SCALPERS MAY WIN

LITTLE INTEREST IN THE BILL TO SUPPRESS TICKET BROKERS.

Senator Frye's Measure for the Creation of a Department of Commerce to Be Pushed in Congress.

RELIEF FOR BRIDGE BURNERS

PENSIONS RECOMMENDED FOR TENNESSEEANS WHO BRAVED DEATH.

Changes Recommended by Attorney General Harmon in the Pacific Railroads Commission Bill.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The bill for the suppression of railroad ticket scalpers was before the Senate committee on interstate-commerce to-day. Everybody was for the bill, but everybody had an amendment to offer or a suggestion to make that would require further time for consideration and the measure went over to another meeting to be called at the pleasure of the chairman. The truth is, the committee and Congress has grown unmistakably apathetic about the passage of the bill and its chances of passage are slight. Senator Smith let the cat out of the bag to-day when he said that "There are too many barefooted in the country to make legislation either desirable or popular that might tend to increase the cost of transportation."

* * *

Senator Frye's bill for the creation of a Department of Commerce is being pressed by apparent concert of action in many influential quarters. It may be brought up this session and pushed through, but will probably go over and be one of the few things the Fifty-fifth Congress in special session will permit itself to do, besides enacting tariff legislation. The new department, when created, will take the customs, internal revenue, navigation, immigration and statistical bureaus from the Treasury Department, the consular agencies from the State Department, rivers, harbors and canal improvements from the War Department and the census bureau from the Interior.

* * *

The East Tennessee "bridge burners" have been recommended by the House committee on invalid pensions as worthy a higher rate of pension than other soldiers because of the perilous character of their duty and the sufferings they underwent. A number of citizens of East Tennessee, in 1861, enlisted in the Union secret service as bridge burners, understanding that they would be hanged or shot if captured by the enemy. They only consented to undertake the work on condition that the army under Thomas should at once occupy Tennessee after the bridges were burned in order to protect the men engaged and this was promised. Bridges were burned, but Thomas did not come, having been recalled, and the burners were deserted. They attempted to escape into Kentucky, but were unsuccessful and disbanded. Some were captured and shot, some escaped to the mountains and others joined the Union army. In view of these facts the committee thinks special recognition should be given them. These facts are set forth in a report from the House committee on invalid pensions upon a bill introduced by Representative Anderson, of Tennessee, which provides that thirteen persons named who were engaged in this service be placed on the pension list at $24 a month. This amount is recommended by the committee's report to be reduced to $12 a month, which is to be taken in lieu of other pension.

* * *

The House committee on Pacific railroads had a conference to-day with Attorney General Harmon on the Harrison bill for a commission to settle the Pacific Railroad questions. The attorney general urged that broader authority should be given his department to deal with the matter. The committee adjourned until Monday on the representation of Representative Hubbard, of Missouri, that parties stood ready to make the government a better offer for the Union Pacific than the one made by the New York syndicate. Mr. Hubbard declined to say who these parties were more than that they represented railroads with terminals at St. Louis and other central points, who desired to establish a through system. They would offer, he said, $55,000,000 in cash ($10,000,000 more than the offer of the New York syndicate) to clear off the first mortgage and pay part of the government debt, and would refund the remainder at 3 per cent., he represented.

The most important statement made by the attorney general was that the pending settlement with the Union Pacific would probably be effected before the adjournment of the summer term of the United States courts. He suggested certain changes in the Harrison bill, one of them that the commission be authorized to accept any offer to sell the government's interest and title to the Pacific roads. Mr. Harrison has prepared an amendment to cover this point. Mr. Harmon also said that no commission should be restricted by the establishment of minimum prices for settlements. He did not believe a mixed commission, composed partly of private citizens and partly of Cabinet officers, was practical. He suggested that a commission should be empowered to employ expert accountants and railroad experts. The authority of the executive branch of the government to make a settlement under existing law, which is limited to foreclosure proceedings, he said, was inadequate, and for this reason the establishment of a commission which would include the attorney general was desirable.

* * *

The Senate bill for an international monetary conference, which is being pushed by Republican senators, will be considered to-morrow by the House committee on coinage, to which it was referred, and members of the committee expect that it will be reported to the House without much opposition. There was some contention on the part of different committees for jurisdiction over the matter. The foreign affairs committee claimed the right, and it had charge of the question when it was last agitated in Congress, and members of that committee served on the Brussels conference. The coinage committee has a large free-silver contingent, including one Republican, Mr. McClure, of Ohio, and one independent, Mr. Hartman, of Montana, but they are not likely to oppose the plan. Representative C. W. Stone, of Pennsylvania, the chairman of the committee, talked with Speaker Reed about the bill to-day. He is confident that the committee on rules will give a day for debate soon if the bill is reported.

* * *

Representatives of sugar-growing interests are making an effort to secure from Congress an appropriation of $1,048,000 to settle the balance of the bounties which they claim are due them under the act passed in the last session of the Fifty-third Congress. This act gave the sugar growers something over $5,000,000 for the bounties which were guaranteed them by the McKinley law, but were cut off by the Wilson tariff act. The sugar men now claim that the appropriation of $5,000,000 only covered about 83 per cent. of the amount due them at the rate of eight-tenths of 1 cent a pound bounty. To-day the Louisiana delegation in Congress and representatives of the Western sugar-beet men appeared before the appropriations committee of the House to ask for a paragraph in the sundry civil appropriation bill to satisfy their claim. Mr. Buck, of Louisiana, spoke for the sugar growers.

* * *

The Senate committee on interstate commerce to-day agreed to report Senator Tillman's bill giving States the same control over liquors imported from other States that they have over liquors manufactured within their own borders. Some amendments are recommended. One of these makes the bill apply to other than original packages as well as original packages. Another in words extends the control to all liquors "without regard to the manner of sale provided by the State or Territory." Another amendment exempts liquors in transit through the State.

* * *

A bill to protect the lives and property of persons against mobs was introduced in the House to-day by Representative Stewart, of Wisconsin. It provides that the city or county in which mob violence results in destruction of property, injury or loss of life, shall be liable for damages, and action may be brought against officers of the law for neglect of duty. In case of death a sum not exceeding $5,000 shall be awarded the relatives of the deceased. When the general government, in the case of a foreigner, pays an indemnity it can bring action for recovery against the State in which the person was killed.

* * *

The House committee on patents ordered a report on a bill introduced by Mr. Fairchild, of New York, to prevent fraudulent use of the word "copyright." The bill was asked for by publishers, who represent that many uncopyrighted works are brought into the United States labeled "copyrighted" and sold as such, although they are not copyrighted and do not pay duty as copyrighted works. Representatives of the publishing and importing interests were before the committee and the bill was amended to meet their views. Heavy penalties are attached to its violation.

* * *

The House committee on ways and means to-day considered a bill recommended by the commissioner of internal revenue to authorize the sale of forfeited opium to the highest bidders. Great quantities of opium have been seized by the revenue officials on the Pacific coast, and there is no authority under existing laws by which it can be sold. The committee decided to report the bill.

* * *

Senator Frye to-day gave notice of an amendment which he proposed to offer to the sundry civil appropriation bill appropriating $100,000 for the improvement of Pearl harbor, Hawaiian Islands, in accordance with the plans of Rear Admiral Walker.

* * *

A delegation of twenty members of the House, headed by Delegate Flynn, of Oklahoma, waited on Speaker Reed to-day to urge that the committee on rules give a day for consideration of the free homestead bill which passed the Senate.

* * *

Representative Brosius, of Pennsylvania, spoke before the committee on banking and currency to-day in favor of the adoption of his bill to facilitate international banking and to establish an international bank.

IMPORTANT INVESTIGATION.

Proposed Inquiry Into Municipal Ownership of Big Enterprises.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The proposed federal and state investigatioin into the municipal ownership of big enterprises is now under way in several of the States. Its chief aim is to ascertain the extent to which municipal ownership has been carried in this country, and to this end information is to be collected from all gas, electric light or water works under such control. This amounts to the taking of a census of all of this class of municipal enterprises. The secondary object is to collect data bringing the cost to consumer of water, gas or electric light under municipal management into comparison with the cost of a like product under private control. An attempt will also be made to find the cost of the different products under the two methods of management. No difficulty is anticipated in any of the features of the investigation, as municipal works have already given information, and the price paid by the consumers is naturally easily obtainable from the latter.

The inquiry will be carried on by the different state bureaus of labor and the federal Department of Labor.

There are thirty-two state offices. Some, however, are unable to join in the inquiry and from such States the department will collect the facts. The results will be brought together, compiled and analyzed by the Department of Labor, while each State participating in the canvass will publish the data belonging to it. In this way through co-operation has been secured and the work will be accomplished with the least possible delay. The principles involved do not constitute any feature of the investigation, and, therefore, whether the municipal ownership of such institutions is or is not desirable has no place in the investigation, which is based on the desire of both parties on both sides to learn the extent to which the idea has been carried. The Department of Labor here, under the supervision of Commissioner of Labor Wright, has been shipping the blanks to the different state offices, and the work already has been started in two or three Eastern States. The results will be available for tabulation in the different States in the next two or three months. The department will publish a summary of all the facts and embody them in a special report to Congress. The idea of the canvass had its inception in a resolution adopted at the twelfth annual convention of the National Association of Officials of Bureaus of Labor Statistics in the United States last June.

ALASKA'S GOLD FIELDS.

Report by C. D. Walcott, Director of the Geological Survey.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The secretary of the interior to-day sent to the Senate a report of Prof. C. D. Walcott, director of the geological survey, of an exploration of the Alaska gold fields made last summer by a party sent out by the bureau. The expedition traversed the valley of the Yukon from the British boundary on the east to the mouth of the river on the west, examining all the known placer deposits and tracing these deposits to the quartz veins along the headwaters of the tributaries of the Yukon. "Sufficient data," Prof. Walcott says, "were secured to establish the presence of a gold belt 200 miles in length in Alaska, which enters the territory near the mouth of Forty-mile creek and extends westward across the Yukon valley at the lower ramparts." Its further extent is unknown. The opinion is expressed by the geologist in charge of the expedition that it is practicable to prosecute quartz mining throughout the year in the Yukon region. Large areas of rock containing hard bituminous coal were also discovered along the river. Prof. Walcott says the international line running from the Arctic ocean to Mount St. Elias cuts through the Yukon belt. He adds: "It is known that the gold belt extends eastward for a considerable distance into the British possessions. There can be little, if any dispute, however, as to the position of the boundary line where it crosses the belt. The disputed line is from Mount St. Elias southward to the head of Portland channel." Prof. Walcott asks for an appropriation of $25,000 for a more complete survey and reconnoissance map of the region.

PREPARING TO MOVE.

The Clevelands Packing Their Personal Effects at the White House.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—One month from to-morrow there will be a change of occupants in the White House, and in anticipation of this there is already a general packing of the personal effects of President Cleveland and his family. These are being made ready for shipment to his newly purchased home in Princeton.

The President and Mrs. Cleveland will follow the usual custom of inviting the President-elect and his wife to be their guests at dinner at the executive mansion on the evening of March 3. Ex-President Harrison entertained President and Mrs. Cleveland in this way before the last change of administration. The luncheon usually given in the White House by the retiring President in honor of his successor, immediately after his formal inauguration, will be omitted at the coming inauguration to avoid delay in the movement of the procession following the ceremonies at the Capitol.

The Venezuelan Treaty.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—A copy of the Venezuelan arbitration treaty signed yesterday will be sent by mail on the steamer sailing from New York to-morrow. It will reach Caracas in a week, leaving sufficient time for the arrangement of all details connected with its submission to Congress before the latter convenes on the 20th inst. The Venezuelan government is fully informed of the exact scope of the document, as Minister Andrade sent by the preceding mail a draft of the document complete in all respects save the names of the arbitrators. There is nothing now to do here until the ratification of the treaty by the Venezuelan Congress, of which no doubt is entertained here. It may be that the legation here will be called on to assist in the preparation of the case for the arbitrators. It is believed that Mr. Storrow, who has acted as counsel for Venezuela in the negotiations leading up to the signing of the treaty, will be appointed to serve in a similar capacity before the arbitration tribunal, for which he will be fitted by reason of the fact that all of the proceedings will be in the English language. It is probable that he will begin the preparation of the case, a work which can be undertaken in this country, even if he does not act as counsel throughout.

American's Release Demanded.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Inquiry here confirms the story coming from Lima, Peru, to the effect that the State Department has lodged a demand with the United States charge of legation at Lima for the release of the mate of the American bark Uncle John. The report of United States Consul Jastrenski, at Callao, shows that the name of the man is S. G. Treanor, a naturalized citizen of California. He was ashore on Dec. 19 last at Callao and was arrested as the outgrowth of a street row between the city police and twenty sailors from the ships in the harbor. He was examined by an interpreter on Dec. 24, but since then there have been no legal proceedings and the mate's ship was obliged to leave port without him. Hence the demand for the release of the man on the ground that he had been deprived of his right under treaty to trial within reasonable time.

New Mail Pouches.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The supply of leather mail pouches familiar to the public throughout the United States has been discontinued for at least four years, and the jute sacks and horse mail bags used in the service also go with them. This is the change provided for in contracts awarded to-day, the discontinuance being due mainly to improvements in weight and saving in expense of manufacture. The contracts are for furnishing mail pouches and sacks for the government during the four years beginning April 1 next. F. Colt Johnson, of New York, gets most of the contracts, his bids aggregating about $700,000. Classes A, B, C, D and E are awarded to him. Class F, registered bags, is awarded to E. C. Cook & Bro., of Chicago, and Class G, inner registered sacks, to Peter McNulty & Co., of Brooklyn, N. Y.

Wilson's Prospects Not Bright.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—John W. Kern is working heroically to secure the pardon of James Wilson, the Indianapolis publisher convicted of sending obscene matter through the mails, but the prospects of success are not considered the brightest. President Cleveland has a strong and unconcealed prejudice against persons found guilty of that kind of offenses and never fails to show it. Many an application for pardon bears on its back a "roast" of the prisoner named written in the President's own handwriting, clearly signifying his utter dislike of this class of offenses against society.

The Cramps Want Their Money.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The head of the Cramp shipbuilding firm has written Secretary Herbert a savage letter, denouncing him and the Cleveland administration for withholding $350,000 due the concern in premiums allowed by act of Congress on speed tests of war vessels over the contract limit. This money was due eight or ten months ago and the Cramps charge the administration with delaying payment for the double purpose of keeping down its expenditures and of shoving the burden over on the next administration. This is one of the letters Secretary Herbert is not giving out.

Operation on Senator Harris's Eye.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Senator Harris, of Tennessee, to-night underwent an operation on his eye to relieve the intense pain he has been suffering, which it was feared might, if allowed to continue, go to the brain. He bravely withstood the operation without taking any anesthetic. Late tonight he was reported to be resting. For the past week Senator Harris has been a great martyr to the pain which to-night's operation relieved. To-day for five hours he suffered in an excruciating manner, and the operation was made at his earnest pleading.

Appropriations Growing.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Mr. Dockery, of Missouri, who, in the temporary absence of Mr. Holman, of Indiana, acts as the Democratic watchdog of the treasury, says the appropriations of this session of Congress will be $515,000,000, and for the whole of the Fifty-fourth Congress $1,030,000,000. He figures that the amount of appropriations now are $90,573,000 greater than they were eight years ago.

Arrest of Counterfeiters.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Chief Hazen, of the secret service, has received a telegram announcing the arrest of John Depree, engraver, and Peter Wetzel, at Grand Rapids, Mich., Simpson Craig, at Jackson, Mich., and Hauck, at Belding, for making and passing counterfeit $20 treasury notes. These are supposed to be the last of the gang of ten counterfeiters who operated with the Packard-Kingston brothers.

Must Not Seize Relief Funds.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The following cablegram has been received at the State Department from Minister Terrell, at Constantinople: "The court of Turkish ministers has appropriated 180,000 piastres for the destitute in Harpoot. On my request stringent orders have been issued to prevent the seizure for taxes of the relief funds furnished the destitute by American charity."

West Pointers Must Stay at School.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Regarding the refusal of Congress to grant their estimates for the expenses of the army and navy cadets at the inaugural ceremonies as an indication of the wish of the legislative branch to keep the boys at their studies, Secretary Lamont and Secretary Herbert have reconsidered their purpose of ordering the cadets to Washington.

General Notes.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—To-day's treasury statement shows available cash balance, $215,912,711; gold reserve, $145,037,297.

The President to-day nominated Benjamin F. Shaw, of Washington, to be register of the land office at Vancouver, Wash.

TWO MEN RESCUED,

But Two More Still Imprisoned in the Burning Tamarack Mine.

HOUGHTON, Mich., Feb. 3.—The fire at No. 3 shaft, North Tamarack mine, has abated little, but the rescuing party that went down this morning succeeded in reaching the level on which Peter Lempea and his son William had been confined yesterday and all last night, and brought them to the surface. Neither appeared to be very much the worse for their experiences, but the father is suffering from a severe nervous shock. The Tomczhoskis, father and son, are still in the mine. The searching party made an attempt this morning to find them. They are supposed to be at the eighth level, but after searching the seventh level the party had to return on account of the dense smoke. Another party went down this afternoon, and it was also unsuccessful. Hope of finding these two men alive has not been given up, as the father is an old experienced miner, but with such dense smoke as is now in the mine it is hardly probable that they can still be alive.

Later reports say that a searching party reached the eighth level to-night and made a careful survey, but failed to find any one there.

Failed to Reorganize.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Feb. 3.—A meeting of bottle manufacturers was held here to-day to make an effort to reorganize the Western Bottle Association, which dissolved last year. Nothing could be decided at this meeting, but a committee was appointed to formulate a plan which is to be submitted at another meeting next week.

TO AID LEGISLATORS

OBJECT OF THE RECENTLY FORMED NATIONAL BUSINESS LEAGUE.

Will Exert Its Influence on Congress to Secure Legislation for the Country's Commercial Interests.

AN "IMPERTINENT" LAWYER

STORMY MEETING OF DIAMOND MATCH COMPANY STOCKHOLDERS.

Gould's Attorney Denounced by President Barber for Asking About a Little Matter of $798,767.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Last week there was formed in Chicago as a result of the efforts of a number of that city's most prominent business men "The National Business League." The plan of the organization contemplates in scope a vast league, whose influence would be powerful if success attends the movement. It is intended to organize branches in all the larger commercial and industrial centers to co-operate with the main body of the league, whose headquarters at present are in Chicago. Circulars to effect the formation of these co-ordinate bodies already have been issued. The object of the league is to learn what federal legislation will best aid the influence of the league, to bring to the attention of Congress measures in line with business prosperity and urge their passage in the interest of commerce and industry. The league is to be thoroughly nonpartisan and nonpolitical. The officers, citizens of Chicago, are as follows: President, Ferd W. Peck; vice president, Erskine M. Phelps; treasurer, Elbridge G. Keither; secretary, Clifford A. Gilbert; attorney, John W. Ela.

Ferdinand W. Peck, president, and John W. Ela, the general attorney of the National Business League, were here to-day to start the work of the league at Washington. The subject of the tariff bill now being prepared by the House ways and means committee was first taken up. Messrs. Peck and Ela had extended interviews with several members of the committee, including Chairman Dingley, A. J. Hopkins and General Grosvenor, with reference to the work now being done by the committee. In this manner they informed themselves of the stage the schedules are now in. Chairman Dingley, as well as other members of the committee, received them most cordially, and expressed themselves as much pleased with the organization and as expecting a great deal of good to come from this work, and gave assurance of their disposition to welcome the league's co-operation. An arrangement was made with the committee by which the league will furnish it statements of facts and statistics from time to time and with its views as to questions arising in the making up of the schedules. Several points on which considerable work is to be done and problems to be solved in the making of the tariff schedules were suggested to these representatives of the league by the members of the committee on which it would be well for the league to prepare and furnish statements.

Mr. Peck and Mr. Ela also had an interview with Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Hamlin and arranged with him to obtain statistics and statements from the Bureau of Statistics bearing on such points as they should desire at any time. They were assured at the Treasury Department of their willingness to further the work.

They also discussed with those with whom they conferred the advisability of having a bill for the appointment of a tariff commission passed, providing that expert commissioners be appointed, to whom all bills contemplating changes in tariff schedules hereafter should be referred for investigation and report to Congress before action was taken by the latter body. The object of this is stated to be to prevent, after the passage of the tariff bill now in preparation, the damage to business which always follows from general revision of the tariff. It is understood that Mr. Peck and Mr. Ela will recommend to the league that its influence be brought to bear in this connection. They also discussed with Senators Frye, Cullom and other members of Congress and officers of the Treasury Department the bill to establish a new department of the government, to be called the "Department of Commerce and Industry," and the appointment of a new Cabinet officer to represent this department. This measure will be recommended to the executive committee of the league for favorable action. It is believed that this department would be in line of forwarding general business prosperity, and it is contemplated that a bureau of statistics would form a part of this department's work, covering commerce, foreign and domestic, and the general industries and labor interests of the country, from which they hope very much better statements of results can be obtained than from any of the present departments. These gentlemen will recommend to the league action in favor of passing the bills creating this department and the tariff commission at the special session to be called, so that the new Cabinet officer may be appointed within the next few months. They were assured by several members of Congress that neither of the above measures would delay the passage of the tariff bill at that session. Members generally expressed themselves in favor of the bills.

DIAMOND MATCH COMPANY.

Edwin Gould Protests Against Counting Worthless Assets as Good.

CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Diamond Match Company was held to-day in the Pullman building, and resulted in the election of the directors of the regular ticket, after one of the stormiest and most exciting sessions in the history of the company, replete as it has been with interesting sutuations. Mismanagement and charges of even a criminal nature were preferred by the Gould interests. Those interests were, however, in a hopeless minority, as was soon shown, and their fighting, though vigorous and persistent, was to no purpose. The meeting was called to order by President Barber. The first war of words started with the election of the chairman of the meeting. President Barber recognized Mr. Baird, who nominated Attorney Edwin Walker as chairman, and amid the protests of E. V. McCarty, one of Edwin Gould's attorneys, he was declared elected. The nomination and election of secretary was made amid similar protests.

It was the evident intention of those in charge to override all opposition. President Barber read his report, in which he said: "It is unfortunate that the Diamond Match Company has for so long a time been a public institution so far as its workings and operations are concerned. Its earnings are known to the world and excite competition of not only capital but the inventive and working energy of the world. With the many acknowledged advantages we feel confident that the company is in a promising condition. There has been no time in the history of the company when its physical condition has been in such peril. Notwithstanding this fact the efforts of our management should and doubtless will be continued to further perfect its machinery and methods. Notwithstanding the mishaps in the last year, it has been able to pay its usual 10 per cent. cash dividend, and will continue to do so from earnings."

The statement was as follows: Assets—$12,400,346; cash, $152,332; total, $12,552,738. Liabilities—Capital stock, $11,000,000; accounts payable, $308,345; bills payable, $345,000; surplus and profit, $899,392; total, $12,552,738. Surplus account—Balance Jan. 1, 1896, $907,040; less Ontonagon fire loss, $134,120; earnings for 1896, $1,226,441; less dividends paid 1896, $1,100,000; balance Dec. 31, 1896, $899,332. In the roster of assets $798,767 was put down against the Moores.

At the conclusion of the address Mr. Baird moved that it be accepted and approved, but Mr. McCarty, after several futile attempts, succeeded in obtaining recognition and demanded to know what "William H. and J. H. Moore, $798,767.17" meant in the statement. President Barber refused to answer, and the question was finally answered by Chairman Walker, who said that it represented indebtedness to the company by W. H. and J. H. Moore. Mr. McCarty then wanted to know whether the Moores had not written to President Barber to obtain the funds of the Diamond Match Company, to be used as margins for speculation in the stock, and proceeded to give dates and figures, but was peremptorily shut off by the chairman. Then Mr. McCarty said: "I want to know whether the reason President Barber declines to answer my inquiry is because he fears to incriminate himself?" The meeting was in an unroar in an instant, and amid cries of "order," President Barber replied: "Your question is not only improper but you yourself are impertinent." President Barber then stated that the books of the company were open to the inspection of the stockholders. Attorney W. B. Keys then took the lead for the opposition, but with no better success, and the motion to approve the president's report was finally declared carried. The following were then elected directors for the ensuing year: O. C. Barber, J. K. Robinson, George T. Smith, George H. Webster and Clarence Buckingham.

A statement regarding the meeting, given out by representatives of the Gould interests to-night, concludes as follows: "The statement of the company which was presented by Mr. Barber at the meeting actually gave as assets of the company the so-called Moore assets of $785,000, but it is notorious that the so-called claim is absolutely valueless. When it is considered that the statement was presented for the first time to the stockholders at this meeting and that none of them had seen it before, and the president of the company refused to answer the inquiries of Mr. Gould's attorneys touching the matters set forth in this statement and involving the business of the company during the last year, it is conceded that the action of Mr. Barber is a most damaging confession as to the financial condition of the Diamond Match Company." Rumors are rife to-night that legal proceedings are to be instituted against the Diamond Match Company, and several prominent men of this city.

Other Business Troubles.

NEW YORK, Feb. 3.—Application has been made for the appointment of a receiver and to dissolve the copartnership heretofore existing under the firm name of E. K. Sheftel & Co., of Gloversville, N. Y. The complainant is Wm. H. Lefi, who claims to have one-fourth interest in the concern. He was the manager of the firm's branch house at Chicago. Lefi alleges that his partners disposed of the glove factory of E. K. Shaftel & Co., at Gloversville, without consulting him. The defendants deny that Lefi was a partner in the firm, and dispute his right to ask for an accounting or for the appointment of a receiver. Decision is reserved.

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 3.—On application made by creditors in Common Pleas Court, to-day, W. D. Sayle was appointed receiver for the Ajax Manufacturing Company. The liabilities of the company are placed at $35,700 and assets at $35,000.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 3.—S. T. Moore & Co., doing an extensive business as manufacturers' agents and house furnishers, assigned to-day. The assets are $75,000 and the liabilities $50,000.

CHICAGO, Feb. 3.—The Louis K. Comstock company, contractors for electrical work, assigned to the Chicago Title and Trust Company to-day. Assets, $52,000; liabilities, $33,000.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 3.—Mrs. Lizzie B. Hewitt, a large land owner, assigned today. Assets and liabilities, $40,000 each. The failure was caused by failure to collect farm rents.

ALLEGED STAMP THIEF

ARREST AT NEW YORK OF A GENERAL LAND OFFICE EMPLOYE.

Had in His Possession Uncanceled Newspaper and Periodical Stamps to the Value of $5,508.

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—The United States authorities, after long investigation, have discovered the manner in which sets of uncanceled "newspaper and periodical stamps" which are only used between one department and another of the postal service come into possession of philatelists. It has been ascertained that the sets which sell at $207 each have been stolen from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing at Washington. Following up this information Hamilton F. Colman, an employe in the chief clerk's office of the General Land Office at Washington, was arrested here today. In the possession of the prisoner was found uncanceled newspaper and periodical stamps to the value of $5,508. Colman denied that he had stolen the stamps, but refused to make any statement regarding them. He was held in $2,000 bail for examination. In the complaint sworn out by Postoffice Inspector Morris it is stated that Colman obtained the stamps from Rudolph F. Albrecht in this city. The detectives say, however, that the prisoner came to this city on the midnight train from Washington, and as soon as he reached the city he was placed under arrest.

Rudolph F. Albrecht, a dealer in stamps, said to-day that Colman's arrest was the outcome of a discussion in the philatelic press of the country which has been raging on for several weeks. "Some weeks ago," said Mr. Albrecht, "I received from A. C. Townsend, a reputable stamp dealer in Washington, a quantity of the stamps in question, with the request to put them on sale in this city. My understanding was that Townsend was acting as agent for some one and that I was to receive a regular commission in the transaction. After I advertised uncanceled newspaper and periodical stamps for sale the philatelic papers raised the question as to where such a large quantity of stamps of that sort had been obtained. Then the postal laws were looked up and it was found to be illegal for any one to have possession of such a stamp that was uncanceled outside a postoffice. When Colman came to my office today to get the stamps I surrendered them to him, as I had been told to do by the postoffice inspectors. After leaving my place Colman, who was Townsend's partner in the effort to sell the stamps, as I understand it, was arrested."

Colman being unable to furnish the bail bond necessary, was committed to Ludlow-street jail. The postoffice authorities deny that any large quantity of the "newspaper and periodical stamps" have been stolen and that those found on Colman is all that have ever gone astray. To all outsiders excepting philatelists "newspaper and periodical stamps" are useless. Mail matter on which those stamps had been placed would not be received at a postoffice.

A. C. Townsend's Defense.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—A. C. Townsend, of this city, who is mentioned in the New York dispatch, said to-night that he and Colman did a good deal of business together, buying "lots" of stamps that are too high priced for one of them to handle and then dividing the profits. "The stamps in question," he said, "are simply proofs, gummed and perforated. The Postoffice Department has issued proofs in large quantities at various times and given them to the general public. This administration made up sets on very thin cardboard, or plate paper, as it is called, and gave away several hundred of them, I believe, including these periodical stamps. Many of these have been perforated and gummed in the same way. It is a perfectly well-known fact at the Postoffice Department that there are a great many of the real stamps in the hands of the public, the New York and other dealers listing and pricing them in their catalogues and offering them freely for sale in their stamp journals. It is nonsense to say that it is illegal to have them at all, when they have repeatedly been given away by the postoffice officials, and no attention is paid to the fact that dealers have them for sale. Besides these occasionally given away to collectors, the department sends to each country in the postal union five sets. Why this is done I do not know, as they are never used as regular postage stamps, but it is done, and the majority of these sets find their way back to this country and are sold to dealers and collectors."

Mr. Johnson, chief of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, said this afternoon that so far as the story intimated that any stamps had been stolen from his bureau it was incorrect, for no stamps had been stolen from there. He knew nothing whatever about the affair, he added.

"At the Interior Department nothing had been heard of Colman's arrest till the press dispatch was received. Colman left the Land Office yesterday, saying that he was going to New York to bury his father, who had just died. He has been in the General Land Office about twelve years and has borne a good reputation. None of his fellow-clerks would admit having had any dealings with him in stamps of any sort.

Jealous John Brown's Double Crime.

MIDDLESBORO, Ky., Feb. 3.—John Brown, in a fit of jealousy, shot and killed his sweetheart, Ellen Titlworth, in Wise county, Virginia. Brown then shot himself.

SENATE NEEDS A CZAR

SUCCESSFUL FILIBUSTER AGAINST THE NICARAGUA CANAL BILL.

Business Suspended Because Members Left the Chamber and the President Didn't "Count" a Quorum.

VIOLETS FOR BOLTER DUBOIS

SPEECH BY THURSTON ON THE UNION PACIFIC FORECLOSURE.

Virginia Democrat's Title to a Seat in the House Confirmed by an Overwhelming Viva Voce Vote.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—After a brief parliamentary struggle in the Senate late this afternoon the friends of the Nicaragua canal bill were unable to hold a quorum and sit out the obstruction to that measure. Mr. Vilas had continued his speech in opposition, this being his third successive day. At 4:30 p. m. a cross-fire of motions to adjourn and calls of the Senate began. The friends of the bill resisted adjournment, while the opposition sought to close the session and give Mr. Vilas a rest from his protracted effort. The parliamentary contest continued at intervals for half an hour, when all business was suspended by the absence of a quorum and refusal to adjourn. The friends of the bill finally gave up hope of securing a quorum and yielded to an adjournment. Mr. Vilas continues to hold the floor. In his remarks to-day he asserted that the Clayton-Bulwer treaty was in full force, and that the American people would insist on a full and honorable adherence to its terms. The Senate agreed to the House resolution fixing Feb. 10 for the ceremony of counting the vote for President and Vice-President before the two houses of Congress.

Although defeated for re-election, Senator Dubois, of Idaho, was welcomed back to the Senate to-day with marked cordiality and with an abundance of floral tributes. His desk was literally overwhelmed with flowers, while tables, chairs and adjoining desks were brought into use to support the many unique devices into which the roses and violets had been wrought. A great cluster of violets was tied with a ribbon bearing in solid silver the figures "1900." The main design, rising eight feet from the floor, was an arch, the pillars being white roses and the capstone immortelles bearing the word "Honor."

When the two Allen resolutions questioning the powers of the executive to foreclose the government liens against the Pacific roads were taken up Mr. Thurston spoke. He argued that the uniform opinion of the courts had been that the government lien was limited strictly to the precise lines on which guarantee bonds had been issued, and that the Thurman act did not extend this lien beyond the original lines of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific roads. This, he said, took the Omaha bridge, approaches, terminals, etc., outside of the original government lien. The situation as to the Union Pacific was that all terminals, all sidetracks, etc., were covered by a first mortgage, to which the government lien is subject. The lien of the government was on the main line, beginning at the Missouri river, about three or four miles north of the present Omaha bridge, and running westward to Ogden, Utah. If, then, the United States acquired the rights of the first mortgage and was subrogated to those rights, its lien would be extended to all terminals, etc. The obligation to the government reached $53,000,000, and it was proposed by the present negotiations to pay an upset price of between $45,000,000 and $46,000,000. Mr. Thurston said there were only two propositions from which to make a choice. One was to realize a large per cent. of the government's claim, the other to invest more of the people's money in fully acquiring a road presumably for the purpose of government ownership and operation. Mr. Thurston doubted whether Congress could now create a new federal Union Pacific Railroad, owing to the laws of several of the States prohibiting the operation of railways by other than domestic corporations.

Answering a question of Mr. Allen, Mr. Thurston declared that the right of the attorney general to appear in any foreclosure suit was absolutely unquestionable, irrespective of any legislation on the subject. The government could be brought into court, and that had been done in this foreclosure suit. To be sure, Congress could take from the United States Circuit Court authority over the subject, but what a wanton, unauthorized, despotic use of power that would be.

Mr. Thurston gave way at 2 o'clock to the Nicaragua canal bill. This occasioned a brief flurry showing the anxiety to advance various measures. It was finally arranged that the Pacific Railroad resolutions could be taken up to-morrow. Mr. Morgan, in charge of the Nicaragua canal bill, gave notice of his acceptance of the amendments offered by Mr. Teller yesterday. Mr. Vilas then resumed his speech opposing the bill.

At 5 p. m. Mr. Mitchell, of Wisconsin, suggested the absence of a quorum, and Mr. Daniel moved an adjournment. Defeated—17 to 24. After waiting twenty minutes only one senator, Mr. Lindsay, was added to those present. It was evident that a quorum could not be secured, and at 5:20 p. m. Mr. Aldrich withdrew further opposition to adjournment, which was had.

SWANSON NOT OUSTED.

Virginia Democrat Permitted to Retain His Seat in the House.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The contested election case of Cornett vs. Swanson, from the Fifth Virginia district, occupied the attention of the House to-day. Three Republicans and three Democrats on the election committee had reported in favor of the Democratic contestee. Mr. Swanson, and three Republicans offered a minority report, recommending that the seat be declared vacant on the ground that a fair election could not be held under the Virginia election law. The majority report was sustained by Mr. McCall (Rep., Mass.), Mr. Jones (Dem., Va.), Mr. Jenkins (Rep., Wis.), and the contentions of the minority by Mr. Thomas (Rep., Mich.), Mr. Gibson (Rep., Tenn.) and Mr. McCall (Rep., Tenn.) When the vote came to be taken the minority could not muster enough votes to call the yeas and nays, and Mr. Swanson's title to his seat was confirmed by an overwhelming viva voce vote.

During the debate Mr. Gibson indignantly resented an alleged statement of Mr. McCall, of Massachusetts, made in a speech on the Yost-Tucker case, that the Republicans of the North were expected to "coddle" the Southern Republicans. He paid a glowing tribute to the battles the Republicans of his section had fought in the name of their party. He declared that it was by means of "infamous" Democratic election laws that the negroes of the South were turned from the party of their choice, and predicted, once honest elections were established in the South, the Democrats who came to Congress year after year with contests would be left so far in the rear that they could not be discovered with the most improved telescope.

Mr. McCall, of Massachusetts, replied that he did not propose to be placed in a false position by the "noisy vaporings" of the gentleman from Tennessee. He said the meaning of his words had been distorted. All he had meant was that the sentimentality with which the Southern Republicans had been surrounded should cease. They should not be nurtured on hothouse principles. Let their innate strength assert itself. This attempted guardianship was insulting to them. At 4:32 the House adjourned.

CALLED A BUCKET SHOP.

St. Louis Merchants' Exchange Denounced by Ex-Judge Harvey.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 3.—According to ex-Judge Harvey, of the Circuit Court, the St. Louis Merchants' Exchange is in imminent danger of being raided as a common everyday bucketshop. The St. Louis Merchants' Exchange corresponds to the Chicago Board of Trade. An attempt is being made to force the closing of the somewhat numerous bucketshops here and at the same time the tape games. The present grand jury, it is understood, was chosen with special reference to this action. Ex-Judge Thomas B. Harvey, who, two years ago, was prominent in the prosecution of the bucketshops, said this evening: "Bucketshops are also covered by the law, and if a prosecution is to be commenced against them the Merchants' Exchange will have to be included in the list, for