.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—The trial, under the forms of the Roman Catholic Church, of the Rev. Father Patrick Corrigan of Hoboken, N. J., began at Newark this afternoon. Father Corrigan is charged with insubordination in refusing to obey the injunctions of Bishop Wigger and in publishing a series of articles in the *Freeman's Journal* and *Catholic Register*, in which he severely criticised Bishops Wigger and Corrigan, and in general made an onslaught on Cahensleyism in this country. He particularly attacked Wigger as an upholder of Cahensleyism. The trial promises to be of much interest to Catholics all over the country.

The proceedings this afternoon were secret, but it is understood were simply preliminary.

Vicar-General O'Connor of Bishop Wigger's official household was made presiding officer.

The first question brought before the Judge was as to the Secretary of the proceedings. It was the wish of Bishop Wigger that no statement be given out for publication, and the persons present pledge themselves to silence, but when the oath was administered to all except Father Corrigan he refused to bind himself, claiming that as a defendant in a trial of this importance he had a right to express his views and make known the result of the trial.

Dr. Burtsell, in behalf of the defendant, objected to the trial before Dr. O'Connor on the ground that the latter, as a member of the Bishop's household, was biased. After much discussion it was agreed that Monsignor Doane, who is also a member of Wigger's household, be appointed referee, with O'Connor to hear the evidence of witnesses on Wednesday, and report to the regular court on Thursday.

When the session concluded Father Corrigan expressed himself greatly pleased with the progress. This evening he gave out for publication a letter to Bishop Wigger, in which he refers to the latter's various charges, etc. He says in his letters he referred to the Newark German Congress as a body and not as individuals, and he thinks as an American priest he had a perfect right to express his views on whst seemed to him to be important as a national and religious question to resent an insult offered American prelates by ecclesiastics who assembled in a purely English-speaking diocese, and, as a professedly foreign element, it was they who should have been called upon to apologize.

There was no offense intended for the Bishop personally, and if any soreness was manifested it was in consequence of the Bishop's official connection with that foreign organization over which he presides every year outside of his own diocese, to the humiliation of his flock, for it is well known that this organization has manifested an anti-American spirit on several occasions, and caused bad blood whenever it held meetings.

Father Corrigan says he did not intend any disrespect to the Bishop, and refrained from replying even when the papers represented the Bishop as speaking of him as a "crank." If in the discharge of what he deemed an honest duty to the country and the church he occasioned annoyance by inadvertence or heat of expression, he regrets it. He is perfectly willing to let the matter drop, and hopes the Bishop may be pleased to look at it in the same light.

Operators' Strike Growing Serious.

ST. JOSEPH (Mo.), Dec. 12.—The strike of telegraph operators on the Rock Island road assumed a more serious aspect this morning, when the balance of the Brotherhood men left their keys. The lines connecting with the Rock Island have issued order to take no perishable freight from the road.

OMAHA, Dec. 12.—The Order of Railway Telegraphers has leased the Union Pacific Hotel and opened headquarters for striking operators on the Rock Island. Other operators and new men who have gone to take the places of the strikers, but who can be persuaged to quit, are given accommodations and board free, and paid wages regularly. A number of operators have already taken advantage of the free hotel, and the men say that more are coming.

Killed by Masked Robbers.

CHEYENNE (Wyo.), Dec. 12.—Last Monday night three masked men entered a grading camp on the Burlington road near the Montana line and ordered the occupants to throw up their hands, at the same time firing indiscriminately. Daniel Sullivan and A. J. Case were instantly killed, A. W. King seriously wounded, and a boy had is wrist broken by a bullet. The robbers took $250 in cash from Case and several watches and a small amount of money from other people, after which they escaped with a stolen horse.

Training Ship Bancroft.

ELIZABETH (N. J.), Dec. 12.—The new training ship for the United States Navy, Bancroft, started on her trial trip this morning. She will go out beyond Sandy Hook to test the steering apparatus, and make other observations in the open water. Rough anchorage will be found and the anchors will be dropped and tested and the machinery for raising and lowering them will also be thoroughly tested. She will return to-night.

Shooting Affray in a Georgia Town.

SPARTA (Ga.), Dec. 12.—A shooting affray occurred on the streets here this afternoon. Dr. Gilmore, who wrote thir l-party political letters, was killed; "Jim Jo" West, a member of the Legislature, shot in the arm; Ed Brown, Assistant Marshal, shot in the finger, and Albert Amos shot in the groin. Gilmore's sons were engaged in the shooting.

Two Children Suffocated.

YORK (Neb.), Dec. 12.—During the absence of the parents, some paper took fire in the home of Albertson, and two children were suffocated. Mrs. Albertson is now a raving maniac.

WILL IT SUCCEED?

Strenuous Effort to Secure the Admission of Utah as a State.

THE MORMON HIERARCHY PLOTTING TO THAT END.

Bill Introduced in the Senate to Aid in the Construction of an Electric Railway Between St. Louis and Chicago—General Rosecrans and Ex-Secretary Blaine Reported to be Slightly Improved in Health.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—The Mormon Hierarchy at Salt Lake will make a very strenuous effort to secure the admission of Utah as a State this winter. Colonel Isaac Trumbo of San Francisco, reinforced by M. M. Estee of California, appear to be the representatives of the church in this effort. The President of the Mormon Church and his chief counselors are declaring that polygamy has been abandoned as a tenet of faith; that it was a mistake from the first. Whether it was a mistaken notion of the character of the revelation, or a mistake on the part of the Deity who revealed it to Joseph Smith, according to the testimony of Brigham Young, for Joseph Smith never promulgated the doctrine, is not clearly stated.

Colonel Trumbo and Mr. Estee also represent the church in an effort to secure the revocation of the Confiscation Act, whereby the property of the church was confiscated by the United States. The Amelia Palace became the property of the Government, and is now rented by the church for the use of the President and his chief counselors.

The creation of a State out of the Territory of Utah is, however, the chief object of the whole scheme. The Mormons have always looked upon the Democratic party as more friendly to that proposition, because that party is wedded to the doctrine of States' rights, and in the olden time was supposed to be the support of the "twin relics of barbarism, polygamy and slavery."

NEW CABLE LINE.

Service Opened Between Brazil and the Coast of Africa.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—The Bureau of American Republics has been informed of the formal inauguration of the South American Cable Company's service between Brazil and the coast of Africa. The new cable has a total length of 2,103 marine miles. At the island of San Luiz de Senegal, on the coast of Africa, it connects with the Spanish National submarine line to Cadiz, touching at Teneriffe and the Canaries. At Cadiz, the messages are passed to the marine telegraph lines for Great Britain and to the cable systems of the Mediterranean. Tolls are six to seven francs a word from Pernambuco to the principal points in Europe.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Yesterday's Proceedings in the Senate and House.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Numerous petitions for and against the passage of the anti-option bill were presented and referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

Petitions were also presented for closing the World's Fair on Sunday, and for the construction of the Panama Canal.

Stewart introduced a bill amending the Sherman Act so as to provide for free silver coinage and the coinage of bullion now in the Treasury and, in addition, for the issue of Treasury notes, based on silver deposits, which notes are to be redeemable in gold or siver coin, at the option of the Government, and are made legal tenders.

The anti-option bill was laid before the Senate, but informally laid aside to allow discussion on Indian Territory, when the resolution will be continued.

The Judiciary Committee reported and the Senate passed a bill to punish non-members of ships' crews for aiding or encouraging riots and disorders on the high seas. This is merely an Act in addition to the present law, which deals only with members of the crews.

Vest, by request, introduced a bill to encourage the construction of electric railroads, promote the interests of commerce and travel, facilitate the rapid transportation of mails, to aid in demonstrating the feasibility of the distribution of electrical power for agricultural and other purposes along the line of electric roads, and especially to aid in the construction of a proposed electric railroad between Chicago and St. Louis. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

The joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to appoint a temporary Register of the Treasury, was passed.

The joint resolution introduced by Vest Tuesday, for the appointment of a commission to treat with the civilized tribes of Indian Territory, with the view to induce them to take homesteads in severalty, was taken up and discussed, but went over without action.

Washburn's anti-option bill then came up, but went over again till to-morrow for reprinting. Harris had criticised the manner in which the bill was printed, not showing in different type the different amendments, etc. Washburn said he had no objections to the bill being reprinted and going over till to-morrow. There was a purpose, he said, on the part of the people interested in defeating the measure to do so by delay. He read a telegram just received from New Orleans stating that cotton speculators and speculating towns had wired to Washington to postpone the bill till after the holidays under the idea that exaggerated reports of a short crop would enable them to unload at higher prices. The bill then went over.

After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

THE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury calling attention to the illness of General Rosecrans and transmitting a joint resolution authorizing the Secretary to delegate the authority of the Register of the Treasury temporarily during the illness of the Register. The resolution was passed.

The Committee on Military Affairs reported the army appropriation bill. Referred to the Committee of the Whole.

The Committee on Labor reported a bill to prohibit the employment of convict labor on public works. Placed on the calendar.

Cummings of New York offered for reference a resolution reciting an editorial in the New York *Sun* of the 30th ultimo, headed "An Outrage by the Postoffice," charging that the clerks in the department at Washington are in the habit of excluding newspapers from the privilege of being carried in the mails as second-class matter without previous notice to the publisher, and that it has been discovered that there are persons residing at the National Capital who will attempt the adjustment of difficulties of this sort for a money consideration. It further stated that the ostensible reason for this interference with the distribution of trade journals is the desire to keep the mails from being loaded down with advertising matter for which people have not subscribed; yet during the months preceding the election many millions of campaign documents were carried in the mails at a rate not allowed publications issued for business purposes or in the interest of temperance or religion. It is asserted that the Postmaster-General and Superintendent of Census have each taken personal advantage of the opportunity to use the mails in the manner the department pronounced illegal for other citizens. The Committee on Postoffices was directed to investigate the charges.

A bill was passed for the disposition of certain abandoned military reservations in Wyoming.

Adjourned.

CONDITION OF THE SICK.

Both General Rosecrans and Ex-Secretary Blaine Improving.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Early this morning Rosecrans was so much better that the lights in his room were extinguished, the General resting quietly. He spent a good day, and was so much encouraged in regard to his condition that he announced that if he felt as well to-day as he did yesterday he intended to take a brief stroll on Pennsylvania avenue. But it is not probable the General will be allowed to leave his room for some time, under the most favorable conditions.

Rosecrans was not so well later in the day as he was yesterday, being rather nervous, due, it is said, to having received so many callers, who came to inquire as to his health yesterday.

BLAINE'S CONDITION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—It is said at Mr. Blaine's house this morning that the ex-Secretary of State's condition has improved very much since his relapse last week, and that he is better this morning than yesterday.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—The *Post's* Washington special says: The proposed California trip of Blaine has been practically given up, and it is beginning to be suspected that his recovery is not going ahead as rapidly as represented, and that the newspaper accounts which pronounced him in a serious condition are nearer right than interested parties are willing to admit.

THE SPEAKERSHIP CONTEST.

FIRST GUN FIRED BY THE REFORM CLUB OF NEW YORK.

Claim Made That the Mugwumps Want to Dictate Who Shall Preside Over the Next House.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—The first gun in the Speakership contest of the Fifty-third Congress has been fired by the Reform Club of New York, and the battle is now on. While the Reform Club was doubtless in entire ignorance in advance of the philippic which Tom Johnson of Ohio pronounced against Speaker Crisp and Chairman Springer of the Ways and Means Committee, the disposition of Congressmen is to consider Johnson's utterances and discourtesy offered Speaker Crisp by his hosts as only part of a plan which has its origin out of Congress, and which is an attempt by the club to dictate the Speakership of the Fifty-third Congress.

For the first time there was a desire expressed for a list of membership of the "Reform Club," and Cockran and others who succeeded in examining such list assert that at all times Mugwumps and Republicans are able to control the destinies and policies of the club and that therefore it is not much of a Democratic club after all.

There is a general expression in Congressional circles that Cleveland and Crisp have a thorough understanding as to the tariff reform course to be pursued in the Fifty-third Congress, and the President-elect was in entire ignorance of the intended slight to be placed upon Speaker Crisp. Speaker Crisp's speech, had it been delivered Saturday night, would have shown that while in the present Congress, with a Republican Senate, he favored a tentative plan of separate bills, his opinion of the course to be pursued after next March, when the Democrats control not only both branches of Congress, but the Presidency as well, is that the tariff should be revised by a general bill.

As the morning papers to-day confirmed the previous reports of the slight imposed upon Speaker Crisp, and strengthened the impression that it was intentional, and designed for popular effect throughout the country, the House itself took early and effectual means to resent the indignity which had been offered the presiding officer, and as the Speaker entered to rap the House to order there was a demonstration amounting to an ovation. When silence was finally restored, and after the Chaplain's prayer, members mounted the rostrum, and, grasping the Speaker by the hand, congratulated him upon the esteem in which he is evidently held by the House.

It is doubtless a matter of great gratication to Senator Crisp that among those who most emphatically condemn the inhospitality of the Reform Club are many members who were not even his supporters in the last fight.

To Bourke Cockran of New York the incident is the subject of considerable merriment. "I told you all about these people," he said. "When we took up the management of the campaign in New York we refused to give them a single appointment or chance to speak. They would have ruined everything. Yet, now, when everything is over and we have won the battle, the 600 Mugwumps come forward and want to read 600,000 regular Democrats out of the party."

DOES NOT WANT A CHANGE.

Germany Will Continue to Adhere to the Gold Standard.

BERLIN, Dec. 12.—In the Reichstag Count Meirbach, Conservative, asked if the Government would assist the bimetallists in the Brussels Monetary Conference. Chancellor Caprivi replied that the German delegates were instructed not to give assent to any proposal that restricted Germany's right to decide what should constitute her own currency and to declare that Germany was content with her present system and would not change it. Caprivi concluded his remarks by declaring that Germany would continue to adhere to the gold standard.

The Chancellor said the Conservatives evidently were trying to harness the currency question and anti-semitism to the same car. The events that had occurred during the last few weeks had caused him the greatest dismay. If anti-semitism and bimetallism were to be used as demagogic cries, the Government would have to make a determined stand. The currency question, the Chancellor declared, became more dangerous as material for popular agitation the less it was understood. It would be deplorable if the honorable members of the Reichstag made their attitude on the military bill dependent upon bimetallism and placed the latter question higher than the defensive power of Germany. The Chancellor stated that he wished to announce to the world that Arndt, one of the German delegates to the conference, was in no way connected with the German Government.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 12.—The revenue cutter Bear arrived to-day from Ounalaska.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT.

A Laborer Ground to Death in a Paste Factory.

HIS BODY MANGLED BEYOND RECOGNITION.

The Explosion of a Coal-Oil Lamp Causes the Destruction of a Dry Goods Establishment at Martinez—Man Run Over by a Virginia and Truckee Passenger Train and Seriously Injured—A Winters Residence Burglarized.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 12.—Ernesto Qunti, an Italian, aged 24, met a horrible death this morning. Qunti was a laborer employed in the Italian paste factory on Aliso street. He was working at a large tub where the paste is made, at 8 o'clock this morning. There is in the tub a large grindstone, twenty-five feet in circumference, whose revolutions harden the dough. While he was fixing the dough this morning the wheel began to revolve, and catching his hand dragged him in between the grindstone and the side of the tub, grinding him to death. The grindstone was stopped, but too late. Qunti was a single man. He had been in this country but a few months.

SUIT FOR DIVORCE.

A. C. Wristen Charges His Wife With Trying to Poison Him.

BAKERSFIELD, Dec. 12.—A divorce suit was commenced in the Superior Court to-day. A short time ago Mrs. Nellie A. Wristen filed a complaint in the Superior Court of San Joaquin County against her husband, A. C. Wristen, for maintenance, alleging that on the 28th of last September, while the parties were living in Fresno, he drove her away from his home without any means of support, and she asked for the sum of $100 per month and attorney's fees. The Judge of San Joaquin County granted her an injunction restraining defendant disposing of any of his personal property.

The case was transferred to this county on a change of venue, and came up for hearing this morning on a cross-complaint filed by defendant denying the equities of her complaint, and asking the court to dissolve the injunction. Defendant also filed a cross-complaint asking for an absolute divorce, and alleging that while he was sick in Fresno last September his wife tried to poison him by means of arsenic poisons, and furthermore all his property is his separate property, and that there is no community property of the $20,000 as alleged by plaintiff.

BLAZE AT MARTINEZ.

The Explosion of a Lamp Causes the Destruction of a Dry Goods Store.

MARTINEZ, Dec. 12.—A fire broke out this afternoon at 5 o'clock in a store occupied by J. Morris, dealer in clothing and dry goods. It was caused by the explosion of a coal oil lamp. The fire spread quickly, and a huge mass of smoke and flames shot out from the building, a wooden frame. The alarm spread rapidly and citizens rushed to the spot and by quick work subdued the flames, which were confined to the interior of the store and stock. The proprietor was absent at the time, and the store was in charge of his son, who had just lighted the lamp. The store had only been recently opened with a new stock of goods, said to be worth $8,000, partly insured. The loss cannot be estimated at present. The adjoining buildings were not injured. The promptness with which the fire was extinguished saved the town from a serious conflagration.

SANK TO THE BOTTOM.

Andrew Monahan Drowned at the Benicia Wharf.

BENICIA, Dec. 12.—Andrew Monahan, who has been employed as boss at the railroad coal bunkers at Port Costa, was drowned at 11 o'clock to-day at the grain wharf in this city. He had been over here making arrangements for the funeral of a Mrs. Simms of Port Costa, and not having completed his mission was returning with a friend in a skiff. In attempting to land the skiff was upset, and both were thrown into the water, Monahan sank, while his friend managed to grasp the boat and hold on until rescued. Monahan's body was recovered after a half-hour's search, but life was extinct. The Coroner took charge of the body. Deceased was a native of Ireland, aged about 40 years and leaves a wife and four children at Port Costa.

PACKING FIRM IN TROUBLE.

Petition Asking That Its Members Be Declared Insolvent.

FRESNO, Dec. 12.—A petition was filed in the Superior Court this afternoon by the Farmers' Bank of this city, the Kings River Lumber Company, Kutner, Goldstein & Co., and others, asking that the court declare Cook & Langley, the well-known packers and commission merchants of Fresno and Santa Barbara Counties, insolvent debtors. The claims against the firm aggregate about $18,000. Petitioners allege that Cook & Langley have committed an act of insolvency within the meaning of the law by conveying on November 15th last to the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Los Angeles all their lands, tenements and hereditaments of every description for an alleged consideration of $50,000. This transfer, petitioners claim, was made by Cook & Langley with intent to delay, defraud and hinder their creditors.

A SANTA CRUZ BURGLAR.

Made His Headquarters at Residences of Wealthy People.

SANTA CRUZ, Dec. 12.—Several weeks ago a tramp was discovered in the country house of Claus Spreckles at Aptos, in this county, where he had been living for some time on the best the house afforded. He had appropriated a suit of clothes and had prepared a large bundle of plunder to be taken away. When discovered he fled through the window, hatless. The same tramp was afterward discovered in the vacant summer residence of Dr. A. Lilleincranz of Oakland, also located near Aptos. He escaped again hatless. This morning, he was found in the summer cottage of James Phelan, near this city, where he had evidently been located for several days. He was without a hat, but otherwise well fixed when caught. He threw up his hands at once, showing that he was used to the proceedings.

From the articles found it appears that he had burglarized the summer residence of J. P. Smith, in this city.

Gold Excitement in Arizona.

PHŒNIX (Ariz.), Dec. 12.—Excitement fever is high over a gold find in the new placer grounds on the San Jua river. Trainmen and telegraph operators are deserting the railroad, crippling it. Even officials of the Atlantic and Pacific have caught the infection, and yesterday a party left Canon Diablo en route to the mines. Business is seriously interfered with. Friday one man washed out $700, and another reported $2,000 as the result of thirty-six hours' work.

BLOOD-HORSE MEETING.

Entries and Weights for To-Day's Events.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 12.—Following are the entries for to-morrow:

Nine-sixteenths of a mile—Nipper (116), Nelly Van (114), Mountain Boy (109), McGinness' I. (96), Jennie Mitzner (119), Gold Dust (96), Dewdrop (109), Rosebud (96), Sir Reel (99), Mount Carlos (119), Lottie D. (119), Stoneman (109), Ledalia (96), Nellie G. (109).

Thirteen-sixteenths of a mile, selling—Sympathetic's Last (109), Andie Moore (94), Red Prince (113), Regal (99), Cyclone (122), Altus (102), Initiation (105).

Three-quarters of a mile—Aerolite (91), Reta (96), Elair (109), Bonnie Blue (114), Huguenot (94), Little Tough (104), Gladiator (107), Lady Walter (114).

Handicap for two-year-olds, three-quarters of a mile—Wicklow (115), Alliance (111), Castro (106), Charmer (103), Genoa (103), Iris filly (100), Lady Marion (100), Thermidor (97), Donna Lilla (97).

Five-eighths of a mile—Queen B. (106), Joe Cotton (115), Waif (92), Ida Glen (109), Gipsy Girl (109), Mackey (113), Tigress (98), Jack the Ripper (117), Charger (103), Jim R. (113).

RECKLESS SHOOTERS.

A Resident of Chico Struck by a Stray Bullet.

BERKELEY, Dec. 12.—The reckless shooting which has been carried on for some time within the limits of Berkeley resulted yesterday in an accident which might have terminated seriously. B. N. Helphinstine, a resident of Chico, had just arrived from the north on the Oregon train, and was on his way to Berkeley on one of the cars of the electric road. Just as the car turned the curve into Center street he felt a sting in his side, followed by a dull pain.

Investigation showed that a bullet of small caliber had cut through his thickly padded overcoat, coat, vest and shirt, and had been stopped by the undershirt. The skin was not broken, but a black and blue spot the size of a dollar showed where the bullet struck.

The conductor of the car searched for a considerable time for the careless sportsman, and spent more time looking for an officer, but neither could be found.

AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

Decision in a Suit Involving 600,000 Acres of Land in Oregon.

OAKLAND (Or.), Dec. 12.—In the United States Circuit Court Judge Gilbert to-day decided the case of the United States against the Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road Company in favor of defendants. The controversy was about 600,000 acres of land granted by Congress for building the roads. The Government claimed that the company had never completed the road, and that the land should revert. The court held that the west end of the road was completed, and since the suit was commenced the remainder had been finished.

A Mill Hand Accidentally Killed.

FORT BRAGG (Cal.) Dec, 12.—While engaged in launching logs from the road into the millpond at the Cleone mill today by means of a team and a rope attached to the rear end, the front end of a log caught against a skid, swinging it swiftly sideways, catching Samuel C. Sankey between the log and the bank killing him almost instantly. Deceased was thirty years of age, and leaves a wife and four little children.

Run Over by a Passenger Train.

RENO (Nev.), Dec. 12.—A Virginia and Truckee passenger train, which left Reno this morning, ran over W. W. Beals and cut his left leg off between the ankle and knee, besides cutting a hole in his head. The wounds are not necessarily fatal. Beals is about 45 years of age and very deaf. His father and mother reside at Oakland.

Burglary at Winters.

WINTERS, Dec. 12.—The residence of J. H. Wilgus in this town was entered by burglars last night while the occupants were at church and $105 in coin and some jewelry were taken. The house was turned topsy-turvy by the burglars in searching for plunder. There is no clew to the burglars, but the officers, as usual in such cases, are looking for one.

Strike at San Jose.

SAN JOSE, Dec. 11.—Bowman & Brookfield, San Francisco contractors, hired a a man not a member of the Bricklayers' Union to do tuck pointing on a building here, and the local union fined them $100. They refused to pay, and all the union men struck. Further action will be taken Thursday if the fine is not paid.

An Indian Shot and Killed.

HEALDSBURG, Dec. 12.—Sam Laun, an Indian, was this morning shot and killed by another Indian named Maximillian. Maximillian claims that Laun was pursuing him with a knife, intending to kill him.

Death of a Wealthy Farmer.

CARSON (Nev.), Dec. 12.—Jacob Winters, a wealthy farmer of Jacks Valley, died yesterday at his home. He was a resident of the valley thirty years, and one of the largest land owners.

Fire at Madera.

MADERA, Dec. 12.—Early this morning a row of frame buildings occupied by C. A. Dworack's harness shop and a shoe shop were robbed and set on fire and totally destroyed. The probable loss is $5,000; partially insured.

Another Pioneer Passes Away.

UKIAH, Dec. 12.—J. B. McClure, a prominent citizen of this county and a pioneer, died to-day.

NO MORE STEERAGE TRAFFIC.

Steamships to Carry Only Saloon and Second-Class Passengers.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Peters, Secretary of the North Atlantic Steamship Association, has given out a statement, in view of the American regulations in regard to immigrants, that the association has today decided to carry on its vessels only saloon and second-class passengers from January 1st next. It had also decided to materially reduce the number of sailings during 1893 and raise the saloon and second-cabin rates, in order to make up the loss that will be incurred through abandoning steerage traffic. All the special excursion rates for the Columbian Exhibition have been withdrawn by the association, and there is no doubt this action will result in a large falling off in the number of foreign visitors.

Fearful Tragedy.

COLUMBIA (S. C.), Dec. 12.—A fearful tragedy occurred to-night at Aiken, a well-known winter resort. Thomas G. Lamar shot and killed Mayor R. A. Chaffee. Lamar in turn was mortally wounded by Chaffee, and the report is that Marshal Robert Gaston was likewise fatally shot. It is stated that Chaffee and the Marshal were trying to arrest Lamar.

PANAMA CANAL SCANDAL.

It Still Continues to Engross Public Attention in France.

GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE INVESTIGATION.

Public Feeling in the German Empire on the Verge of an Explosion—Talk of an Imperial Message Dissolving the Reichstag—Smallpox and Typhus Fever Raging Throughout Mexico—Cabinet Crisis in Portugal.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—The Panama scandal continues to engross public attention. All the papers publish long articles on the scandal, the tenor of which depends entirely upon the political view point of the journal. The *Figaro* urges the Government to get Herz, one of the partners in the banking-house of which the late Baron Reinach was the head, to speak regarding the connection of that house with the affairs of the Panama Canal Company, the inference being that Herz would be able to explain many points about which doubts now exist. In the course of its article the *Figaro* recalls how, thanks to Clemenceau and Sarrien, Herz was enabled to have an electric force franchise foisted on the company with a capital of 12,500,000f, and that through this and other transactions in which he assisted, by connection with men holding ministerial positions, he accumulated a considerable fortune.

The paper further says Baron Reinach spent the greater part of the last hours of his life with Herz. Only a few minutes after leaving Herz, Reinach returned to his residence, and that night he died under circumstances that led the Government to make an autopsy to determine whether he died from natural causes or committed suicide. On the same night that Reinach died Herz started for London, and the *Figaro* expresses a strong desire to have the public informed as to what caused his sudden departure.

In the Senate to-day M. Lacombe questioned the Government as to its attitude toward the Panama investigation. Bourgeois, Minister of Justice, declared amid the cheers of supporters of the Government that he desired the most complete and searching light thrown upon the affairs of the company. He added, however, that he and his colleagues would oppose the passage of any special law that threatened to involve a possible conflict between the executive, legislative and judicial authority.

The Chamber of Deputies to-day adopted a proposal made by M. Deboisserin to invest the Panama Investigation Committee with judicial powers. This action was taken despite the opposition of M. Bourgeois, Minister of Justice.

GAME SLAYERS.

Protest Against Butchery by the Prince of Wales' Party.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The sickening success of the battue at Witley Court, the Earl of Dudley's estate, has evoked expressions of indignation and disgust from all classes. The three days' slaughter was concluded on Saturday.

During the hunt the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Devonshire, the Earl of Dudley, the Earl of Cadogan and five others killed 4,000 head of game. The birds were killed off like hens in a coop. Most of them were so tame that the beaters had to throw them into the air to start them off. Sportsmen throughout the country are protesting loudly against the murderous exhibition.

The leaders of the unemployed intend to make capital of the hunt in their Tower Hill speeches and to make a demand upon the titled "sportsmen" that the spoils be divided at once among the starving Londoners.

GERMAN ARMY GUNS.

Caprivi Says the Quality of Rifles Used is Good.

BERLIN, Dec. 12.—Notwithstanding the conviction of Rector Ahlwardt, the anti-Semite, who accused the Hebrew gun-making firm of Loewe & Co. of furnishing the army with defective rifles, there seems to be some doubt in the minds of certain members of the Reichstag regarding the quality of arms borne by the infantry. At the session of the House to-day several questions were asken on the subject. Chancellor Von Caprivi said the quality of rifles in use by the army was thoroughly good, both as regards pattern and execution. He added that the weapons were fully equal to the requirements of the present conditions of war. He included in his description of soldiers' arms weapons manufactured by Loewe & Co.

THE COUNTRY ONE HOSPITAL.

Typhus Fever and Smallpox Raging Throughout Mexico.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 12.—Health Officer J. W. Prendergast has just returned from a trip through Mexico. He says that country is one hospital, sickness prevailing at so many places. Typhus fever is epidemic in the City of Mexico, and the deaths from smallpox average from forty to fifty a day.

Nothing is being done to check the progress of the diseases and they have full swing. At least 50 per cent. of the population have been stricken. Women carry their smallpox-stricken children to the depots and other public places without hindrance and scatter the infection broadcast. Leprosy is not infrequent.

GERMANS EXCITED.

Rumors of an Imperial Message Dissolving the Reichstag.

BERLIN, Dec. 12.—The town is full of rumors. One is to the effect that an imperial message dissolving the Reichstag will soon be read, and another that the army bill will be put into effect without consulting the Reichstag. The public feeling in the empire is on the verge of explosion, particularly if the Kaiser insists on retaining Caprivi. It will be remembered the Kaiser formerly expressed his determination to keep Bismarck in spite of anything that might happen.

Cabinet Crisis in Portugal.

LISBON, Dec. 12.—The Minister of War has resigned, owing to the failure of the Cabinet to agree upon the proposed army reforms. The stability of the Cabinet is threatened. Prime Minister Ferreira will refer the matter to the Cortes and ask a vote of confidence.

Penny Postage for Great Britain.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The statement is published that the Government has practically decided to adopt a penny postage throughout the empire.

Argentine's Ministry.

BUENOS AYRES, Dec. 12.—Senator Antonio Beanajo has been appointed Minister of the Interior.