THE RECORD-UNION.

VOLUME XC.—NO. 88. SACRAMENTO, MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 2, 1895.—SIX PAGES. WHOLE NO. 16,888.

BANKS AND BANKING.

Summary of the Report of Comptroller of the Currency Eckels.

THE DOCUMENT HE HAS SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS.

Total Number of National Banks Organized Since the First Certificate of Authority Was Issued in June, 1863, to the Close of the Report, Five Thousand and Twenty-three, While There Were in Operation On October 31st of the Present Year Thirty-seven Hundred and Fifteen.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—The report of Hon. James H. Eckels, Comptroller of the Currency, submitted to Congress gives information in detail in regard to the organization, supervision and liquidation of the national banks for the year ended October 31, 1895, and similar information as far as obtainable relative to banks, banking companies and saving institutions organized and doing business under the laws of the several States and Territories.

In addition to the foregoing, the report shows briefly the various systems of banking in operation in foreign countries and in the States and Territories comprising the Union, as affording information as to the different methods employed to facilitate commercial exchanges and sustain a bank note circulation.

The total number of national banks organized since the date the first certificate of authority was issued, June 20, 1863, to the close of the report year, has been 5,023, making a yearly average of 152. Of the number organized there were in operation on October 31st last 3,715, with an authorized capital stock of $664,136,915, represented by 285,190 shareholders, or an average capital stock of $178,772 for each bank; average number of shares to each 2,136, and of shareholders 77. The total amount of their circulation outstanding was $213,887,630, of which amount $190,180,961 was secured by United States bonds, and $23,706,669 by lawful money deposited with the Treasurer of the United States.

During the past year forty-three banks were organized, located in twenty different States, with an aggregate capital stock of $4,890,000. Of these new banks twenty-eight, with a capital stock of $2,530,000, are in the Northern and Northwestern section of the country, and fifteen, with a capital stock aggregating $2,360,000, in the South and Southwest. The number of banks organized during the year was less than 30 per cent. of the yearly average. There was a net increase during the year of $10,779,597 in the amount of circulation secured by bonds, and a gross increase of $6,322,540 in the total circulation.

On September 28, 1895, the date of the last report of the condition of the 3,712 banks then reporting, their total resources was $3,423,629,343 63, of which $2,059,408,402 27 represented their loans and discounts, and $356,577,580 61 money of all kinds in bank. Of their liabilities, $1,701,653,521 28 represented individual deposits, $336,888,350 86 surplus and net undivided profits, and $182,481,610 50 outstanding circulation secured by bonds.

Of the 3,715 banks in active operation, 2,901, with a capital stock of $536,725,832, are in the northern and northeastern half of the country, and 814, with a capital stock of $126,848,950, in the South and Southwest. There are 2,611 national banks located east of the Mississippi River, with a capital stock of $527,612,792, and 1,104 west of the Mississippi, with a capital stock of $135,961,990.

The corporate existence of seventy-one national banks in sixteen States, with a capital stock of $10,166,000, and a total circulation of $3,226,275, has been extended during the year.

The number of banks leaving the system by reason of the expiration of their corporate existence was four, having a capital stock of $300,000 and a circulation of $123,700. Of these, two were located in New York, and one each in Maine and Pennsylvania. A new association, with a capital stock of $50,000 and circulation of $22,500, succeeded to one of the two in New York.

During the year ending October 31, 1896, the corporate existence of twenty-eight banks, with a capital stock aggregating $3,453,800 and circulation of $1,310,400, will expire. In the succeeding ten years, from 1896 to 1905, the corporate existence of 889 banks, having a capital stock of $129,694,950 and a circulation of $34,011,887, will expire.

The number of banks leaving the system during the year through voluntary liquidation was fifty-one, having a capital stock of $6,093,100 and a circulation of $1,152,000.

Receivers for thirty-six banks have been appointed during the year. The aggregate capital stock of these banks was $5,235,020, and their circulation $1,003,402. Of these banks two, with a capital stock of $450,000, were reported last year as being in voluntary liquidation, and nine, with a capital stock of $2,750,000, were of the number of banks which closed their doors in 1893, and subsequently resumed business, but through continued business depression and the slow character of their assets were unable to meet their obligations, and were thus compelled to go into insolvency. Abstracts of the reports of 1893 and 1894 are given for the purpose of comparison, those of 1893 showing the extreme conditions of the year of greatest financial depression and serious banking loss.

The following amendments to the law are recommended:

First—That the Comptroller, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, be empowered in all proper cases to remove officers and directors of National banks for violations of law and mismanagement, first according them a hearing on charges preferred.

Second—That the loans of any bank to its executive officers and employes be restricted, and made only upon the approval of the Board of Directors, a separate written record thereof being kept.

Third—That the Assistant Cashier, in the absence of the Cashier, be authorized to sign the circulating notes of the bank and reports of condition.

Fourth—That some class of public officers be empowered to administer the general oaths required by the National Bank Act.

Fifth—That Bank Examiners be required to take an oath of office and execute a bond before entering upon the discharge of their duties.

Sixth—That upon a day in each year, to be designated by the Comptroller, the directors of National banks shall be required to make an examination of the affairs of the banks, and submit to the Comptroller a report thereon upon blanks to be furnished for such purpose.

Seventh—That the Comptroller be authorized to issue the National Banking Association's circulating notes to the par value of the bonds deposited by them with the Treasurer of the United States to secure such notes.

Eighth—That the semi-annual tax levied on account of the circulating notes of national banks be reduced so as to equal but one-fourth of 1 per cent. per annum.

With the exception of the sixth amendment suggested, the Comptroller says all these recommendations have heretofore been made to Congress. "The advantage accruing to the Government by the substitution of a bank note for a treasury note currency would be immeasurably great. The need of maintaining a gold reserve to meet the recurring demand obligations, now never retired, would, within a reasonable time, be obviated, and, delivered from this vexatious and expensive difficulty, the Treasury Department could return to its legitimate function of collecting the revenues of the Government needful to meet govenrmental expenses and disbursing the same.

"With the relief gained to it through the removal of this burden would come a greater one to the business interests of the individual citizen, whose every operation would no longer be harassed by the uncertainty springing from a fear that either in the present or the future the currency obligations now forced by this Government through the provisions of an inflexible law into the avenues of trade and commerce may be discredited and dishonored. The relegating of note issue entirely to the banks would give a better guarantee of meeting te varying wants of trade which is impossible with a legal mandate decreeing an amount of treasury issue of no greater and no less value at one season of the year than another, whether or not there be a corresponding increase or lessening of the demand for currency to transact the business in hand."

WAS IT THE HORSA?

Mystery Surrounds the Action of a Steamship Off Cape May.

CAPE MAY (N. J.), Dec. 1.—At daylight this morning a steamship was discovered by Surfman Johnson close to the beach, heading for the ocean pier. When off that point a skiff put off from shore towing four large yawl boats, which were received by the stranger. Before her arrival a tugboat, coming from the direction of the Delaware breakwater, left the yawls at the pier, and then quickly steamed away. Pilot Jeremiah Eldridge landed from the mysterious craft, but would give no information as to her name, character or destination. Four strange men, who looked like Cubans, superintended the embarkation of the boats and sailed away with the steamship after the work was completed.

A report is circulated here that the same steamship lay off the cape during the night, where arms and ammunition were taken on board from a schooner whose mysterious movements attracted the attention of the life-saving crew. It is further reported that the large yawls are to be loaded with these warlike stores and manned by daring crews, and will be dropped on the coast of Cuba as the vessel steams through the Mona passage. In this way they hope to run the blockade and communicate with the Cuban insurgent army.

The vessel apparently came down the Delaware River from Philadelphia. The steamship Horsa (Danish), whose Captain and First and Second Mates were recently arrested and held in bail for the charge of alleged filibustering, sailed from Philadelphia yesterday afternoon, and could have easily been off the Delaware capes at the time of the approach of the vessel to the ocean pier at Cape May. It is thought by many here that the vessel was the Horsa.

TRAGEDY IN KENTUCKY.

Three People Killed and Two Others Seriously Wounded.

CYNTHANA (Ky.), Dec. 1.—A terrible tragedy is reported from the adjoining county of Bracken, wherein two persons were killed and two others seriously shot by Orville Eals, who was himself killed by a posse, after he had murdered his wife.

Eals was a farmer living near Browningsville, and his wife deserted him for John Fields, a tenant on the place. Eals induced his wife to return, and also Fields, whom he shot on Tuesday, death ensuing the next day. Eals defied arrest, and since then a posse has been endeavoring to locate him. Eals was well armed, and took refuge in a hut. A large posse came upon the hut last night. When an attempt was made to attack him, Eals fired upon them from within. It was deemed best to wait for daylight, and to-day at dawn the attack was made. When the rush was made from the heavy timber Eals began firing. A man named McCombs fell mortally shot, dying in a few minutes, and two men named Wells and Herbert were seriously shot.

The storming party effected an entrance to the hut, and a horrible sight met their gaze. On the floor lay the mutilated body of Mrs. Eals, almost nude and covered with ugly wounds, while near by lay a bloody hatchet, with which she had been killed. The posse had fired a fusillade of shots as it entered the house and Eals was killed.

The bodies of Eals and his wife were buried by the posse without the formality of an inquest.

KILLED BY AN ELECTRIC CAR.

Professor Dudley Stone Meets With Death at Oakland.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 1.—Professor Dudley C. Stone, one of the pioneer educators of California, was struck and killed by an electric car at East Oakland this afternoon. The professor alighted from a northbound car, stepping directly in front of one of the southbound which he had not observed, and was instantly killed.

Dudley C. Stone was born in Marietta, O., in 1829. After teaching in the public schools of New Orleans for a number of years, he came to California in 1852, locating at Santa Cruz. Later he became Principal of the Marysville school, continuing in that capacity until 1868, when he opened a private school of his own at Berkeley. Finding that unprofitable, he became connected with the public schools of San Francisco, being appointed Deputy Superintendent in 1876. His last position was that of teacher of elementary sciences at the Powell-street Normal School. Mr. Stone was married in New Orleans in 1849 to Miss Mary Ozier, who, with six children, survives him.

Suicide of a Physician.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 1.—Dr. George Gerlach, the well-known physician, was found lying on the floor in front of his mirror this morning in a dying condition with a bullet wound in his head. That he had attempted suicide was evident, but despite the wound in his brain, he lived for nearly an hour after being discovered. Dr. Gerlach suffered from melancholia, and it is supposed that he took his life while in a fit of despondency. He was 47 years of age, and a native of Philadelphia.

The Olympics Again Defeated.

BUTTE (Mont.), Dec. 1.—The second game between the Butte eleven and the Oympics of San Francisco was played to-day, and resulted in another victory for Butte. Score, 12 to 6. The game was characterized by rough playing, and a number of men were disabled. The Olympics were to compelled to finish the game with ten men.

THE NEW NAVY.

Secretary Herbert Makes Public His Annual Report to Congress.

RECOMMENDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF MORE WARSHIPS.

A Magnificent Squadron of Armed Vessels, But Not Men Enough to Put Upon Them—At Least a Thousand More Recruits Needed—Plenty of Material of War, But No Personnel to Utilize It.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—Advocates of continuation in the new navy will find satisfaction in the annual report of Secretary Herbert to the President, from which the injunction of secresy is to-day removed. The Secretary recommends the construction of two battle-ships and at least twelve torpedo boats, and he prefaces his recommendations with the statement that "an inspection of the tables herein given, showing the relative strength of navies, will furnish, it is believed, all the argument now needed for the continuation of the building programme heretofore indicated by the action of Congress. We are not in want of ordinary armored cruisers or gunboats, but we are lamentably deficient in torpedo boats, and we certainly need more battleships. An inspection of the building programme of other nations will demonstrate that the lessons taught at Yalu and Wei-Hai-Wei have tended to confirm the belief of naval experts throughout the world in the efficiency of these two classes of vessels."

That gunboats and torpedo boats may be built cheaply the Secretary points out briefly. The gratifying progress made by our manufacturers of steel and our ship builders and the competition among them has enabled the department during the past two years to contract guns and torpedo boats at a very large reduction from former prices. The price per ton for the gunboats Machias and Castine, contracted for in April, 1890, was $302 86. The average price of the three boats contracted for in January, 1894, and of the six others just let out to contract, is $222 34 per ton, a saving of $80 52 per ton, or 26 per cent. of the ships. The price of the Ericsson, contracted for in August, 1891, was $945 83 per ton. The average price of the six torpedo boats contracted for in 1895 is $766 58 per ton, a reduction of $179 25 per ton, or about 20 per cent. in the price of the boats. These prices compare very favorably with the prices of similar work done abroad.

Toward this proposed increase of the navy, Mr. Herbert estimates that $9,638,383 is necessary, and inclusive of that amount, his estimates for the complete expenses of the naval establishment for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, aggregate $29,311,166. Out of the appropriation for the current fiscal year amounting to $14,212,801, there remains $942,286.

With the exception of the appeal for more ships, the most important topic treated by Secretary Herbert is that of a reserve system. He prefaces his suggestion that such a system be established, with some comment on the necessity for having more enlisted men, and recomends that the enlistment of 1,000 more men be authorized. Giving figures to show how small our enlisted force is, and how large those of European countries are, he makes a comparison of our 13,460 blue jackets and marines with Germany's 21,487. Germany's available men, while not all at one time in actual service on board ships would, in case of war, furnish no lack of trained and drilled material for the imperial navy, "and," says the Secretary, "in case of a naval war, readiness, other conditions being equal, means victory. In the emergency of war coming quickly, what should we do for men? All allowed by law are enlisted, and all enlisted are already on ships."

"We have," he says, "a magnificent squadron of armed and manned ships, but we have not a man to put upon one of them, and no authority of law to accept the services of a single one of the thousands who, in case of war, would volunteer to serve."

Mr. Herbert says: "All this is not as it should be. It is the hight of unreason to pay heavy subventions to swift ships and call them our auxiliary navy unless we have the means of arming them. It is folly to maintain these ships and procure arms for them if we are never to man them, and certainly it is unwise and shortsighted to defer making any provision by law for procuring the men who are to utilize these vessels until after the emergency of an always possible war shall have arisen.

"There is no other nation that has so much of the material of war that is so little prepared to utilize it; that has so much of the personnel available, and that is so utterly without authority of law to employ it. The department needs present authority to enlist the thousand men asked for, and this number will be sufficient, if the policy herein outlined be approved by Congress, to answer all the necessities of the Government, while we are so fortunate as to be on a peace footing. It will certainly suffice for years to come."

But Congress shoud not stop here, says Mr. Herbert, and he therefore suggests that in order to be able to man our reserve fleet and such naval vessels as may not have full crews, the President be authorized to enlist in the naval service, upon exigencies to be judged of by him, such of the naval, militia and other men, not to exceed altogether the number necessary to man all the ships of the navy, and such ships as under the laws now existing or hereafter to be enacted, the Government may have the right to call into its service for a period of, say two years, the Government reserving the privilege of discharging when the exigency may have passed.

The Secretary follows these arguments with a statement as to the necessity of keeping always a portion of our fleet in reserve. He shows by tables that of the total number of vessels belonging to Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy, 55.5 per cent. are in reserve and 43.5 in commission, and says that as a rule our battle-ships, coast defense vessels and torpedo- boats, after they have been "broken in," should be kept largely in reserve. Policing the seas could be done better and more economically by cruisers of lighter draft, carrying smaller crews, and by gunboats.

The idea which Secretary Herbert thus suggests is summed up in this manner: "The department proposes, unless otherwise directed by you or by Congress, to keep, as soon as circumstances may permit, a number of ships, chiefly monitors and coast defense battle-ships as 'ships of the first reserve.' After a vessel in this category has been thoroughly overhauled and put in first-class condition in all respects, she will be taken to the station where she is to lie, and her officers and crew reduced to a skeleton organization composed of skilled artificers and other leading men to care for her battery, hull and motive power. Such of her stores as may not be necessary for her maintenance in this condition, and such others as would deteriorate by remaining on board the ship, will be taken out of her and put in a special storehouse for such ship, and in immediate proximity to her, there to be separately kept as a part of her outfit, and so tallied and designated in a state of readiness to be placed immediately on board.

"Such ship is not to be considered as in ordinary, but is to be treated in all respects as a ship in commission, and subject not to the dockyard authorities of the yard where stationed, but to the orders of the Commander-in-Chief of the squadron to which she is attached, or under the direct control of the Navy Department. In other words, the ship would be in commission with a largely reduced crew, and treated accordingly. The saving thus effected in men, coal, stores and other charges is obvious, and at the same time the efficiency of the ship as a fighting machine will always be maintained. At least once in each year these vessels are to be given full crews and to be sent on short cruises to test their conditions, and that the men and officers may gain experience in handling them. Vessels undergoing a general overhauling at a navy yard will be considered the second reserve. Vessels of the merchant marine liable to naval service under Acts of Congres will be considered the auxiliary navy.

The natural distribution geographically of these ships, it is stated, would be a station each to New England, New York Harbor, the Central Atlantic Coast, the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Coast, several vessels being kept in each station.

An appropriation of $100,000 is requested for giving new compound engines for Farragut's old ship, Hartford. Rapid-fire guns will also be placed on the vessel.

On the subject of drydocks the Secretary has much to say. When the new dock at the Brooklyn Navy Yard is completed, we shall have upon the Atlantic Coast two docks— the other at Port Royal, S. C., of sufficient size to accommodate our largest vessels. The Secretary says there should be a dock yard and repairing station on or near the Gulf of Mexico, but the condition of the treasury prevents him from asking for an appropriation for its construction. He thinks that it would be extravagance to construct and maintain, as has been urged, new docks at Norfolk, Portsmouth, N. H., Boston, League Island, Pa., and Mare Island, Cal.

AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE.

FATAL TRAIN WRECK IN NEW YORK THIS MORNING.

An Express Runs Through an Open Switch and Collides With Freight Cars.

SYRACUSE (N. Y.), Dec. 2.—The New York and Philadelphia express on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, which leaves Syracuse at 10:10 p. m., was wrecked one-half mile north of Prebel station, twenty-six miles south of this city, at 12:30 o'clock this (Monday) morning.

The train, which consisted of one baggage car, one mail car, two day coaches and a sleeper, was running at the rate of fifty miles an hour when the wreck occurred. The siding at Prebel had been supposedly opened to allow a freight train to get out of the way of the way of the express, and the switch was left open. The train crashed into the freight cars on the siding, completely telescoping three of them. The engine and tender of the express were completely demolished, and the engineer, George Young of Syracuse, was instantly killed, and Webster Roof of Syracuse, the fireman, was taken from beneath the wreck of the engine and died soon afterward. At least a dozen passengers are badly injured.

No sooner had the wreck occurred than the baggage car, which was reduced to kindling wood in the collision, caught fire from the engine. The panic-stricken passengers had hardly time to get from the cars before the whole train was in a blaze. The scene of the wreck is half a mile from any farmhouse, and the passengers had to fall back on their own resources to assist themselves and their injured companions. There were about fifty passengers on the train, including the members of The Bowery Girl Theatrical Company.

Willing hands went to work to rescue the bodies of the engineer and fireman, which were in danger of being cremated by the flames of the baggage car. Fireman Roof was found in a dying condition, pinned down by part of the engine cab. He was taken out and died soon afterward.

The engine was literally smashed to fragments by the collision.

At 1:30 o'clock the whole train is in flames. A wrecking train with physicians on board has been sent out from Syracuse. It is not certain that the engineer and fireman are the only killed.

The body of Engineer Young has not yet been found, and it is covered by the wreck of the engine.

Later—It develops that the wrecking of the train was undoubtedly meditated, and not due to carelessness in leaving open the switch. The switch was found locked open after the wreck occurred.

TOPICS OF THE TURF.

Entries and Weights for the Ingleside Races To-day.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 1.—Following are the entries and weights for tomorrow's races at Ingleside:

First race, three-quarters of a mile, two-year-olds—Salesbury (110), Senator Bland (100), Ramiro (110), Can't Dance (110), Hazard (110), Joe K. (110).

Second race, selling, mile and an eighth—Pepper (107), Remus (98), Judge Denny (87), Orbit (91), Monita (95).

Third race, one mile, handicap—Thornhill (102), Peter the Second (100), Moderocio (97), Fred Gardner (89), G. B. Morris (89), Polaski (89).

Fourth race, seven-eighths of a mile—Gallant (107), Jack Richelieu (105), Installator (107), Pescador (105), Imp. Star Ruby (100).

Fifth race, selling, two-year-olds, eleven-sixteenths of a mile—Rummel (106), Lizzie H. (103), Valiente (106), Encino (106), St. Lee (106), Doubtful (106), Laura F. (103), Claude Hill (103), Alvero (103), Lady Gray (103).

FAMOUS BLYTHE CASE.

Litigation for the Big Estate Probably at an End.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 1.—The final decision in the famous Blythe case was rendered by the Supreme Court yesterday. It was in favor of Florence Blythe-Hinckley, and sweeps away the last obstacle to the accession by the young girl to the millions of her bachelor father.

In thus disposing of the case the Supreme Court sustained Judge Coffey on three different appeals. Of these appeals the most important was taken by Sarah Davis, one of the Savage heirs. Mrs. Davis appealed from the decree of distribution. She claimed that not having been a party to the original contest, she was entitled to litigate her claim of heirship just as though the case had not been determined against her brothers, William and David Savage, both of whom were partners to the original contest which was decided on all points in favor of the girl Florence.

HORRIBLE BARBARITIES.

Wholesale Massacre of Christians in the Ottoman Empire.

ARMENIANS APPEAL TO THE PATRIARCH AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

Defenseless People Slaughtered by Ferocious Mobs of Turks—Soldiers and Gendarmes Sent to Preserve Order Not Only Did Not Stop the Massacre, But Themselves Rush Savagely Upon the Armenians, Bayoneting Them to Death.

WORCESTER (Mass.), Dec. 1.—The following petition sent by the Armenians of Erzingan to Mgr. Izmirlian, Armenian Patriarch at Constantinople, have been forwarded in duplicate to this city, where they have been translated and made public:

"To his Holiness, Mgr. Izmirlian: On Monday, October 21st, while the people from the towns and villages surrounding Erzingan were gathered together on a market day on a public market, a vulgar mob, composed of Turks and Kurds, fully armed, attacked the Armenians at 4 o'clock (11 a. m.) and began a wholesale massacre of them, beating, wounding, killing and slaughtering them, and then dismembering the bodies of many of them and tearing them limb from limb. During the six hours of this slaughter the ferocious mob murdered the unarmed Armenians with swords, sabers, knives, hatchets, clubs and guns with such horrible barbarity as has never been seen or heard of before.

"Before this the Armenians, anticipating from the threats of the Turks which they had heard that a horrible calamity was awaiting them, had sent their clergy to the local commander of the Turkish army many times during the weeks preceding, imploring of him protection. He told them twice that so long as he was in Erzingan a massacre would never take place, and said that he considered it unreasonable and cruel to entertain the idea of killing a defenseless and peaceful people.

"Relying upon these assurances of the commander, part of the Armenians, feeling safe, went about their daily business. Those especially who went to the market early in the morning saw with great satisfaction the soldiers, gendarmes and guards scattered about everywhere, watching to maintain peace. In the four quarters of the city these soldiers were searching the Armenians, and if they found any arms on them they took them away. After they had thus deceived and robbed and entrapped the Armenians they began to kill them most savagely. These soldiers and guards, who had apparently come to maintain order, not only did not stop the massacre, but themselves rushed savagely upon any of the Armenians, who were too dazed to defend themselves desperately as any man would do, so that the greater number of the victims were sacrificed to the bayonets of the regular soldiers.

"This very same day hundreds of our kindred were sacrificed to that merciless and bloodthirsty mob, and ninety of their dead bodies have already been found. After they had thus butchered the inoffensive Armenians, they rushed upon their dead bodies in a most beastly manner, and robbed and stripped them from head to foot. On many of the dead bodies, especially upon the faces and heads, there were deep marks and cuts of knives and clubs, and others of them had been beheaded. Two days after the massacre the corpses were carried in a cart to a certain place and buried in one pit, which we will have to call 'Martyr's Sepulchre.' There are many wounded also, the greater portion of them fatally.

"The pitiful population of Erzingan might have endured this massacre, if it had brought calamity and loss to a few lives only, but it was not so. The real purpose of this massacre was to rob the Armenian stores and houses, and make abject beggars of the people, in which purpose they were perfectly successful. A savage mob, composed of 10,000 or 15,000 Turks and Kurds, after putting the Armenians in a state of terror and flight, began to pillage and loot the stores and shops with such rapidity that about 500 of the Armenian markets and stores were ruined and sacked in a few hours. The merchants' stock of rice, flour, grain and provisions, the apothecaries' drugs, the tradesmen's tools and the carpenters' bench even were not exempted from the geheral plunder and booty.

"The Turkish citizens, in their stores and places of business, were constantly encouraging the pillagers and calling out to them to be faithful and loyal to their duty against the enemies of Allah (God). Even the soldiers and officers took part in the pillage. Serbahan and Mutuni were sacked and burned. A great many lives also were sacrificed. The population of the nearest villages, especially Serbahan and Mutuni, barefooted and half-naked, leading their children by their hands, fled to the city.

"These fugitives and most of the population of the city are naked and on the verge of starvation. Even if they had money they could not buy any bread, because all of the bakeries are closed.

"The abject poverty, the burning of villages from day to day, the constant fear of fresh massacres, the danger that the cholera, which generally follows the crowding of the people together, will break out, the fact that the markets have been robbed and destroyed, the distressing destitution of the people, all these calamities have reduced the poor people to such a dreadful condition that language of man is not able to describe it.

"Will the National Patriarchate help the Armenians after they are absolutely exterminated from the earth? Wherever it will avail, send the news of these horrors. Send aid quickly. Hasten to our rescue. After a little while the districts of Erzingan will be one wide sepulcher for all the Armenians.

"About half an hour's walk from this city the Puzouan village and the church there were considered a place of safety, consequently the Armenians had gathered there, but alas, the Turkish and Kurdish savages polluted even the sanctuary, and filled it with the blood of Christians. Not satisfied with the awful deeds they had already done, they crushed the doors of the church and broke into it, and of the pure refugees there one priest and forty men, women and children were butchered, and the whole village pillaged afterward.

"The meetings of our Kaghakajan Zhogov (the Executive Committees of our churches and schools) have been abandoned, because some of its members have been killed, others have been imprisoned, and there are none to act. Even if any of them could be found they do not dare do anything.

"In the pangs of death, the people of Erzingan, October 26th."

"To his holiness, Mgr. Izmirlians, Armenian Patriarche: Your holiness is already aware of the unfortunate calamity which befell the people of the city on October 21st. The merchants were robbed of their goods, the artisans of their tools, the farmers of their provisions and produce. In a word, the Armenian population of this district was subjected to robbery and depredation of all their material wealth. We have no more rich people, they are all now as poor as their poor brethren were. All the people are sitting on ashes. The circumstances do not allow me to give in detail the deplorable conditions the people have to bear, most unfortunately.

"On the same day the shops, monastries and the villages of the Armenians, after being plundered, were set on fire. Four hundred were killed, and more than double that number were wounded. Thousands of men, women and children, wrapped in rags, for they have nothing better, are wandering now from street to street, to beg for a piece of bread. Add to this unbearable state of affairs the efforts of the Government to hold Armenians themselves responsible for the horrible plunders and massacres. Many of our leading and influential men are now put in jail, and are compelled to declare that Armenians themselves are to be blamed. We are receiving threats and orders from the Government every day which we are expected to obey. Sad and heart-breaking news is arriving from day to day from surrounding towns, such as Kamakh, Refazia, Terjan, Keghy and many other places. The frightful and heartsickening condition of the people defies description. In behalf of thousands of orphans, and in behalf of thousands of mourning, famishing and wretched people, we beg to ask for us the mercy of his majesty the Sultan. Help, help, help, immediate help!

"In the pangs of death. The People of Erzingan, November 3, 1895."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—The Turkish Legation received from the Sublime Porte the following telegram under today's date:

"The Armenian rioters of Zile and Sivas having closed their shops and fired on the Mussulmans, killing one of them, an affray occurred, during which four Mussulmans, out of whom two were soldiers, and five Armenians, were killed The necessary measures for the restoration of order were immediately taken.

"The Armenian revolutionists attacked the district of Enderin, burned the palace of the Governor and plundered the neighboring Mussulman villages. Troops were sent out for the repression of these disorders."

LONDON, Dec. 1.—The representative at Constantinople of the United Press, telegraphing under yesterday's date, pictures a pitiable condition of affairs at Harpoot, where the American Mission buildings were burned at the time of the recent massacre there. The representative of the United Press has received advices from Harpoot, showing that there is great danger of hundreds of the poorer classes of Armenians starving to death. The peril that confronts these people is an immediate one. They are absolutely without food and without the means of getting any. The American missionaries have sent thousands of dollars to relieve this distress, but the sums furnished by them have gone but a little way to ward off the famine which threatens. The money has been expended as advantageously as possible, but there are so many persons who are homeless, foodless and helpless that nothing but Government relief will save them from a great disaster.

The people are now in a condition of apathy, and many of them, it is believed, would welcome death at the hands of their enemies rather than to await the slow process of starvation. Some, however, who have a little money, or who have been secretly assisted by comparatively well-to-do compatriots, are fleeing to small places in the interior, where they hope to better their miserable condition. They run the risk of being massacred en route, as the Government will furnish them not the slightest protection.

Those Armenians who have fled to Constantinople, thinking that in the capital they would be more or less under the protection of the representatives of the various Powers, have found their hopes dashed to the ground. Perhaps if they are allowed to remain they might find the protection they seek. At any rate, it is pretty certain that they would be safe from cold-blooded massacre, but the Government in the case of the refugees is enforcing the principle of serfdom, that every subject is bound to the soil, and large numbers of Armenians are daily arrested. They are shipped in batches to the places where they were born, with the warning that it will be better for them to remain there.

LONDON, Dec. 1.—The Daily News will to-morrow publish a dispatch from Constantinople saying that the Porte has documents, claimed to have been written by Armenians at Kharput, declaring the education given by the American missionaries has seduced their young men from rectitude and brought calamity upon them. The dispatch adds that elsewhere the official forces are starving Armenians to force them to sign papers that the liberty enjoyed under Turkish rule is not equaled in any land.

The Daily News will also publish a dispatch from Odessa giving an interview with Captain Noble of the British steamer Loch Rannich, for Odessa, which arrived a few days ago at Chanak, at the entrance of the Dardanelles, a few minutes after sundown. Captain Noble observed that the shore on either side of the straits was lined with troops under canvas, and that cannon were placed at close stages along the banks. Two blank shots, one from each shore, were fired at the Loch Rannich. The Captain did not heave his vessel to, thinking that the shots were part of some military maneuver. Soon three shells were fired at the steamer. The first shell dropped under the bow of the steamer, the second fell astern, and the third whizzed across the bridge a few feet from the Captain's head. He was astonished, and thought that war had been declared between England and Turkey. Hitherto the Turkish authorities have always allowed a time margin for vessels arriving in the straits after sundown. The head of the Dardanelles is covered with torpedoes.

WASHINGTON AND LAFAYETTE.

A Bronze Group Unveiled at Paris Yesterday.

PARIS, Dec. 1.—A bronze group by the sculptor Bartholdi, representing Lafayette and Washington shaking hands, was unveiled in Rue Etats Unis this morning. After the work had been presented to the city M. Bompard, Vice-President of the Municipal Council, made a brief response in accepting it on behalf of the council. Embassador Eustis did not attend the ceremony owing to ill-health and the recent death of his wife. Mr. Morss, the American Consul-General, acted in his stead. He eloquently described the gratitude felt everywhere in the United States for the services rendered by Lafayette in their struggle for freedom. Mr. Morss' speech was warmly applauded.

Among those present were M. Bartholdi, Hon. William E. Quinby, American Minister to the Netherlands; Mrs. Morss, Commander Rogers, naval attache of the American Embassy; Colonel Kellog, military attache; Meredith Read, Henry Peartree and M. de Remusiat. Count Assailly represented the Lafayette family. During the ceremony the military band played the "Marseillaise" and American airs.

Senator Hill Ill.

DULUTH (Minn.), Dec. 1.—Senator Hill while here contracted a severe cold, which has compelled him to cancel his remaining lecture engagements in the West. He left for the South this morning for the benefit of his health, and will return to Washington as soon as his temporary indisposition will permit.

FIFTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

The Annual Session of the National Legislature Will Open To-Day.

LITTLE BUSINESS WILL BE DONE UNTIL TO-MORROW.

When the President's Message Is Expected to Be Read—The House Will Confine Itself to the Routine of Organization, the Political Complexion of This Body Now Being Republican—Reed Unanimously Chosen Speaker by the Republican Caucus.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—The fifty-fourth Congress will convene to-morrow at 12 o'clock, according to law, in first regular session. In the Senate the twenty-nine members whose terms begin with this Congress, to whose admission no objection is made, will be sworn in. The list includes sixteen new members of the body. The credentials of Mr. Dupont, who claims a seat from Delaware to succeed Mr. Higgins, will, according to present arrangements, be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and pending investigation and report he will not be seated.

The oath of office having been administered to the newly elected members, notification will be sent to the House that the Senate is organized and ready for business, and prepared to join the House in the appointment of a committee to wait upon the President and notify him of the meeting and assembling of Congress, ready to receive any communication he may have to make. This notification will be made to President Cleveland on Tuesday, and his annual message will be read that afternoon.

After adjournment of the Senate a caucus of Republican members will be held. It is given out to-night that no decisive action will be determined upon. The meeting is more for the purpose of a general conference, it being the first opportunity for Senators to get together after nine months' recess. A nomination for President of the Senate pro tem. may be agreed upon, and committee vacancies will be discussed. The elective officers will also be considered, but no action on these matters is expected for several days at least.

In the meantime, however, there will be the rearrangement of committees, and the matter of distributing the appropriation bills among appropriate committees after the method that obtains in the House, to occupy the attention of the caucus. A resolution providing for this distribution will be offered as soon as practicable, it is said, by Senator Dubois. There are numerous candidates for the two elective offices of the Senate. The most prominent one for Secretary is George C. Gorham of California, who held the position for twelve years. No programme has been arranged for the rest of the week after Tuesday, and aside from the introduction of bills and resolutions, the transaction of business is not looked for.

The first day in the House will be exhausted by the routine of organization. First, the 356 members and four Delegates will have to be sworn in, the roll being called by the Clerk of the old House, Hon. James Kerr. Then will come the election of Speaker and the subordinate officers, in accordance with the results of the Republican caucus on Saturday night. In the hurry and confusion of reporting the caucus, which was held behind closed doors, the vote upon the election of a Clerk of the caucus was reversed last night. W. B. Hooker of New York was chosen, not Mr. Ellis of Oregon, his competitor. A roll-call will probably be had upon the election of Speaker, but the other officers, it is expected, will be named together in a resolution, and the resolution adopted viva voce.

An adjourned Democratic caucus will be held Monday afternoon to select the persons to be appointed to the several minor positions allotted to them in the organization of the House.

Aside from the introduction of new measures, bills, resolutions, etc., no business is anticipated this week. The adoption of new rules and the appointment of committees by Speaker Reed are the first matters of general interest and importance that will be accomplished.

At the caucus of the House Republicans last night the following nominations were made: Speaker, Thomas B. Reed of Maine; Clerk, Mr. McDonald of Pennsylvania; Sergeant-at-Arms, Benjamin F. Russell of Missouri; Doorkeeper, William J. Glenn of New York; Postmaster, C. McElroy of Ohio; Chaplain, Henry C. Conden (the blind Chaplain) of Michigan.

The Democratic caucus made the following nominations: For Speaker, ex-Speaker C. F. Crisp; Clerk, James Kerr of Pennsylvania; Doorkeeper, A. B. Herot of Mississippi; Sergeant-at-Arms, Herman W. Snow of Illinois; Postmaster, John T. Ross of Maryland; Chaplain, Edward W. Bagby of Virginia, all of whom were unanimously chosen.

MURDER OF GEORGE MORRIS.

A Girl Confesses That Her Brothers Committed the Crime.

STOCKTON, Dec. 1.—A few weeks ago George Morris, agent for Wells-Fargo Express Company at Chinese Camp, near this city, was brutally murdered, supposedly by road agents. Detectives were placed on the case, and to-day a confession was secured from Miss Ada McReynolds of Chinese Camp, wherein she states that she was enamored of Morris, who rejected her, and in a fit of pique she induced her brothers, Albert and Wesley McReynolds, to murder the express agent in revenge for the slight. The brothers shot Morris in cold blood, and attempted to cover up their work by giving it the appearance of robbery. Excitement at the camp runs high, and officers will remove the trio from the county to prevent mob violence.

HIGHWAY ROBBER.

Two Citizens of Palermo Held Up Near Oroville.

OROVILLE, Dec. 1.— Charles Woodman and William Boalt of Palermo were held up by a highwayman yesterday afternoon while driving through the woods near McConroy ranch, near this city. Boalt handed over his purse, containing $30, and Woodman contributed a pocketbook with a small amount in it. The latter requested the robber to return the valuable papers contained in the pocketbook. The highwaymen inquired of Woodman if he was a poor man, and being answered affirmatively, returned the purse and papers, and ordered the gentlemen to drive on. The robber is described as of medium hight, weight about 140 pounds, dressed in seedy clothes and wore a red handkerchief over his face. Officers are hot on the trail.