

SHOT AT THE MAYOR

Dastardly Attempt of Unknown and Cowardly Assassins

ON BENTON HARBOR'S MAYOR

While Practicing for Church Choir Singing a Shot is Fired Through the Window, Grazing His Head.

BENTON HARBOR, Jan. 24.—A dastardly attempt to assassinate Mayor F. A. Hobbs of this city was made last night at 8 o'clock. Mr. Hobbs is a member of the Congregational church choir, and he with other members was practicing for the Sunday services in his house, when the assassin attempted to shoot him. Two men were seen by a neighbor of Mr. Hobbs about ten minutes before the shot was fired, but in the darkness he did not recognize either of them. One shot was fired through the large plate-glass front window, the ball passing so closely to Mr. Hobbs' head that pieces of glass struck him in the face, the ball passing through the door leading to the dining room and lodging in the wall.

The entire family was so surprised that several minutes passed before they could discover the exact cause of the excitement. The alarm was promptly given, and the entire police force, aided by several citizens, made diligent search for the villain who attempted to take the life of a most excellent mayor, a popular business man and a thoroughly good citizen.

A reward of \$1,000 will be offered for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons implicated in the affair. The excitement is running high. Nothing else has been talked about on the streets today.

SENATORIAL SEATS.

The Committee Will Report in Favor of Chilton and Dubois.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—The senate committee on privileges and elections was in session yesterday afternoon. The greater part of the time of the committee was taken up with the expression of views by the members upon the various phases of the contest of W. H. Claggett for the seat in the United States senate now occupied by Fred T. Dubois. The vote was not taken until late in the afternoon but the result was almost unanimously in favor of Dubois. The report will be a written one, and will probably be sent to the senate tomorrow. It will declare that Dubois' election was regular in that it met the requirements of the national law and the Idaho constitution.

The committee also authorized a report upon the case of Senator Chilton of Texas. It has been claimed that his appointment by the governor was irregular because it had been made prior to the time set by Senator Reagan in his letter of resignation for his return to take place. The committee holds, however, that it was competent for the governor to appoint before the vacancy actually occurred, and will so report to congress by a unanimous vote.

There was a brief discussion of the various resolutions providing for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people and the matter was referred by chairman Teller to a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Mitchell, Chandler and Turpie for investigation and report.

When it is considered that Mitchell and Turpie both have resolutions before the committee favorable to the change suggested, it may be inferred that the probabilities for a favorable report are quite strong.

JUSTICE BRADLEY'S FUNERAL.

It was Held in Washington Yesterday—A Large Attendance.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—The funeral services of the late Associate Justice Bradley were held at his residence in this city at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Among those who attended were Chief Justice Fuller and the other associates of the dead justice. Mrs. Harrison, accompanied by private secretary Hafford, vice president Morton, and all the members of the cabinet except Blaine; selector General Taft, a number of senators and representatives, a large representation of the local bar and the attaches of the supreme court. The services were brief but impressive, conducted by the Rev. Dr. Bartlett, of New York avenue Presbyterian church, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Hamlin, of the Church of the Covenant. The remains, followed by a long line of carriages, were taken to the depot, and at 4 o'clock were placed on the New York express at the Pennsylvania station, and were accompanied to Newark by members of the family and Marshal Wright. All the members of the supreme court, excepting Justices Field and Lamar, who are ill, will attend the funeral in Newark, which takes place tomorrow afternoon.

ARRIVES AT ITS HOME.

The Big Gun for the Monterey Arrives at San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 24.—The twelve-inch rifle, the first gun of its kind turned out by the government for the new navy and designed for the coast defense vessel Monterey, the construction of which was rapidly approaching completion, arrived in the city this morning, having left Washington January 13. J. C. Hardie, of the department quartermaster's office, who was specially detailed to take charge of the transportation of the big gun, formally turned the huge weapon over to Captain Clark, inspector of ordnance from Mare Island navy yard, who, after carefully examining the gun, ordered it over to the Union Iron Works, where the Monterey is being built. Examination by Captain Clark demonstrated that the gun stood the journey well, not a flaw being visible in it, though the car which bore it out here showed considerable wear. The attendants who accompanied it state that the gun attracted great attention during its tour across the continent, crowds of people gathering at the stations along the line to view it, and in many instances the children were given a half holiday for the purpose. In this city the people early began to flock to Paterson, where the new works are located, to look at "The Navy's

gun has been popularly christened. General inspection, however, will not be allowed until the gun has been safely hauled from its car, which will return immediately to Washington for the other twelve-inch gun, also destined for the Monterey.

ALIEN CONTRACT LABOR.

Alleged Gross Violation of the Law in Pennsylvania.

NEW YORK, Jan. 24.—Contract Labor Inspectors Conkling and Osborne, who were sent from this city to the mining districts of Pennsylvania to investigate the working of the alien contract labor law, have sent their report to Secretary Foster, of the treasury department. Their report states that they discovered evidences of wholesale violence of the law that was framed to protect American workmen. In the mines around Scranton it was found that nine-tenths of the miners at present employed are Hungarians, Italians or Slavs. Five years ago the mines there were nearly all American. At the Arvon mine in western Pennsylvania, Maj. Osborne learned that Hungarian and Italian immigrants come there in squads of 206 at a time direct from the large office in this city under charge of padrones. At the mines near Carbondale in 1889 there were 600 miners, all American citizens. While the miners' strike was on in 1889 and in 1890 large numbers of Slavs and Hungarians were brought to the mines from Castle Garden under the protection of Pinkerton's detectives. At the last election, out of 788 miners employed there just sixty-eight were entitled to vote. The inspectors found that immigrants were brought from Europe in groups, passed through the large office by an agent and taken to the mines to supersede American miners. There are several mines entirely operated by the mine owners whose sole duty is to visit the large office and get immigrant contract laborers passed through. One man in particular was nicknamed the "much-cousin man" as he would visit the large office and secure the release of detained immigrants claiming them as cousins, brothers or other relatives.

The inspectors recommend more stringent scrutiny of immigrants passing through the different landing places. At present, they say, the law is practically useless, as contract laborers pass through by thousands without detection.

PUTS ON HIS WAR-PAINT.

Senator Chandler Renews His Attack On New Hampshire State Dignitaries.

CONCORD, N. H., Jan. 24.—Senator Chandler has renewed his war on state dignitaries by an open letter six columns long. Referring to New Hampshire's judges, he says: "There is much need of fearless comment on many of the past and completed acts of our judges. Some of them ride free on Boston & Maine Railroad passes. Their names are on the list of voters on some also ride free on the Concord & Montreal railroad. The judges' salaries were raised \$500 each in 1881 with the one distinct object of keeping them from riding free.

"The judges unconstitutionally appoint the state board of equalization, and this judges' board, whose members, except one, Mr. John M. Hill, ride free on the railroads, have undervalued at least 50 per cent. the railroads for taxation purposes. They are valued at \$29,785,000, when they should be valued at least \$57,785,000. They pay only \$263,345 as taxes, when they should pay at least \$413,739. There is no remedy for the people when the judges impose unjust taxes, except in a popular outcry."

He criticizes the official conduct of Chief Justice Hoar, says the absence from court is illegal, and declares that he (Senator Chandler) has returned every railroad pass offered him for twelve years.

APPLY FOR YOUR BERTH.

Send in Your Application for Quarters at Minneapolis Now.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Jan. 24.—The committee in charge of the national republican convention, to be held in this city June 7, are all in working order and have got their plans well under way. The committee on accommodations will appeal most strongly to the country at large at this time, the object of this committee being to secure comfortable quarters for all visitors at the convention time, thus avoiding the crowding and inconvenience incident to so many conventions. The committee wish to look as many applications as possible very early, so as to avoid the rush just before the convention opening. Mr. Conant, the secretary of the committee, will see that all applicants for room are well cared for. All correspondence relative to accommodations should be sent at the earliest possible moment to Edward M. Conant, Minneapolis.

THEIR FUNDS EXHAUSTED.

Emigrants from the Famine-Stricken Provinces of Russia.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 24.—Fourteen hundred emigrants from the famine-stricken provinces recently arrived from Tloomen, Siberia, en route to Tomsk, which lies 120 miles to the northwest of Tloomen. These unfortunate are in a most desperate plight. Their money is exhausted, they lack food and clothing and many of them are suffering with different diseases. A large number of these emigrants have died, while others are in such a condition that they would be far better off if they were dead. It is impossible to walk any distance, owing to the extreme cold and heavy snow, and these poor people are entirely without means, it is impossible for them to proceed to Tobolsk or to return to the provinces from whence they came.

Arrested for Larceny.

Detectives Smith and Barr arrested Tom Holland, colored, an inmate of the Soldiers' home, yesterday afternoon. Holland claims to be a native of about two months ago. Shortly after his arrival, sheets and pillow cases began to disappear. Suspicion pointed in Holland's direction, he was watched and detected. In all seventy sheets and half as many pillow cases have been taken.

Excitement in Morocco.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—A dispatch from Tangiers says that much excitement has been caused in Morocco, owing to the arrival of the sheriff of Waco, who is held in reverence, second only to that shown to the sultan, is forcibly detained by the French in Algeria. The sheriff is accused by the French of using his religious influence to sustain the claims against the French rule.

NOW IT'S FUEL GAS

A Company With \$2,000,000 Capital Organized

TO MAKE IT IN GRAND RAPIDS

Coal Bills Will be Discounted 25 Per Cent. The Works Now Being Built. How It is Produced.

Grand Rapids has a new industry. It is the only one of the kind in the state, and unless all indications are false, it is destined to play an important part in the future manufacturing interests of the city.

Several weeks ago the Grand Rapids Electric Light and Power company applied to the common council for permission to build tanks in the West Side canal, to be used as reservoirs for storing crude oil instead of coal in the production of steam.

The common council granted the company the privilege, and nothing more was thought of it. Since that time a building has been in the course of construction near the electric light plant. It was supposed to be an addition to the electric light company's building.

As a matter of fact this building is being built by the Michigan Fuel Gas company, a corporation composed principally of Chicago capitalists and organized to do business in this state. The object of this company is to manufacture fuel gas for industrial purposes. The company has a capital stock of \$2,000,000 and will probably get its plant in running order at the end of three weeks.

To Start on a Small Scale.

The plant will start in on a rather small scale and the object of using the Grand Rapids Electric Light company's plant is to make a test of the economical value of the gas in order that the manufacturers of the city may have an opportunity to investigate the matter thoroughly. The Electric Light company will produce their steam by means of it, and it will also supply various smaller institutions in the near neighborhood. So soon as practicable, the city will be piped and the gas supplied to all who wish to use it if permission can be secured from the common council.

The plant at first will produce 3,000 cubic feet of fuel gas per day. This will represent an equivalent to 3000-horse power of energy. The gas will be made by the Hall process, a recent invention. It can be produced either from soft coal or petroleum. At first coal will be used in the plant here; but it is probable that coal oil will be used as soon as the business gets fully to operating.

But One Other in Existence.

There is but one other plant of this kind in existence. It is located in Chicago and is by the Smokeless Gas and Fuel company. It is now located at the Chicago Wheel works where it has been undergoing a course of experimental tests for the past six months. All experiments have proved highly satisfactory and tomorrow the company expects to begin active operations. It was intended to have its plant ready and start both at the same time, but the cold weather of the past month has delayed the work so much that this plant is not ready to use.

Levart Arden of Chicago, is president of the company, and J. E. Dwyer of the same place is stockholder. Many of the stockholders are prominent Grand Rapids business men. Messrs. Arden and Dwyer expect to make this city their home as soon as the plant is in running order. The Michigan offices of the company have been established in this city in room No. 20 of the Powers opera house block. As soon as possible after this plant gets under operation, measures will be taken to establish branches in the other large cities of the state.

It Will be Economical.

It is claimed by the company that fuel gas can be produced by the Hall process for less than thirty cents per thousand cubic feet. It is further claimed that at least 90 per cent of the energy of the coal may be utilized by the process. According to the present methods of burning coal for the production of steam, not over 20 or 25 per cent is utilized, and unless the mechanical appliances of the furnaces are in perfect working condition not more than fifteen or eighteen per cent can be obtained. No expensive changes will have to be made in the furnaces in order to use it. It can be used in essentially the same way as natural gas.

At first the company will not meter the gas but will offer to discount the coal bills of the manufacturing establishments using it. It is thought that on the start coal bills can be discounted at least twenty-five per cent, and perhaps more. When one considers the amount paid for coal by the factories of the city, the amount claimed to be saved by this process becomes enormous.

For a time yet the company does not intend to store the gas, but will manufacture it as it is used, forcing it to the different establishments directly from the furnaces. As soon as the business increases, storage tanks will be built in some suitable locality.

Greely Was His Proxy.

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 23.—Leander Holmes, the well-known pioneer of the northwest, has been adjudged insane. Holmes was elected delegate from the territory of Washington to the national republican convention which nominated Abraham Lincoln for president in 1860. Mr. Holmes was unable to attend in person, but he sent his proxy to Horace Greely, and that is now Greely's name to be a member of the convention. In 1862 Holmes was appointed United States district attorney for Washington, and held the office four years. He is now a hopeless mental wreck.

Would Separate France and Russia.

BRUSSELS, Jan. 23.—The retention at St. Petersburg of Sir Robert B. D. Morris, as British ambassador to Russia, is a subject of intense interest in diplomatic circles, and is especially gratifying to the foreign office. Sir Robert is a steady supporter of Emperor William and Chancellor von Caprivi in their efforts to strengthen the ties of their alliance with the French

government. The main reason for Lord Salisbury's action is believed to be a desire to keep at the Russian capital an ambassador versed in the affairs of the country in view of the internal troubles which are menacing the Russian dynasty.

NO LATE NEWS OF CHILI.

There Was Some Excitement But No Bullets During the Day.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Notwithstanding the generally peaceful character of the day, there was any amount of talk over the prospects of trouble with Chili, in view of the dispatch of the "Humboldt" by this government to Chili. Inquiries at the departments were answered, in most cases, by messenger and watchmen on duty, and there was no indication, on the surface of excitement in official circles. As has been stated the navy department does not expect to hear officially from Valparaiso until the Yorktown returns. That vessel should have reached Valparaiso today under ordinary conditions. A visit was paid to Blaine's residence today, for Chilean news but without result, the secretary declining to talk. Minister Mott also declined to answer any inquiries concerning Chilean affairs, and said he had no news to give out.

Victims of the Holocaust.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 24.—The list of dead and injured has not been diminished, but has changed somewhat. G. Garmon, of McDonald, Mich., who was classed with the dead yesterday, appeared last evening alive and unharmed. He was one of the first to escape when the fire broke out. The body at the morgue, which had been taken for that of Mr. Garmon, was last evening identified as that of Dr. E. A. Prior, of Ann Arbor, Mich., a man 65 years of age, who was at the institute being treated for a curvature of the spine. Dr. Prior slept in the Grand opera house when she saw her husband and an actress named Sallie Madden sitting together in a stage box. Subsequently she discovered that they had gone to Kuhn's hotel and registered as man and wife. She will get a decree.

Another Divorce Suit in Theatrical Circles.

Another divorce suit in theatrical circles was that of the young and pretty daughter of Col. John E. Harvey, known as Hattie Harvey, and a member of the "Hole in the Ground" company, who sought to annul her marriage with Edmond Davies Lyon, the English comedian. She claims that her husband had another wife in England. A decree will follow.

Argentine Assassins.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—The correspondent of the Times at Valparaiso confirms the report of the attack by a mob of armed men upon the house of Dr. Suarez at Mendoza, where a number of the members of the provincial chamber were holding a meeting. The Times correspondent adds that in addition to the killing of Senator Navajas, secretary of the chamber, several others of the legislators were assassinated. Mendoza, the city above referred to is in the Argentine Republic. It is the capital of the province of Mendoza, and is situated on the level plain on the east declivity of the Patamayo range of mountains. The city is an entrepot for trade between Buenos Ayres and Chili, with which the latter country communicates by the mountain passes of Usallata and Portillo.

Burglars Use Chloroform.

St. Louis, Jan. 24.—Some time during Thursday night thieves entered the boarding house of Gottlieb Roth, at No. 114 South Tenth street. Every room was ransacked, and everything of value taken therefrom. It is believed that the thieves chloroformed the inmates, as nearly all of the ten occupants of the house complained of sickness when they awoke in the morning. The robbers secured about \$500 in money, several good watches and chains, articles of jewelry and clothing.

Fraternal Insurance.

St. Louis, Jan. 24.—The Oddfellows Mutual Aid association died a natural death today, which was hastened by the action of insurance Commissioner Elbert, who closed out the order, detaching it from doing business, because it was six months behind in its payments and had no assets. The demise of the order shows the folly of trying to run such a concern without a reserve fund. The association owes \$38,990 and was organized in 1838.

Dr. Edwin's Engagements.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—On account of his recent illness, Dr. Edwin Arnold has been obliged to cancel all his engagements outside of New York. His physician will not permit him to travel. He is even prohibited from going as far as Brooklyn, and therefore Brooklyn as well as western cities will be denied the pleasure of hearing Dr. Edwin read from his own works. It is expected that Dr. Edwin will leave New York for Japan about the middle of February.

Iowa's Best Sugar Factory.

MISSOURI, Ia., Jan. 24.—Missouri will have the first beet sugar factory in Iowa. During the past three days a committee of citizens has raised \$100,000 to adopt a proposition of a California syndicate to build a \$500,000 sugar plant to be erected this summer and be ready to operate next fall. The syndicate's representative held yesterday for California to arrange for closing the contract. Missouri shows the best percentage of sugar in the text of beets.

British Commissioner Arrives.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—Among the passengers who arrived today on the steamer Etarra, was Sir George Baden-Powell, the British Bohring Sea commissioner, who will endeavor to bring about an amicable settlement regarding the fisheries troubles.

TWICE IN A NIGHT

Bold Robbers Board a Missouri Pacific Train.

EXPRESS CAR IS PLUNDERED

A Lynching Party With a Murderer Take Possession—Bandit and Officer are Killed.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 24.—Friday night was a thrilling one for the crew and passengers of the south-bound Missouri Pacific train. The train was held up twice—once by a lynching party that was escorting murderer Robert Kepler from Nevada, Mo., to Lamar, Mo., where they hanged him, and a second time by train robbers, who robbed the express car and its inmates. The train had hardly left Nixa junction, where the lynching party took possession of it, when a danger signal induced the engineer to slow up again. When the train came to a standstill two masked men entered the car and ordered the occupants to hold up their hands, keeping them covered with revolvers, while the train traveled twelve miles to Lamar. The robbers rifled the pockets of the trainmen, taking \$50 from Baggage-master Hull, some amounts from Express Messenger Hook and Traveling Passenger Agent Bardele, of the Missouri Pacific, who had gone to the express car to find the gang of lynchers in the rear car. The express messenger was compelled to reveal the combination to the Pacific company's safe and that was also rifled, the amount secured, however, being an insignificant sum, less than \$75. When the train arrived at Lamar, the destination of the mob, the bandits mingled in the crowd of lynchers and for a time were lost sight of. One of the trainmen, however, soon discovered them boarding a north-bound freight train.

Opened Fire on Them.

The following dispatch was sent to the marshal at Fort Scott: "Watch for two men, no baggage, rough in appearance, one smaller than the other. They are wanted for robbery of the Missouri Pacific train here this morning; are coming toward your city on a freight." The freight train arrived at Fort Scott at 7 o'clock this morning. Policeman S. B. Clemer was on duty at the station. Two suspicious looking individuals of the descriptions of the robbers given in the dispatch arrived. He halted them, when one of them drew his revolver and fired. The bullet pierced the policeman's shirt and he dropped dead on the instant. It so happened by this time the freight was just pulling out and the robbers boarded an empty box car and locked themselves in. Shortly afterwards the passenger train from Lamar arrived and on it was Detective Chester of the Missouri Pacific, who was in pursuit of the bandits. He was accompanied by a United States Marshal, and as the marshal boarded the passenger train it pulled out immediately in pursuit of the freight. At Miamistown the freight was overtaken, but was just pulling out for Pleasanton when the passenger train arrived. The crew of the former train had no knowledge of the dangerous freight, which was heading for Pleasanton and his companion succeeded in boarding the freight and took possession of the car immediately behind the one in which the bandits had taken refuge. The latter had seen the pursuers enter the car and immediately opened fire upon them. The officers returned the fire and shots were continuously exchanged through the ends of the cars all the way to Pleasanton, a distance of five miles. A dispatch has been sent to Pleasanton asking that a posse meet the train and when the train pulled in the robbers were called upon to surrender.

One Robber Is Killed.

They answered with shots from their revolvers and the posse returned the fire. The two imprisoned men fired through the sides of the car and the posse returned the fire with Winchester rifles. The fusillade lasted an hour. Finally a shot from a Winchester from one of the posse struck one of the robbers and killed him. The other bandit then surrendered. He was seriously wounded in the side. He gave his name Charles Meyers of Kansas City, Kas. He declined to reveal the name of his companion.

The coroner held an inquest on the body of the dead robber and returned a verdict in accordance with the facts. Meyers was taken back to Fort Scott. A reporter called at the place Meyers gave as his address in Kansas City. Two women were found there, one of whom said she was Meyers' wife and the other his mother. When asked where he was, they said that he left with his brother-in-law to go to Harrisonville to trade for a farm and were expected to return tonight. The women exhibited much nervousness and were much reserved in answering questions. When told of the train robbery and of the wounding of Meyers and the killing of his companion they made no comment. It is supposed that the dead robber is none other than S. C. Francis. Mrs. Myers said her husband has been running a "joint" or a Kansas saloon, but no such man is known to the police.

Iowa Church Burned.

GRAND RAPIDS, Iowa, Jan. 24.—Grace Episcopal church was burned this morning. Loss, \$50,000.

FOUND HIS DEAD BODY.

A Missing Man's Remains Are Heavily Mutilated by Wolves.

WICHITA, Kas., Jan. 24.—What are supposed to be the remains of George Edgingham, a rich rancher of Greenwood county, missing since January 4, was found in that county this morning in a mutilated condition. Positive identification is impossible, however, on account of the laceration of the body by wolves. It was thought that the body had been eaten while lying from the effects of the grip, but the body shows signs of murder, the skull being crushed.

Wreck on the Central.

JACKSON, Ill., Jan. 24.—A wreck took place just north of here on the Illinois Central last night. The north bound cannon-ball crashed into the rear freight train standing on the track. The engineer was badly burned and the trainman killed. No passengers were seriously injured.

and staid by him at all hazards. The conference has patched up an agreement, but the terms of it are kept secret.

STATE BOARD OF TRADE.

N. C. Meier Explains the Desirability of the Organization.

Detroit News.—Neville C. Meier, manager of the Adrian Land and Improvement company, has conceived the idea of a state board of trade for Michigan, and not resting upon the honors resulting from such a conception is in the field putting it into practical shape.

His first step toward the realization of the project was taken yesterday by the issue of a circular to all immediately concerned which sets forth that a favorable time has come for the organization of such a board, which shall consist of the boards of trade, chambers of commerce, citizens' committees and the various improvement companies already existing and already being formed throughout the state, having for its purpose the setting before manufacturers and artisans of other states and countries the peculiar advantages of Michigan, its commercial resources, boundless mineral wealth and agricultural development, and the vast area still untouched that is waiting only for the hand of labor to call it into a prosperous and useful being.

Belief is expressed that each city and county of the state has its own peculiar advantage of location and transportation facilities best adapted for one or the other lines of trade, commerce or manufacture. An appeal is therefore made through the circular to join the new organization.

A cited example of such an organization, in the interest of which the circular is issued, is that of the California state board of trade, which is so admirably systematized that an inquiry made of any of the business men or improvement companies is published weekly in a bulletin issued from San Francisco. The suggestion is made in the circular that the first meeting be held at Adrian as early as possible, an annual meeting in such place as may be determined upon. In a short interview with Mr. Meier, that gentleman, in response to a question from the News, said the question of competition between the various cities and towns for manufacturing institutions now established in the state, would be one of the questions to be raised before the state board, and possibly a regulating rule established covering the point. The main object of the organization, however, was to compete with other states. As to competition with other countries, a national board of trade existed which covered broader territory than that contemplated by the projected state board.

CLEWS' WEEKLY REVIEW.

The Conditions of the Stock Market Favorable to Prosperity.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—During the past week, there has been what may be considered a healthy break in the stock market. A combination of influences has favored the disposition of the "bears" to make a demonstration in force against the "bull" side. The situation of our relations with Chili has been made lurid with war paint, and the pens of rumor-mongers have been dipped in disingenuous ink, as accomplices of sensational assaults on the "bull" position. Simultaneously, the disagreement between Mr. Gould and the Western Traffic association was distorted and exaggerated into shape calculated to excite apprehensions of a wide-spread freight war; and what seemed to give color to these distortions was the fact that Mr. Gould himself had nothing to say calculated to "shut such a sale" and the discovery of the dangerously overvalued market caused on the following day a rally to about the range of prices from which the decline started. This movement has served a useful purpose. As a trial of force between the two sides it has demonstrated that the "bulls" have not yet lost all their advantage. As a test of confidence it shows that whatever stock the "bear" traders may throw at them at tempting prices. As a symptom of the general spirit of the market it shows the permanency of the "bull" element, a disposition to continue to hold, rather than a weariness of holding, and a preponderant expectation of a boom later on. As conditions now stand there is nothing to warrant extreme advances, and attempts to force prices largely beyond intrinsic values are not likely to pay those who participate in them, but may easily have the effect of bringing about collapse and disappointment which would set the market back to the condition of stagnancy from which it has just emerged. The situation, however, has all the elements necessary to a healthy tone and frequent fluctuations, and if not spoiled by the excesses of over-anguine "bills," it affords promise of the sustained activity which is most profitable to all parties.

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