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THE STATE PRISON

THE "GLOBE" DEMAND FOR A FULL INVESTIGATION GRANTED.

Action of Both Branches of the Legislature Yesterday—The House Calls for a Joint Committee—Attorney General Wilson and Gen. Sibley Invite the Senate to Investigate—Resolutions Enlarging the Scope of the Senate Committee Offered—A "Globe" Envoy Visits Stillwater and Makes an Investigation on His Own Account.

Yesterday was a field day for the State prison business in the legislature and the GLOBE demand for a full investigation was granted. The House passed Representative Donohue's resolution calling for a full investigation of all matters connected with the State prison. It was so amended as to make it a joint committee with seven members from the House and four from the Senate.

In the Senate the ball was opened by the reading of the following letter from Attorney General Wilson:

STATE OF MINNESOTA, ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, ST. PAUL, Jan. 17, 1879.

To the President and Members of the State Senate.

GENTLEMEN: The undersigned feeling himself greatly aggrieved and wronged by certain charges and insinuations contained in this morning's issue of the *Pioneer Press*, affecting his personal and official integrity as the attorney general of this State, would respectfully ask of your honorable body that the resolution of Senator Castle asking an investigation into the management of the State prison, be so amended as to authorize the investigation of said charges against the undersigned. I am also authorized to say that the Hon. H. H. Sibley will make a like request of your honorable body on behalf of the commissioners appointed to arbitrate between the State and Seymour, Sabin & Co.

GEO. P. WILSON, Atty. Gen.

Senator Doran said that when this matter was brought up in the Senate last winter, he was almost alone in his opposition to the proposition to submit the claim of the State against the State prison contractors to arbitration. By yielding to this proposition the Senate gave away all the rights of the State, and the Senate alone is to blame for its losses. The attorney general was not advised with in the case, and if he had been left alone he would have collected the debt. The Senate can blame themselves for the bad bargain the State has made, for they alone are blameable.

Senator Wedge inquired if the special committee appointed to investigate the charge of mismanagement had a right to investigate the conduct of the attorney general in this matter.

The President—I think not, but a resolution instructing the committee to investigate the conduct of the attorney general is in order.

Senator E. M. Wilson then offered the following:

WHEREAS, There are certain charges made in the morning issue of the *Pioneer Press* reflecting upon the official integrity of certain officers of the State in connection with the suit of the State against the State Prison Contractors, and likewise upon the commissioners appointed to arbitrate between the State and the said contractors,

Resolved, therefore, That the State prison committee be authorized and instructed to investigate said charges and report to the Senate.

Senator Castle gave notice of debate, and the resolution went over.

Senator Wedge offered a resolution instructing the special committee appointed to investigate the charges made against the officers of the State prison, to also investigate the charge of misconduct made by the *Pioneer Press* against Attorney General Wilson.

Senator Doran gave notice of debate.

Senator Thatcher offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a joint special committee to be composed of five Senators and five members of the House of Representatives to investigate the State prison contractors.

The resolution was laid aside to be acted upon when other resolutions on the same subject are considered.

The president presented the following communication from Gen. H. H. Sibley:

ST. PAUL, Jan. 17, 1879.

Hon. J. B. Wakefield, President of the Senate, State Capitol, City.

SIR: In view of the allegations contained in the columns of the *Pioneer Press* of this morning, touching the award of the commissioners in the case of the State of Minnesota and Seymour Sabin & Co., and without an opportunity to confer with the other members of the commission, I have the honor respectfully to request that the honorable body over which you preside will, in justice to them as well as to myself, so enlarge the investigation into the affairs of the State prison, instituted by Senator Castle, as to embrace the inquiry into all the facts connected with the award referred to. I have the honor to be very respectfully, your obedient servant, HENRY H SIBLEY.

What a "Globe" Envoy Learned in Stillwater.

Anticipating the action of the legislature in appointing a committee of investigation to inquire into the management of the State penitentiary, the GLOBE detailed one of its force to look around and gather up what facts will be likely to be brought before the notice of the committee when they make their official visit. That it was no easy task will be easily understood when it is considered that the GLOBE envoy had no means of ascertaining whom to approach—who had anything to tell and would be likely to tell it. Of course, in a city the size of Stillwater it could not be expected to find many persons who were not directly or indirectly under the influence of such a powerful ring as that which controls the State prison. This will be more apparent when it is remembered that outside the patronage which such an institution is able to give in the way of employment and trade, the influence is immense of the firm of Seymour, Sabin & Cor, which in reality embraces many of the leading men of the State and some high officials.

The GLOBE envoy found exactly the same state of things exiting at Stillwater as he did at St. Peter, only at Stillwater the ring influence is very much greater and more general. There were those in St. Peter with whom the ring had never dealt, who were not afraid to speak their mind, but at Stillwater there are few bold enough to risk the displeasure of Seymour, Sabin & Co.,—especially the "& Co." Still the GLOBE envoy was able to find those who expressed to him their hearty wish that an investigation be made into the management—financial and disciplinary—of the institution. These said if the investigation should only be as thorough as that made of the asylum at St. Peter, the people of Minnesota will be astonished at the rottenness and corruption which exists. The last class, from instructions received, were not interviewed, and the first were difficult to approach, or, rather hard to be made to "peach" from the fact that they feared dismissal, for if it should be known that they had as much as breathed a word outside the walls of doings inside their position would not be worth the fee simple of a row of pins. And even those who had formerly worked in the prison and are now employed elsewhere, were very reluctant to speak for the good reason that the all powerful firm of Seymour, Sabin & Co. could reach them in their present employment. By promising that no names should be used, however, the GLOBE envoy succeeded in getting such information as convinces him that a thorough investigation into the management of the State prison would pay a thousand fold the expenses of the enquiry. There is not the least doubt that Seymour, Sabin & Co. have a soft thing of it in their contract. To-day there are upwards of 200 convict laborers and convict skilled artisans at work in the State penitentiary for whose work the State is supposed to get the munificent sum of $80 per day, or 40 cents per man—not one-fourth the price the same labor would command elsewhere. It may be argued that the men are not capable of the productive labor of skilled mechanics, but this is mere idle talk, for there are to-day as good convict workmen in the prison as there are out of it, and that they put in every hour the day is worth is another fact, and they work lively, too, all the while.

HOW THEY WORK THEM.

A visit to all the departments of the workshops proved these facts. In the foundry, the machine shop, the carpenter's shop, the wheelwright's, the blacksmith's, the cooper's, the fitting, painting, and finishing departments, the men plied their several crafts as deftly as men in any shops in the country. And every person seemed to move with an alacrity and nimbleness quite unexpected. In fact the whole prison was a hive of busy industry, and for the $80 a day Seymour, Sabin & Co., have manufactured daily from four to six "Minnesota Chief" threshers, some five hundred barrels, as many buckets, and a large quantity of doors, sash, cabinet work, carving and hardware goods. There are at present 233 convicts in the prison, of whom four are women, and of the 229 males only one was in his cell, the remainder being at work in the shops or in domestic occupation about the building, not more than twenty being employed in the latter capacity. It was stated that the State is supposed to get 40 cents per day for every man employed in the shops, but there are people right here in Stillwater who do not think that the State ever gets this pittance for all the men employed.

LOOK AT THE BOOKS.

It is thought by many that the investigating committee will find a very much worse state of things existing in Stillwater than was developed at St. Peter. One of the first things the committee should do is to overhaul the books of the institution; ascertain how many mens' labor has been credited the State by the contractors daily, for the last year past at least; prices paid for provisions, etc. They should ascertain who hold stock in the firm of Seymour, Sabin & Co., how much stock each holds, and the amount he paid for it. It is whispered about pretty freely that stock in the concern was used for political purposes.

Another matter for an investigating committee to direct its attention to is the late arbitration affair. It will be remembered that the State, through the prison warden, sued Seymour, Sabin & Co., for some $40,000, more or less, arrears for convict labor. The trial at Stillwater of course was a mere farce—it could not be otherwise—and the decision was made in favor of defendants. Attorney General Wilson, however, very properly carried the matter to the supreme court, which reversed the decision of the court below and sent the case back for a new trial.

Sabin procured his own election to the legislature and piloted a bill through referring the matter to arbitration. The arbitrators were chosen, one by the contractors, one by the governor, and the other by the first two. The arbitration gave to Seymour, Sabin & Co. the $40,000 which the supreme court said belonged to the State, and $5,000 besides. In this connection it is a little strange that at the trial Sabin stated the personal property of the firm invested in the prison contract was $225,000, when the assessment returns of the firm for the same year were only $16,950. Another little matter which the investigating committee would perhaps think of sufficient interest to give attention to, is the purchase by the State of the Aiple property from Seymour, Sabin & Co. This property was left by Frank X. Aiple to his children, with a life interest to the widow who married a gentleman named Tepas, who mortgaged the property to a Mr. Turich, and that gentleman transferred the mortgage to Mr. Sabin.

The property is placed at a high valuation, at $500. The State gave Seymour, Sabin & Co. for it $1,000, but when Mrs. Tepas dies the children can of course claim the property, and the State will have to purchase it for the second time. Mrs. Tepas, a highly respectable lady, told the writer that she meant no harm when she disposed of the property, and was not aware that she was selling to Sabin. She thought she was doing the best for her children as the property was worthless for building purposes, it being springy and always wet. She invested the money in improving other property belonging to her children—there is no doubt she did the best for them.

BULLDOZING.

Politically the firm of Seymour, Sabin & Co. are almost as intolerant as the St. Peter ring, and at the last election every influence was brought to bear upon employes at the prison to deter them from voting for Donnelly, and immediately after election the wages of the moulders who voted for Donnelly were reduced from $2.20 a day to $1.50, some of the men leaving work rather than submit to the reduction. One man whom Seymour found distributing Donnelly tickets at the engine house was the following day dismissed, or got the "G. B.," as the boys express it. He is now at work for Mr. Kirkland, Lincoln Center, Wisconsin.

CRUELTY.

The cruelty and bad treatment question was brought before the GLOBE envoy in various forms, the general complaints charging that the convicts are overworked, badly fed, treated like brutes, and often punished without the slightest shadow of a cause. The testimony of all interviewed by the GLOBE tends to show that Reed is a good, easy man, who merely holds his position on sufferance of the contractors so long as he will consent to Hall's having the real management of the convicts, and will not interfere in the government of the institution. Hall is pronounced brutal both inside and outside the prison; even visitors who know nothing of him, and have only seen him once or twice, and that while he was taking them over the institution, speak of him as a churlish, unmannerly person who, in place of acting as a public servant, puts on an arrogance and insolence only to be met with in ignorant, uncultured natures. One gentleman who had visited the prison on one occasion, said that one would think that Hall owned the whole institution and the State to boot; he had never conversed with a more illiterate, ignorant bumpkin in the garb of authority, than Hall. His language is coarse and to the prisoners brutish. There are, too, some of the guards who are equally unfit with Hall for a position in such an establishment. There is nothing more essential in a person holding the position which Hall holds, than high moral principle, evenness of temper and self-command, and neither of these, it is said, does Hall possess. The GLOBE envoy gathered from the numerous persons he interviewed, that the cruelty question dates back even to the time Evans was deputy, when according to that gentle lamb's own statements, cruelties outdoing the most exquisite tortures of the devilish inquisition were practised. It would appear that when Reed was first appointed, and from the time C. K. Davis was Governor, he held full control of things in the prison. He would then enquire into the wrongs practised upon prisoners. If they were sick he would relieve them from work, and all who were "run in" for insubordination, talking in the shops, etc., he would give a patient hearing to before allowing them to be incarcerated in the terrible dungeon. When complaint was made to him of the disgustingly, putrid state of the meat, he censured the cook for using it, and gave orders that no provisions which were not perfectly sweet should be used. On several occasions he remonstrated with guards for running men in on the slightest pretense, but now all this is changed. Authority is entirely given up to Hall, whom Reed, to save his position, was compelled to make deputy warden, and now Hall and Ellward run the whole machinery. The men are hurried out of their cells before daylight and sent to the shops, where they have to work without cessation as hard as they can drive. If they loiter for a moment or speak they are thrust into the dungeon. At noon they are given half an hour to eat their dinner, and then they are worked on till darkness shuts them in again. One man frequently employed at the prison said, when asked about the food, "Well, mister, it's pretty small. I must confess 'taint much for a hungry working man to eat. The meat, he said, laying one hand across the first joints of three fingers of the other, was about so much, and cooked to death at that. This man had seen no bad treatment and thought Hall was a pretty decent sort of a man, but then he continued, "he could treat the men bad without me seeing him do it."

Another man, an employe in the prison, stated that he had frequently seen Abe Hall abuse the men. One morning he saw him with a prisoner—Siebert, he thought his name was—taking him to the dungeons. The man did not appear to go fast enough, for Hall rushed at him striking him a heavy blow at the back of the neck and knocking him to the ground. He had frequently heard Hall use the foulest language to the men, and never heard him speak in a proper way to them. One employe said he had heard Hall order George Censorbox, a guard, to run Coffey in the first chance he had. *If he saw him look cross* he was to run him in. Ten minutes after Coffey was run in. It was stated by many that Coffey's eyes were very bad; so bad that he could not distinguish one man from another, a convict from a citizen. Even the late warden, Mr. Jackman, says Coffey's eyes were bad, but some made the statement that the convict made them so by rubbing in ashes so that he should not be called on to work. An employe who had seen Coffey's breakfast more than once stated that it consisted of a small piece of dried up meat, not more than an ounce and a half, two small slices of bread and one small cup of tea or coffee. On more than one occasion these men say they have seen Hall treat brutally the half-demented Swede, who, it will be remembered, murdered his father and held a high carnival in the house over his dead father's corpse. Since his incarceration the boy has greatly failed in health and at times shows decided signs of insanity. Inquiry into his treatment by Hall should be made and perhaps George Dodd could tell something about it. The gag and the dungeon are a fearful punishment, but when a prisoner is sick to be gagged and cast into the cavernous cell into which not a ray of light can penetrate, and to have nothing but the bare, damp rock to sleep on or sit on without covering of any kind, and to be kept there for days together, is too terrible to think of. The very day the GLOBE envoy called at the prison one of the prisoners had been thrust into one of these places. It appears the day before he had retired from work and went to his work, complaining of sickness, but Deputy Hall told him he must either work or go to the dungeon; the next morning he tried to work rather than go to the dreaded punishment, but found he could not work and told the guard, Dodd; the guard sent for Hall, who at once had the sick man thrust into the dread dungeon and locked in perpetual darkness.

But now comes the worst tale of them all, which could hardly be credited if it were not verified by many witnesses. A paper found its way out of the prison, by what means the writer will not say, of course, which not only alluded to some of the facts already spoken of, but also enumerated many instances of bad treatment and abuse from Hall. Among other things, it spoke of the death of Pat Stack, the pal of the notorious murderer, Farrell. It stated that Stack died of poison (morphine) given by the authorities on purpose to get rid of him. At least, he was taken to his cell, a large dose of the drug administered to him, and the *remainder left so that he could get it*, and the prisoner did get it, and committed suicide. He had attempted suicide several times before. But the horrible part of the story is that for several days after Stack's death, parts of his body were found lying about the yard. Private parts of his person and his heart was hanging up in the prison for some time.

This statement was confirmed by several persons outside, and it is to-day notoriously common talk at Stillwater.

FAVORITISM.

There is a great deal of favoritism shown inside the walls. The "pets" can do almost as they please, while those who have once drawn on them the displeasure of guard or deputy have a perfect hell of it. Kelly, the St. Paul murderer, is in the dungeon nearly all the time, while Farrell, the cold-blooded Wabashaw assassin, the man who planned and executed the crime for which he and Stack were sent up for life, does just as he pleases. He is now foreman of the Minnesota Chief department, and it is said that Seymour Sabin, through the "& Co.," intend to get his pardon, because they want him on the road to sell machines—a very worthy agent truly! The notorious old sinner, who was sent to States prison for his Beecherising practices with little children, whom he drew round him by gifts of candy, can walk about and chat with whom he pleases, just because one of the guards is a native of the same burg and doubtless received like training in his youth. But the object mainly seems to be with Hall to get as much work out of the men as it is possible to do for the contractors, and to apparently keep down expenses the men are only half supplied with food. Two men, one day, in the paint shop furnished 1,800 pails, and ever after the overseer would be dissatisfied if the same number was not finished. Some are of the opinion that it is the intention of Seymour, Sabin & Co. to get all the work possible done without paying any of their back dues, and before litigation can enforce them the time of their contract will expire. But if this is their intention the timely action of the investigation committee will stop the little game.

CUSTER'S LAST RIDE.

Further Evidence Before the Reno Inquiry—No New Facts of Importance Elicited.

[Special Telegram to the Globe.]

CHICAGO, Jan. 17.—At the opening of the Reno inquiry to-day, Maj. Reno's counsel asked Lieut. Wallace, who was still on the witness stand, what was the wisdom of separating the Seventh regiment into the different battalions before the attack on the Indians was made. The recorder objected on the ground that an opinion as to Gen. Custer's conduct was not within the scope of the inquiry. The court decided to not admit the evidence on this point. Col. Merritt, one of the members of the court, desired to know the distance from the point where the Reno column separated to the point where Custer's first horse or man killed or wounded was found, and was answered by Lieut. Wallace that it was fully six miles.

The next witness was T. F. Girard, a scout who was attached to Custer's command and was with Reno in the fight. Nothing of particular interest was elicited from him, when the court adjourned. His examination will be continued to-morrow.

[Western Associated Press.]

CHICAGO, Jan. 17.—The Reno court to-day heard further evidence of Lieut. Wallace on cross examination, but nothing new was developed. Lieut. Lee was next called. The noted Indian and interpreter, F. F. Girard, who was with Reno at the time of the massacre, testified that on the evening of the 24th of June, with two scouts, Half Yellow Face and Blood Knife, he rode at the head of General Custer's column to the top of a knoll and saw not less than 2,500 Indians. The order given Reno was, "Go forward, and when you meet the Indians charge them and I will support you." He gained the Reno force. He described at some length the character of the ground and the directions taken by the various columns.

Adjourned.

COX'S COURT.

The Incestuous Knauff Quotes Lot and His Two Daughters—Mulcted in the Costs in a Railroad Suit.

[Special Telegram to the Globe.]

ST. PETER, Minn., Jan. 17.—The case of Henry Knauff, charged with incestuous rape upon his two daughters, aged 16 and 18 years respectively, came up before Judge Cox Thursday at a special term of court, on motion of Attorney Arctander for a new trial on the grounds that the verdict was contrary to the evidence and upon error on points of law. Judge Cox granted the motion on the points raised, when defendant, under the advice of his attorney, withdrew his plea of not guilty and pleaded guilty to a common assault. Judge Cox sentenced Knauff to five months' imprisonment in Renville county jail. In giving evidence, the two girls said their father had told them there was no harm in it, for the bible said it was right—Lot and his two daughters were not punished.

In the case of Young vs. The Winona & St. Peter railroad, in which plaintiff claims $5,000 for the death of his child, plaintiff withdrew the case and was mulcted in the costs, $140.

For a clean shave or a first-class haircut, go to Lyle's, corner Third and Wabashaw streets.

BIG BLAZE.

New York Suffers Another Serious Conflagration—Several Dry Goods and Clothing Houses Destroyed, Involving a Loss of Nearly $3,000,000—Fires Elsewhere and Other Misfortunes.

A BIG BLAZE.

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.—A fire broke out this evening at 62 Worth street and spread rapidly. The flames were first seen on the third floor and before the firemen could get fairly to work, spread to 58 Worth street and in a short time the buildings right through to Thomas street were in a blaze. There was some difficulty at first in getting water, but in a short time a large number of streams were poured on the flames from the Thomas street side. Second and third alarms were sent out and ten engines were soon at work on Worth street and five on Thomas street. The fire is said to have originated on the third floor of No. 62 Worth street, occupied by Walkingston & Voight, dealers in woolen goods, Trustman & Co., woolens and men's clothing.

While Fire Commissioner Bonner and a number of firemen were on the floor, where the fire originated, the floor began to give away, and they were compelled to beat a hasty retreat to the Thomas street side. They were not a moment too soon, for just as the last man escaped the floor gave way with a crash, and the flames burst out on both sides. The police reserves were called out to keep back the great crowds that were attracted to the spot. While President King, of the fire department, was standing in front of 62 Worth street, a cry was raised that the wall was falling, and a number of firemen rushed to his rescue. They had scarcely got across the street, when the second floor fell in with a loud crash.

Despite the combined efforts of the firemen the flames spread with great rapidity and soon communicated to No. 64. Here everything seemed to burn like tinder. Stream after stream of water was directed on the buildings, but to no purpose, and floor after floor fell in with a tremendous crash, spreading consternation among the crowds that extended two to three blocks away.

The firemen worked hard and willingly, but they began to get tired out. An additional force was then sent for, and soon a large number of fresh men were drafted from the uptown districts and put to work. It was too late, however, to save No. 62, and the whole building was completely gutted. The flames then took hold of Nos. 66 and 68 Worth street, and from that time the firemen seemed to give up all hopes of saving any of the stores and began pouring water on adjoining buildings.

The flames suddenly burst through to Thomas street, and the whole vicinity was made as bright as day. For some time there was much consternation, caused by a report that a fireman was missing and was supposed to be in No. 68, but the report proved to be untrue. The flames still gained headway, in spite of the efforts of the firemen. All the buildings were occupied by dry goods merchants and importers, and at about 10 o'clock were in a blaze, and as the woolens, silks and prints caught fire the flames shot up from the cellars to a great distance above the roofs of the buildings. The walls of No. 62 began to sag, and the firemen abandoned that side. While working on No. 68, a heavy iron cornice fell to the street, but without injuring any persons.

At 11 o'clock there was nothing left of the three buildings but walls, yet the flames from the burning mass of goods now and again darted up, but the firemen poured in a copious supply of water, and soon had the flames completely under control.

The following are the estimated losses: Van Valkenburg & Leavitt, $1,000,000; Walkingsham & Voight, $500,000; Schnabel Bros., $150,000; John Slade & Co., $150,000; Henry W. T. Malloy & Co., $100,000; Wm. Simpson, Sons & Co., $50,000; Nanotuck Silk Co., $50,000; B. S. Smith, $150,000; Forstnian & Co., $250,000.

Walkenshaw & Voight are agents of Helliger Bros., of Leonneo, Rhenish Prussia, and carried a heavy stock. They are insured for $441,000, distributed among seventy-eight different companies, foreign and domestic. In their great safe were notes of various firms, but no cash. Van Valkenburg & Leavitt were also insured for a large amount. The Slades are fully insured. Henry W. Malloy is also fully insured. The Messrs. Hesslein & Co., tailors' trimmings, loss $75,000. Schnabel & Bros., woolens, and B. Smith & Co., dry goods, are fully covered by insurance. Wm. Simpson & Co., prints, loss $14,000. J. M. Bodman & Co., woolens, $3,000. Neustader Bors., mens' clothing, $15,000; Jas. T. White & Co., $50,000.

Among the other firms that suffered, but the extent of whose losses could not be ascertained, were John S. Holden & Co., Charles H. Townsend, government goods; Robert Crolly, needles; Geneo & Klein, men's clothing; Upham, Tucker & Co., cotton goods. The cause of the fire could not be ascertained.

FATALLY BURNED.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 17.—While Mrs. Wuestle, of Ironton, O., was standing near a stove, this morning, her dress caught fire, fatally burning her before it was extinguished. Her mother is at the point of death from paralysis.

IOWA FIRE.

CHICAGO, Jan. 17.—A fire at Grundy Centre, Iowa, this morning, destroyed eight business houses, including two banks and the postoffice Loss estimated at $40,000.

RICE MILLS BURNED.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Jan. 17.—News just received here of the burning, Wednesday, of the Keithfield rice mills, on Black river, Georgetown county. Total loss $36,000. The mills were owned by Robert Edger, of Charleston, and insured for $10,000.

OVER THE SEA.

Political Crisis in France---The Afghan Invasion-----Miscellaneous Old World News.

FRENCH POLITICS.

PARIS, Jan. 17.—All factions of the left held meetings to-day. The moderate section, although it unanimously voted that the ministerial declaration was unacceptable, showed during the discussion that they almost all favored detention of the present cabinet if Dufoure will consent to accentuate his declarations. The discussion will be continued to-morrow. The republican union declared that they considered it useless to discuss the declaration in view of the unanimous disfavor with which it was received, and instructed M. Floquet, in Monday's debate, to especially insist upon modifications in the staff and changes of public officials. The extreme left rejected the declaration, and instructed M. Modier De Montjou to express its objections Monday. At a meeting of senators belonging to the left center, M. Ferry made a speech completely adhering to the government programme.

RUN ON A BANK.

LONDON, Jan. 17.—An enormous crowd has assembled in Lombard street and great excitement prevails over a reported run on the Bank of London and County Banking company. A dispute about a cab fare, in front of the bank, attracted a crowd. This was about 11 o'clock. It soon began to be noised abroad that the bank was in trouble, and the crowd increased; a genuine run on the bank was begun, and the street on every side has been blocked with people. A corps of policemen is keeping order. There is no unusual excitement inside the bank. The bank has a good many branches, and the rumor spreading may cause such a drain on the cash as to bring the concern into difficulty.

THE VATICAN.

A dispatch from Rome states that in addition to the proposed appointment of several vicars apostolic in parts of America destitute of Episcopal churches, the Vatican intends to establish several new bishoprics in the United States, and to institute a new hierarchy different from the present one. The Pope has sent a circular to bishops outside of Europe with a view of extending the collection of Peter's pence in all countries of the world.

BISMARCK INDIFFERENT.

BERLIN, Jan. 17.—The *Post* says Bismarck has declared privately that he was indifferent as to the fate of the parliamentary discipline bill, which he said he proposed solely in the interest of the reichstag itself.

PATENT PLUNDER.

THE NATIONAL SENATE CONSIDERING A REMEDY.

The Proposed Bill Regulating Patent Issues Considered at Length—Important Amendments Proposed, Resulting in General Dodging—The House Spends the Day Upon the Private Calendar—Miscellaneous Capital News.

FORTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

The Senate.

SYNDICATE COMMISSIONS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Senator Saulsbury submitted a resolution calling upon the secretary of the treasury for information as to the amount of commission or other compensation paid bankers, brokers, firms, companies, syndicates or individuals, for services in negotiating the sale of United States bonds or securities from 1862 to the present time; what amount has been paid to any such persons for services rendered in refunding any of the bonds of the United States, and also whether interest has been paid on called bonds and at the same time been paid on bonds sold to redeem such bonds; how much double interest has been paid on each class of bonds, and how much money has been allowed to remain on deposit in national banks designated as depositaries. Discussion arising, the resolution was laid over.

Senator Allison, from the committee on finance, reported adversely on Senate bill to authorize the killing of fur seal and other fur-bearing animals within the limits of Alaska territory, and it was indefinitely postponed. This is the bill introduced by Cameron, of Wisconsin, the 24th of January last, and authorizes the secretary of the treasury to declare the territory of Alaska, except the islands or St. Geeorge and St. Paul, open to the killing of fur-bearing animals, persons engaging in such killing to pay to the government 10 per cent of the appraised value of the skins taken.

CREDENTIALS.

The credentials of Senator Houston, of Alabama, were presented.

PATENT LAWS.

At the conclusion of the morning business, consideration was resumed of the bill to amend the patent laws, the pending question being on the amendment of Matthews to strike out certain parts of the committee's bill in relation to damages for infringement and insert in lieu thereof the following: "No account of profits or savings shall in any case be allowed, but evidence thereof may be omitted as tending to prove what shall be deemed a reasonable license fee as compensation for infringement."

Senator Matthews said his amendment having received but six votes yesterday, he would withdraw it.

Senator Dawes, of Illinois, submitted the following: "Where an appeal is allowed from an interlocutory decree establishing the validity of a patent, or its infringement, complainant shall be permitted to go on and take his account subject to payment of cost and counsel fee, if the decree is reversed and on giving security therefor." Agreed to.

Senator Hoar submitted the following amendment: "And whenever a patent has been issued to two or more persons jointly, describing or representing the matter which was the invention of only one of them, and for which the inventor thereof might lawfully have taken a seperate patent to himself, said invention may be secured to the just inventor thereof by a reissue of the patent so jointly issued upon the proceedings had as in other cases of reissue, and with consent in writing of the assignees of any of such original patent, such reissue to inure to the benefit of all persons claiming under the original patent as if their claims had arisen under the patent so reissued, except as provided in the sixth section."

This amendment led to a lengthy discussion, and upon reaching a vote it was discovered that no quorum was present. A call of the Senate was ordered and a quorum having responded, Edmunds moved that the Senate proceed to consideration of executive business. Fifteen Senators voted in the affirmative, and eighteen in the negative, no quorum. Another call of the Senate was ordered, and a quorum having answered, the motion of Edmunds for an executive season was rejected. A discussion on Hoar's amendment was continued, and when a vote was reached it was again discovered that no quorum was present. A third call of the Senate was ordered, and a quorum of Senators having reported, the amendment of Hoar was agreed to, yeas, 32, nays, 8.

Senator Davis, of Illinois, submitted an amendment providing that it shall not be lawful to grant any reissue of any patents for any invention except the invention which was embraced in the original patent. When a vote was reached it was discovered that no quorum was present, thirty-six Senators only voting.

TELLER COMMITTEE.

Senator Wallace said that he and the Senator from Delaware, Bayard, desired to be excused from further service on the Teller special committee to investigate the recent elections.

Senator Conkling said he did not wish to make any objection to any request of the Senator, but it was not in order to do any business now without a quorum. He did not know that it would be valid to excuse the Senator, and suggested that the request lie over for the present, or be withdrawn. He moved the Senate adjourn.

Senator Wallace hoped the Senator would withdraw that motion as it was important to act upon his request this evening.

A call of the Senate was ordered, and a quorum having responded, Senator Wallace said he made the request to be excused because the gentlemen who represented the minority of the Senate on the Teller committee were now about starting north from New Orleans and the others were going to Charleston to continue the investigation. It was impossible for him (Wallace) to go to Charleston, and the Senator from Delaware, Bayard, could not go, as he was in Texas.

Senator Hoar hoped the request would lie over for the present, and in explanation thereof, said there had been some talk about himself and Senator McMillan, who were members of the committee, going to Charleston, but they had concluded not to go. If the Democratic members should all be there they would be in a majority.

Senator Wallace said nothing of the kind was contemplated.

Senator Hoar replied he was satisfied of that fact.

It was finally agreed the matter should be arranged between the several members of the committee, and the request of Wallace to excuse himself and Bayard was granted.

The Vice President appointed Senators MacDonald and Randolph to fill vacancies.

TRANSPORTATION.

Senator Plumb, of Kansas, offered a resolution providing for the pay of 50 per centum of the amounts required by law to be withheld from certain railway companies for transportation service rendered for the government. Referred. The bill is in accordance with the recommendation of the secretary of war.

Adjourned until Monday.

House of Representatives.

LAND SCRIP.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—On motion of Mr. Gunther, chairman of the committee on private land claims, the Senate bill passed defining the manner in which certain land scrip may be assigned and located by actual settlers.

PRIVATE CALENDAR.

The House went into committee of the whole on the private calendar. After laying aside several bills to report to the House, the bill was reached for the payment of $200,000 to the trustees of the Protestant Episcopal seminary and high school in Virginia for rent of buildings during the war. Quite a lengthy discussion ensued, opponents of the bill asserting it was a war claim, and friends of the measure stating it was a just bill for rent of property, and the government was as much bound to pay rent for this building as any occupied by it.

Without reaching a vote the committee rose and adjourned till to-morrow.

GENERAL CAPITAL NEWS.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—The Senate committee on territories to-day heard arguments upon the advisability of bringing the Indian territory under a civil form of government.

NOMINATION.

The President has nominated Alex. B. Hagner, of Maryland, associate justice of the supreme court of the District of Columbia.

SOUTHERN MAIL CONTRACTORS.

Representative Singleton has introduced in the House a bill to provide for the payment of claims of Southern mail contractors. It authorizes the payment of 50 per cent. of all such claims as have been audited and whatever balance remains out of the amount appropriated, namely, $357,000, after such payments, shall be held for one year to meet claims which may hereafter be audited, the balance then remaining to be divided among claimants.

FINANCIAL.

The standard silver dollar will be furnished by the treasurer of the United States free of expense for checks on New York in his favor, for certificates of deposit issued by any United States sub-treasurer or depositary national bank, for greenbacks or bank notes. The above should be in sums of $100 or its multiples.

Subscriptions to 4 per cent. loan to-day $2,148,500.

POLYGAMY.

The House judiciary committee to-day granted a hearing to Mrs. Emeline Wells and Mrs. Seina Young Williams, of Salt Lake, Utah, upon various petitions now before the committee relating to laws affecting polygamy. They argued in favor of legislation which will protect Mormon women and children.

CHIEF JOSEPH.

Lincoln hall was crowded to-night to hear Chief Joseph and other Indians speak for the rights and liberties of their race.

MRS. COBB'S CASE.

Life Sentence Pronounced by the Court—Public Statement Positively Asserting Her Innocence of the Crime—Her Conviction Obtained by Perjured and Mistaken Witnesses—Other Criminal Matters.

FOR LIFE.

NORWICH, Ct., Jan. 17.—Mrs. Cobb, adjudged guilty of poisoning her husband, has been sentenced to imprisonment for life.

INNOCENCE ASSERTED.

NORWICH, Conn., Jan. 17.—Mrs. Kate Cobb, who was convicted of murder in the second degree, made the following statement to the public to-day through her counsel:

NORWICH, Jan. 17.—To the public: In view of the fact that up to the present time I have kept silence except when on the witness stand in regard to my connection with the crime of which I have been accused, I have been requested by gentlemen connected with the public press to make some further statement than I have, yet with regard to the matter I have only to say that believing that the innocence of which I was conscious would be vindicated and acting under the advice of my counsel I remained silent till the time of my trial. At the trial I told what my oath as a witness bound me to do, the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. On the testimony of a perjurer, together with that of other witnesses against me, some of whom were mistaken in their statements, the jury have found me guilty. I do not call in question the honesty of the verdict. I only say that it is a mistaken one and protest most solemnly that I am innocent of the crime charged and that for which I have been convicted.

KATE M. COBB.

MISSIONARY DEFALCATION.

BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 17.—Charles Demond, treasurer of the Massachusetts Home Missionary society, has resigned by request of the executive committee, who publish a notice that this action is made necessary on account of recently discovered malfeasance in office on the part of Demond, who had made an unauthorized disposal or use of invested funds of the society. The committee decline to make public further particulars, claiming they do not know as yet whether the society has lost anything by the operations of Demond. They state that the malfeasance consisted of Demond's action in changing invested funds of the society without having authority for so doing. The amount at risk ranges from $50,000 to $100,000. It is said Demond has been speculating extensively in Western real estate and has sold the securities of the society and invested the proceeds in Western lands for the sake of the commissions he would receive on such investment. His property has all been placed in the hands of the society, but its value is regarded as doubtful, and until the executive committee, which is investigating the affair, finishes its labor, it will be impossible to say what the loss will amount to. The society is a Congregational institution, auxiliary to the American Home Missionary society, and its objects are to facilitate the organization and aiding of feeble congregations in this State.

EDITOR INDICTED FOR MURDER.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 17.—The grand jury in the case of Henry Feltus, editor of the Bloomington, Ind., *Courier*, charged with the murder of Rogers, county attorney, New Year's eve, while the parties were intoxicated, indicted Feltus for murder in the second degree. Five thousand dollars bail; trial January 28.

ENLIGHTENED EDUCATORS.

A Little Son of H. N. Crosett, of Faribault, Suffers a Broken Leg at the Hands of a High School Teacher.

[Special Telegram to the Globe.]

FARIBAULT, Jan. 17.—A little son of H. N. Crosett, superintendent United States Express company, was the subject of the "new treatment" at the hands of one of the teachers in the High school department in this city this morning. His female teacher discovered Sam drumming on his desk, in punishment for which she required him to remain and continue the exercise during recess, when, it appears (the exact truth cannot be ascertained at this writing,) that one of the male teachers interfering, to change the punishment, required that he be made to drum on the raised platform during the same period, to which the little fellow demurred, whereupon this enlightened educator, enforcing his order by physicial force, succeeded in breaking his own order and the little boys leg at the same time. The boy's injury is thought to be of a permanent character. Great indignation is felt, while it is to be hoped that extenuating circumstance may change somewhat the gravity of the offense.

The Fleeing Cheyennes.

FORT ROBINSON, Neb., Jan. 17.—A courier just in from the scene of hostilities, five miles distant, reports the Indians have taken up another very strong position, from which it is believed by Capt. Wessel they cannot be dislodged without a greater sacrifice of life than he deems advisable, and he has therefore sent for reinforcements. Joseph Barber, of company H, Third cavalry, one of a party of five scouting, was killed, his body falling into the hands of the Indians.

Agent Irwin, of Red Cloud, who arrived to-night to learn particulars of late events, reports the excitement at Pine Ridge agency intense.

Sons of Vermont.

CHICAGO, Jan. 17.—The second annual banquet of the Sons of Vermont was held this evening at the Grand Pacific hotel, about 400 being present including many notable citizens. This society is composed of former residents of Vermont now living in Chicago and vicinity. The banquet was one of rare elegance, and the succeeding entertainment consisted of speeches and dancing.

Connecticut.

HARTFORD, Conn., Jan. 17.—The Republican caucus has nominated O. H. Platt for United States Senator.

SENATE SLATES.

CAUCUS SETTLEMENT OF CONTESTS IN VARIOUS STATES.

The Badger Republicans in Fletcher's Fix—Forty-Eight Ballots Without a Choice, Keyes, Carpenter and Howe About Equally Dividing the Vote—The Democrats Name Chief Justice E. G. Ryan as Their Candidate—"Black Jack" Logan Carries Off the Prize in Illinois on the First Ballot—The Dark Horse the Winner in Connecticut—Miscellaneous Legislative Notes.

Wisconsin.

THE SENATORI