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VOLUME IX.—NO. 203 NEW ORLEANS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1875. WHOLE NUMBER 2664.

PROPERTY HOLDERS' UNION

to the Republican State Central Committee.

REPLY OF THE COMMITTEE

State Central Executive Committee, Republican Party of Louisiana:

undersigned committee from the council of the Property Holders' of the city of New Orleans, beg to your co-operation, and that of the whom you represent, in advocating legislation as will bring relief to the ridden owners of real estate in New

organization is non-partisan in its ter, and our object is to secure the ance of the representatives of all poli- parties in the State to adopt means of which will relieve the real estate in from its present alarming depression impending ruin.

very respectfully submit for your deration:

The limitation of the State tax to one- of one per centum, and the city tax to per centum, on the market table cash ection.

Revision of the assessment laws, so there shall be but one assessment every years; that the courts of the State, and the assessors, shall be the final judges the assessable value of property.

To prohibit the loan of the credit of State or city for any purpose whatever.

To reduce the salaries of the city and officials, and the abolishment of un- sary offices.

Relief of the delinquent taxpayers and persons whose property has been sold taxes.

To allow the payment of taxes, State city, by installments.

C. H. TEBAULT, M. D.,
chairman Conference Committee, Property holders' Central Council.

L. J. HIGBY,
D. P. SCANLAN,
JOHN HUGHES,
J. D. HILL,
W. B. KOONTZ.

STATE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Republican Party, State of Louisiana, New Orleans, November 30, 1875.

At a meeting of the committee this day following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the object announced in communication received from the committee of the Central Council of the Property Holders' Union merits and commands unqualified approval.

Resolved, That practically to assure that of the union is requested to submit to this committee, at the earliest date, drafts of bills tending to the relief proposed.

Resolved, That this request finds especial ons in the fact that the committee fails to answer by what method the proposed limitations to taxation can be made to suffice the interest on the public debt and the tenance of the schools, levees and government of the State.

S. B. PACKARD, President.

A true copy:
J. R. G. PITKIN,
Corresponding Secretary.

NEW ORLEANS, November 30, 1875.

C. H. Tebault, Chairman Conference Committee, Property Holders' Union:

SIR—I have the honor to transmit inclosed resolutions of the State Central Executive Committee of the Republican party of Louisiana, in response to the communication presented by the committee of which you are chairman.

It has, at all times, been the desire of the Republican party in Louisiana to accomplish the reforms referred to in your communication, in so far as possible and practicable and consistent with public credit and sufficient collection of the revenue.

The present Republican administration came into power pledged to effect, as far as possible, the reduction of the public debt and the relief of the citizen from the burdens of which you complain. All unprejudiced minds must admit that the present administration has, despite opposition, fulfilled the pledges of the party by which it was elected. The Legislature formerly had unlimited power of taxation. A tax of forty-one and one-half mills bore on all property in the State. Through the united efforts of the Republican party and against the opposition of the Democrats a constitutional amendment now limits the power of State taxes to fourteen and one-half mills for all State purposes.

The Legislature had power to create a bonded debt to the extent of $25,000,000; it now limited to $15,000,000. The Democrats, as a party, opposed the constitutional amendment by which this reform was effected.

The State was, at the commencement of the present administration, burdened with interest-bearing debt of nearly $22,000,000 a floating debt of nearly $3,000,000, besides a very large contingent debt. The floating debt has been reduced more than one-half; the bonded debt has been at this time reduced $5,000,000, and when the provisions of the funding bill, fortified by a constitutional amendment recently adopted, are fully carried out, the interest paying debt will be reduced from nearly $22,000,000 to an amount considerable within the constitutional limitation of $15,000,000. The contingent debt has been extinguished by the funding bill.

Prior to 1873 the Legislature possessed unlimited power to make extravagant appropriations. There was practically no check on expenditure in carrying on the government. During the administration of Governor Kellogg, by the act of a Republican Legislature, the expenditure for all purposes has been limited to the revenue from taxation. At the fixed rate of fourteen and one-half mills, increased only by an ever increasing floating debt, have been rendered impossible by constitutional enactment.

Prior to the administration of Governor Kellogg, the annual expense of administration, the government, exclusive of interest, levees and levee dues, exceeded $2,000,000. This has reduced the annual expense within $1,000,000.

The city of New Orleans, with a bonded debt of $20,000,000, and unlimited power to incur a floating debt, has by amendment to its constitution been prohibited from imposing any additional burden upon the people.

It is admit that the Republican party, during the present administration, has given proof of its desire and intention to administer the government with economy, and to keep its pledges.

In accomplishing these reforms, has the Democratic party in Louisiana had the aid and assistance of any of the citizens of the State outside of its own ranks? This question is its answer in the history of the past three years; a history of unremittable and ceaseless opposition to all reform measures, not alone which claims to be most burdened by taxation.

When a Republican Legislature submitted a vote of the people amendments to the constitution limiting taxation to fourteen and one-half mills, restricting the debt of the State to fifteen millions, limiting the power of any Legislature to expenditures within the State revenue, an amendment providing for the reduction of the debt from $22,000,000 to $15,000,000, and for the government of the city of New Orleans, notorious for reckless and extravagant mismanagement, the power further to burden the property within its limits with debt, did the party receive any countenance from its Democratic opponents? Democrats were invited to kick off the shackles of these reforms, but their shackles at once went forth with the rank and file of the Democratic party to vote against all of the proposed constitutional amendments. The result of the last election demonstrated that the Democrats of the State, in numerous parishes, carried the election by fraud and violence. Under such government property in some parishes are returned at their full value, while in others they are returned at a fraction of their value. In the former parishes the tax is would be found that a larger amount of assessable property would be returned. Other States have provided State boards of equalization, with power over the local boards. Should a State board of this kind be created it should consist of experts, and it should be made their duty to examine the valuation of the property of each parish as fixed by the local boards, once in five years visiting the parishes for that purpose.

Valuations, when once so examined and approved by the State board should remain for five years without alteration, with power in the local boards to correct each year in cases of destruction or improvement or of change of ownership.

It is further suggested whether property belonging to religious and other associations, not dedicated to or used for strictly church or educational purposes, and from which rents and revenues are received, should not be taxed as other property. There is in this city alone property of the value of several millions exempted from taxation, yet in no manner used for church or educational purposes.

Secondly—There must be increased economy in the administration of all branches and departments of the State government. While, as I have indicated, the expense of government has been reduced to one-half of its former limit, still further reductions and economy are possible.

The present system of assessment and collection is too expensive. The remedy lies in legislation. It is suggested that the law be so changed as to provide that in the city of New Orleans, instead of seven State assessors, with large salaries, one assessor, with a salary say of $5000, and with such clerical force as may be necessary; also assistant assessors—one for each assessment district—to be paid for the time actually engaged in listing property, the limit of compensation to be fixed. Also to provide a board of equalization in the city of New Orleans of five, consisting say of the Auditor and Treasurer of the State, the Mayor of the city and one administrator—say of assessments—and one expert in real estate, to be appointed by the Governor, and to be paid for the time while actually employed. This board to have the power usually given to such boards to hear and decide all complaints and appeals from the assessors' valuation, during say thirty days' exposure of the assessment rolls. A copy of this assessment roll might be used by the city, in which case the department of assessments could be abolished. The cost of assessment by this plan would not exceed one-fourth the present cost.

The expense of collecting the State taxes can be materially reduced by proper legislation. As to taxes payable in the city of New Orleans, the assessment roll can be placed in the hands of the State Auditor, who, upon application of the taxpayer, will furnish a certificate of amount due, this certificate to be presented to the State Treasurer and the money paid directly into the treasury. A slight increase of the present clerical force in the Auditor's and Treasurer's offices will enable them to discharge this additional duty. This will save to the State the present exorbitant commissions paid to the collectors. In all the parishes, except the parish of Orleans, the percentage commission for assessing and collecting State and parish taxes to be so rated as not to yield a greater compensation to the collector than $3000 per annum, and for the necessary clerk hire.

This letter suggests a few reforms which, if carried into effect, will greatly reduce the expenses of the State government. By proper legislation and economy in the administration of the municipal offices, the expense of carrying on the city government can be greatly reduced. I submit, then, restore order and confidence and you quicken investments in our productive lands and build up with our labor the waste places of the State; then the increased value of the taxable property in five years, with the proposed one half of one per cent maximum taxation for State purposes, and with an even system of equitable assessment throughout our borders, will yield a sufficient revenue to provide for the payment of the interest and principal at maturity of the public debt, maintain the levees, continue and strengthen the public schools, and, in fine, provide the means for supporting the State government in all its functions.

In conclusion, I have to remark that the co-operation for which you ask at the hands of the Republican State Central Committee in behalf of the taxpayer, will, I am persuaded, be readily accorded by those with whom I am associated, and it is my hearty hope that a temper may be exhibited by the Democrats in our Legislature as high-minded as is the Property Holders' Union which you announce to be "non-partisan" in its character.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,
S. B. PACKARD,
President State Central Committee.

Court Items.

Monday, December 27, the case of John Garvey and Charles Earle, charged with murder, will be brought up for trial for the fourth time. The case was first brought into the First District Court by the grand jury indicting the accused, April 29, 1871, for the murder of Magdalena Zollinger, seventy-eight years of age, whom the accused had choked in bed, at No. 611 Annunciation street, April 24, 1871, while committing a burglary and robbery.

A jury composed entirely of colored men, found an unqualified verdict of guilty, June 22, 1871, and the convicted men were sentenced to be hanged. The Supreme Court set the verdict aside, and another jury, April 18, 1872, found both guilty without capital punishment. This verdict was also set aside by the Supreme Court and a new trial granted, which commenced February 10, 1873, before Judge Cullom, in the Superior Criminal Court, Judge Atocha recused, having been the counsel for defense, appointed by the First District Court in the former two trials.

After five days a jury selected out of over 400 citizens was obtained, which could not agree upon a verdict, February 17 (eleven standing for conviction and one for acquittal). A mistrial was entered and bail reduced.

Cubit Forrester, sentenced by Judge Abell, for larceny, to one year's hard labor, was a prominent State witness in the case of the State vs. James Fordyce, a police officer, charged with the murder of William Forrester, Cubit's brother, who was shot at the corner of Magnolia and Melpomene streets, on the twentieth of February last. Fordyce was indicted April 15, 1875, and the trial is fixed for Wednesday, December 15.

Judge Steele has ordered the city physician, Dr. F. Schumacher, who attends to the Parish Prison, to inquire into the mental condition of Charles Sowees, who was sentenced lately in the Superior Criminal Court to five years in the Penitentiary, for breaking and entering the store of Mr. J. A. Turnell, No. 22 Baronne street, to which he had pleaded guilty; also, into the physical condition of Roman Marmagenet, who shot a man on the nineteenth of September, 1874, on St. Philip, near White street, and was convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced by Judge Braughn to three years in the Penitentiary. He is awaiting the result of his appeal, and is reported to be very sick in the Parish Prison.

To-night—Two Orphans—Academy of Music.

Annual Meeting of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange—Address of Mr. Phelps.

Last night, at half-past seven o'clock, the annual meeting of the Cotton Exchange was held at its rooms on Gravier street.

Mr. John Phelps, president of the Exchange, on taking the chair directed the secretary to read the annual reports of the several committees and officers, all of which were adopted without opposition.

Mr. Phelps then delivered an elaborate address. He began with a brief review of the history of the Exchange. The first step was at the Life Association of America, January 17, 1871. On the twenty-fourth the constitution was adopted. February 7 the officers were elected, and business opened February 20. There were about fifty members. The reports of committees leave little to do on this point. The committee on arbitration has left the board of appeal without a single case. The finances of the Exchange show a probable balance on hand of $28,000, and an adding of $5000 yearly to the reserve. The finance committee, Messrs. Hardie, Buckner and Wolstie, is entitled to thanks. The labors of the treasurer have been increased ten fold, and the disbursements reach $85,000. Levee inspection was commenced in October, the monthly expense being $700, the annual expense will be $9000, and the department will prove a great advantage. Great praise is accorded to the department of supervision, organized by the efforts of Vice President Lafitte, and Messrs. Glenny, Nugent, Jurey and Hunt, his associates on the original committee. Proper enforcement of the regulations would save $750,000 to the cotton trade, according to the original estimate, but this was largely under the mark. The quantity of loose cotton should be reduced. The annual expenditure will probably be $48,000. Five cents is to be paid on each bale by the factor, which, with 1,200,000 bales, gives an income of $60,000. The deficit is now only $1000. An assistant supervisor is in each press. Chief Supervisor T. O. Sully is highly complimented.

The remarks of Mr. Phelps concerning his duties as a member of the funding board are, considering the interest attaching to the subject, given in full:

Whether it is the duty of the president of the Exchange to act as a member of the funding board as it is generally termed, has been the subject of much discussion for some days. I shall give you my views upon this subject as a matter of duty to you, and of justice to myself. I shall consider it solely from a financial standpoint, and, so far as I am able, practically, and with plain common sense. With political questions we have nothing to do, and this is not the proper place for their discussion. So far as we are concerned this question is not political, but eminently practical.

In order to consider this subject properly a brief statement of the history of this act and the constitutional amendments will be necessary. What is generally known as the funding act was prepared under the direction of the Chamber of Commerce, and was passed by the Legislature at the session of 1874. With this act were coupled three amendments to the constitution of the State, which were submitted to the people at the election in 1874, and were adopted. The first amendment is as follows: "The issue of consolidated bonds authorized by the General Assembly of the State at its regular session in the year 1874, is hereby declared to create a valid contract between the State and each and every holder of said bonds, which the State shall by no means and in no wise impair. The said bonds shall be a valid obligation of the State in favor of any holder thereof, and no court shall enjoin the payment of the principal or interest thereof, or the levy and collection of the tax therefor; to secure such levy, collection and payment, the judicial powers shall be exercised when necessary. The tax required for the payment of the principal and interest of said bonds shall be assessed and collected each and every year until the bonds shall be paid, principal and interest, and the proceeds shall be paid by the treasurer of the State to the holders of said bonds as the principal and interest of the same shall fall due, and no further legislation or appropriation shall be requisite for the said assessment and collection, and for such payment from the treasury."

I do not propose to discuss the merits of this act; that I leave to the Chamber of Commerce, where, as I have said, it originated, and to the Legislature who made it law; nay more, to the people who have given it constitutional confirmation. I propose to treat it simply as an accomplished act: an existing fact, which we, as members of this Exchange, have no power to alter or change in any manner.

The Legislature at the extra session of 1875, after the reorganization of the lower house, passed an act supplementary to this act, by which the president of the Board of Trade, when chartered, and the president of the Cotton Exchange were made members of the Board of Liquidation. To this board is intrusted the duty of funding the floating and bonded debt of the State and issuing the new consolidated bonds therefor.

The importance of this duty can hardly be overestimated, and it is not properly appreciated by our people. In the original act there is not a single word mandatory to what shall or shall not be funded, beyond the general terms, "all valid outstanding bonds of the State and all valid warrants drawn previous to the passage of this act by the respective Auditors of Public Accounts of the State on the Treasurer thereof." The board was left perfectly free to judge of what were valid bonds and valid warrants; their decision is subject to revision by the Supreme Court of the State. Under the supplemental act, the board is prohibited from funding several different issues of bonds until they have been passed upon by the courts; this list includes nearly all of the questionable bonds. Taking into consideration the vast amount of outstanding obligations of the State, the fruits of the corrupt and reckless government with which Louisiana has been cursed, the fact that when the form of this debt is once changed into the new bonds its validity can not be questioned, no matter how worthless the original bond or warrant, you can have some idea of how important it is to the taxpayers of the State, as well as to the holder of its valid obligations, that the work should be honestly, intelligently performed. Impressed with the importance of this duty, I did not hesitate when as your representative I was made a member of the board of liquidation, to take my seat, and have attended every meeting when I was in the city.

The duty is not a pleasing one to me personally, but I do not think I have any right to allow personal considerations to influence me in the performance of duties imposed upon me by holding the position of president of this Exchange. In this matter I believed that I had the opportunity to render an important service to the overburdened taxpayers and also to the holders of the legitimate bonds of the State, and I have done it to the best of my ability. It is as important to the holders of legal bonds as it is to the taxpayer that this work should be properly performed, and I utterly fail to see how they could be benefited by my refusing to act.

Could not the foreign bondholder well say, "I bought the bonds of your State, in good faith, and upon the faith of your impoverished condition, I propose to compromise my claim, and to take a new obligation for six-tenths of the old one, the president of your leading commercial institution refuses to protect my interest by seeing to it that improper debts are not included; you are thus prevented from paying what you honestly owe."

Such have been my convictions of duty, and upon them I have acted; the records of the board, and the amount of new bonds issued, as well as the balance to the credit of interest fund in the treasury of the State, will prove that my action has not been without its fruits; and I give it as my deliberate opinion that the president of this Exchange can, to a large degree, control the action of this board in the right direction, and thus lighten the burden upon our people, and at the same time add value to the honest obligations of the State. I take pleasure in complying with the request of Mr. A. H. May, in stating that when acting president during the past summer, he did not take his seat in the board for two reasons: First, because he did not think himself legally a member under the law; second, that as the board was to have but two meetings during my absence, and as he was entirely unacquainted with the duties, he did not think he could render any service. I can fully appreciate and approve this determination.

Mr. Phelps continued by referring to the constitution, making the board of directors the controlling power, and the spirit which was necessary to insure success. They resigned their trust, assured that every department had proved ample for its purpose. He pictured a bright future, with the almost assured removal of obstructions at the mouth of the river. He insisted the Exchange should have a building of its own. He had consented on "unforseen emergency" to a "third term," but declined further service, though he considered it a greater honor than any political office. With thanks to all gentlemen for courtesy and kindness, he declared that he retired as a private, ready at all times to work for the good of the Exchange, and aid in restoring the fortunes of the city and State.

At the close of Mr. Phelps' address a vote of thanks was, on motion of Mr. Morgan Cammack, tendered to him, and the address, with the reports of the committees, was ordered to be spread upon the minutes. When this stage of the proceedings was reached, Mr. Phelps suggested that as there was no further business before the meeting, a motion to adjourn would be in order. It transpired, however, that, although not in regular order, there was other business to be done, and business of a very pleasant nature. Instead of calling for an adjournment, one of the members suggested that the president temporarily resign the chair to some other gentleman. This suggestion Mr. Phelps acted upon, and abdicated in favor of Mr. S. Simpson, who, when the cheering which greeted him had subsided, made a neat speech, at the close of which he presented Mr. Phelps, in the name of the members and employes of the Cotton Exchange, with a valuable silver service, consisting of a large silver platter, dinner and tea service, in a black walnut case, manufactured by the Gorham Manufacturing Company, of Providence, Rhode Island, for Messrs. Griswold & Co., of this city.

Evidently taken by surprise with this tribute of his fellows, Mr. Phelps was, for a moment, at a loss how to reply, but he soon rallied, and returned his thanks to the Exchange in a style and manner which showed that had his lines been so cast he would have achieved as high a reputation on the rostrum or in the forum as it is his proud privilege to hold in the world of commerce.

At the close of Mr. Phelps' speech the meeting adjourned.

A Question of Resignation.

Some time since the REPUBLICAN published the fact that R. C. Register, justice of the peace of the first ward of the parish of Grant, was replaced by another gentleman in consequence of his resignation.

Mr. Register writes to the REPUBLICAN that the statement that he had tendered his resignation is an error he desires to correct.

He also addressed a letter to the Governor, repeating the substance of the article in the REPUBLICAN, that—

I respectfully submit to your excellency, if my name appears in connection with such resignation, it is a base forgery, perpetrated by parties unknown to me, and without my consent or authorization, and as such I trust your excellency will consider it.

A comparison of the resignation with the two letters will show at a glance, to a person accustomed to examine handwriting, that the first was written by a different hand than the one that penned the latter. It is a clumsy imitation of the natural handwriting, and evidently by a person not so well educated as his model.

It only remains for Mr. Register to ferret out the criminal.

Failure of the Bank of America.

Although there have been many rumors in the inner financial circles of the unsound condition of the Bank of America, the announcement of the suspension of this formerly great financial power must take the majority of people by surprise. The board of directors on Tuesday night concluded the issue must be met, and notice was given accordingly. Active operations are at an end, and the bank goes into liquidation. It did not open yesterday. Checks on it deposited in other banks on Tuesday were returned by those banks, and must be made good in some other way by the drawers. The directors were in session yesterday morning. The actual standing of the bank has not been made public, but its deposits are said to be over $150,000 and its assets to consist of some real estate and about 200 bales of cotton. It declared its last dividend July, 1873, of ten per cent. Its capital stock is $500,000.

Two Orphans to-night—Academy of Music.

The Governorship.

The following is from the Donaldsonville *Chief* of November 27:

Senator West, Postmaster Parker, of New Orleans, and Judge H. R. Steele, of Tensas, are the only new men spoken of this week as candidates for next Governor on the Republican ticket. In our estimation, the last named gentleman would be the strongest of the trio. The high character of Judge Steele has been testified to by all the leading Democratic newspapers of New Orleans, but this does not indicate, as the uninformed might suppose, that he is in disrepute with the Republican party, for the contrary is the case. We doubt if there is a more popular Republican in Northern Louisiana, or one who better deserves popularity. It is likely a vigorous effort will be made in the Republican State Convention of 1876 to secure the nomination of a gubernatorial candidate from one of the upper parishes, and what more available man could be selected to give strength to such a movement than Judge Steele? Rise up, Madison, Bienville, Tensas, Lincoln, Webster, and the rest of you! answer to this question.

[Special Correspondence of the Republican.]

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The Acquisition of the Suez Canal by Great Britain—Its Effect on the Eastern Question and on European Politics—Expulsion of the Turk from Europe—Extension of Austrian Jurisdiction to the Bosphorus—Constantinople as a Free City—Effect on the Commercial Interests of Austria and Italy—A Lesson for New Orleans.

WASHINGTON, November 27, 1875.

The Atlantic cable informs us that Great Britain has purchased the international ship canal which connects the Mediterranean with the Red sea. This act of Great Britain indicates the speedy dissolution of the Turkish empire. The purchase of the Suez canal by England can not be prompted either by commercial or financial consideration. The canal has been free to all nations from the day of its construction, and England has been as free as others to use it, and she has used it extensively. There can be no commercial necessity, therefore, for the purchase. As a financial investment the purchase is equally inexplicable. The sum paid for the canal will not realize two per cent on the investment. We must therefore look in some other direction for the motive which prompted the British government to acquire this important piece of property. The purchase of the Suez canal by England is evidently prompted solely by political considerations, and an examination of these will show that the "sick man" of the East is near his death at last, and that no one is better aware of this than the European power which has so long acted as attending nurse as well as consulting physician in the case.

England, as one of the "great" powers of Europe, is, of course, advised of the conclusion at which these powers have finally arrived in regard to Turkey. That conclusion must result in the early expulsion of the Turk from Christian Europe, notwithstanding the protest of his English nurse that the sick man will get well, and that his continued stay in the fairest portion of Europe as the murderer of innocent women and children, and the oppressor of a Christian people, is highly creditable to European civilization and promotive of the welfare of continental Europe. This expulsion of the woman whipping and woman murdering Turk from Europe will leave an important territory to be governed by some other power. This question will now be speedily settled. The settlement will be agreed to by Germany, Russia and Austria, England "protesting." This settlement consists in enlarging the territorial boundaries of Austria by extending the Austrian line to the Bosphorus. This is the "compensation" which Prussia offers her sister German empire of the South for former losses of territory of the latter in the last German-Austrian war. The North German empire and the South German empire will thus come into cordial relations, and constitute a belt of Germanic influence, extending from the Baltic to the Mediterranean. Russia is a consenting party to this extension of Austrian territory and this diplomatic solidification of German influence.

This adjustment menaces England at two points: One, in so settling the "balance of power" on the continent of Europe, as to practically exclude Great Britain from any further part in its politics (for the Turkish question represented the last vestige of British influence on the continent); the other, in making Turkey in Asia the next objective point of Russian aggression eastward; because with the expulsion of the Turk from Europe, and the extension of the Austrian line to the Bosphorus, Russia, supported by the two great German empires, can advance with impunity to the acquisition of Constantinople. In a word, this settlement of the Turkish question makes the three great empires of Russia, Germany and Austria, the arbiters of the future of Asia. England sees this, and comprehends all the consequences which will flow from it. She sees that the next step in this game will be the possession of Constantinople by Russia, and that the German-Austrian alliance will prove to be the supporter of the Czar in this acquisition of the Sultan's capital.

The first move made by Great Britain in this game for empire is worthy the genius of the man who has so long been the leading mind of England. The hand of Disraeli is plainly to be seen in the purchase of the Suez canal. The next move by the same master mind will be to unite Germany and Austria with England in making Constantinople a "free city." If England can carry this point, then Austria will awake from her present commercial and industrial lethargy and turn her face southward in search of outlets for her goods. She will be immediately interested in the trade of which Constantinople will become the metropolis. The North-German empire will also feel the attractive power of this new outlet eastward for the products of German ingenuity, labor and taste. With Constantinople as a free city, bound by commercial ties to the manufacturing interests of Germany and Austria, effectually checks the Russian purpose.

Outside of the interest which the subject itself must possess for every intelligent mind, this episode in European politics possesses a special interest to New Orleans. New Orleans occupies in the the New World the same geographical position held by Constantinople in the old. The Crescent City of the East, like the Crescent City of the West, has long been lashed to the dead body of political diplomacy, and thus shut out from her true destiny. For New Orleans the motto is "Southward the star of empire takes its way." She should cut loose at once from that blind and ignorant political leadership which has so long fettered her limbs and paralyzed her energies. The trade of the West Indies, the Spanish Main, Mexico and South America belongs to New Orleans. She can command and absorb this trade if she will. It is her rightful inheritance, and she has only to put forth her natural energies to possess it.

B.

Off For the Border.

The revenue cutter John A. Dix, Captain Freeman, will leave this morning for the Rio Grande, having on board Commander Kelis and his recruits for the river launches. It is whispered that there will be news from that section within a few days, which will prove decidedly interesting to the people of our country. Should anything of note occur on random, will be promptly imbodied in detail.

BY TELEGRAPH.

WASHINGTON.

The Next Case.

WASHINGTON, December 1.—General Babcock received a dispatch from District Attorney Dyer, St. Louis, that the next case involving the question of the conspiracy is set for December 15.

Debt Statement.

The debt statement shows a decrease for the month of $480,078.

Coin in the treasury $74,500,000; currency $12,000,000.

Public Printing.

The report of the public printer shows a total cost of printing, binding, lithographing, etc., for the year ending September 30, 1875, of $1,500,000, besides printing the *Congressional Record* at the cost of nearly $89,000. Compositors are allowed sixty cents per 1000 ems, or $4 per day of eight hours.

Suits in the District.

The District commissioners have brought suit against ex-Treasurer James A. Magruder, of the Board of Public Works, and his bondsmen, ex-Governor A. R. Shepherd, R. A. Shinn and H. M. Sweeney, for $50,000. The amount received by Magruder and partly disbursed by him was over $14,500,000.

Chief Clerk of the Treasury.

A. E. Wilson, of Louisville, Kentucky, has been appointed chief clerk of the Treasury, vice Avery.

Barriel the Butcher.

The officials have nothing to communicate in reference to the statement that Burriel had been summoned to court to answer about the Virginius affair. They say it is likely the information is correct.

Death of Minister Avery.

The State Department has advices that Avery, American minister to China, died at Pekin on the eighth of November, but no particulars received.

Mail Steamer.

The steamer King Richard, leaving Baltimore December 9, takes the Brazil and West India mails via St. Thomas.

Faster Time to St. Louis.

The fast mail leaves New York this evening, and will reach St. Louis in thirty-four to thirty-six hours. The present time between the two cities is forty-six hours.

Discharge of Clerks.

A dozen patent office clerks were dismissed yesterday. Others were notified of a reduction of salaries.

Excitement About the Speakership—Pool Selling.

Willard Hotel was the resort of a large crowd of persons to night, a number of whom were personally interested in the election of officers of the House, and the remainder drawn thither by curiosity. The respective friends of Randall and Kerr represent each as ahead, though nothing positive can be ascertained on the subject at present, as there are only about ninety members of the House in the city.

At the Imperial Hotel there was a crowd to witness the selling of pools on the speakership. The highest price bid for pools was $50. The betting was most curious. Randall started off as the first choice, betting even for him against the field. Kerr was then sold for $50, as first choice against the field, and finally the field sold for $50, with only $40 for the first choice.

The pool selling is to continue during the remainder of the week, and candidates for clerk, sergeant-at-arms and door keeper will also come into the scramble hereafter. Representative Cox, who was left out by the pool sellers, is also in the field, and has, so far as known, fifty votes to commence with, or enough to turn the scale for either of the other competitors for the speakership.

To-morrow Messrs. Randall, Kerr and Cox will meet to select the officers of the caucus and to make other necessary arrangements for the meeting next Saturday.

NEW YORK.

Scannell Acquitted.

NEW YORK, December 1.—Scannell has been acquitted of murder on the ground of insanity, and sent to the Utica asylum.

The City of Sydney.

The new Pacific Mail steamer City of Sydney has arrived from Chester.

The Grand Jury Mention Pool Selling.

The grand jury made presentment calling for the suppression of pool selling on races, regattas, elections, etc.

O'Conor's Condition.

At a late hour last night O'Conor's physicians held out hopes of his recovery, provided he suffers no relapse.

Important Statistics that Could Not Wait for the Mail.

During the past thirty weeks there have been established 812 newspapers and periodicals in the United States and Canadas. The suspensions in the same period have been 484. This gives an average of twenty-seven new publications weekly, and a death rate of sixteen per week.

The Kind of Gambling the New York Police Suppress.

The police prevented a public drawing of the lottery for the erection of a home for homeless children. The drawing was conducted privately.

FOREIGN.

A Hindoo's Bloody Crime.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, December 1.—A Hindoo employed on the Constant Spring estate beheaded five children through religious frenzy.

Defeat of the Revolutionists in Sonora.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 1.—A dispatch from Tucson confirms the report of the defeat of the Sonora revolutionists.

Satisfactory Settlement of the Spanish Question.

MADRID, December 1.—Minister Cushing presented a telegraphic reply from his government to the last Spanish note. The dispatch is considered very satisfactory, and dissipates recent apprehensions.

The Amended Election Bill.

PARIS, December 1.—The Assembly adopted the election bill as amended, to allow representation to all the colonies, except Cayenne and Senegal.

Gortschakoff and the Emperor.

BERLIN, December 1.—Prince Gortschakoff had an audience with the Emperor today.

The Prince in Ceylon.

BOMBAY, Dember 1.—The Prince of Wales has arrived at Colombo, Ceylon.

Khokand.

LONDON, December 1.—The St. Petersburg *Golos* says the incessant raids on Russian territory prove the necessity for the occupation of the remainder of Khokand.

The Fishery Question.

The *Standard* says in consequence of a recent conference between the English and French commanders, the commanding officer of the north naval American stations, is to send all overseas consequent upon the interference of the French in the Newfoundland fisheries will be removed.

Conviction of the Murderers of Marshal Lees.

Both the brothers Walsworight were found guilty. Henry was sentenced to death and Thomas to seven years penal servitude.

A Protestant Church Suppressed.

Intelligence from Toledo, Spain, says that the authorities have closed the Protestant church there and expelled the pastor and schoolmaster.

The Turks in Herzegovina.

The Times in its edition [illegible] publishes a special telegram [illegible] [illegible] the Turks in Herzegovina [illegible]