

THE LATEST NEWS. RECEIVED BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

From Washington. Special Dispatch to the N. Y. Tribune. WASHINGTON, Thursday, Dec. 6, 1860. THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

The speaker changed his mind at a late hour last night, in regard to the time of announcing the Special Committee on Mr. Boe's resolution, under appeals of Conservative Southern men, who desired their experiments immediately started, in the hope of arresting the accession movement.

When the speaker announced the Committee, Mr. Hawkins of Florida rose immediately and asked to be excused from serving. This step was expected, and had been previously concerted.

It may be assumed that the House will not excuse members from serving, though they may neglect to attend the sitting of the Committee.

THE SECESSION. It may be confidently assumed that South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi will secede before the 4th of March, in spite of efforts to restrain their separation.

GOVERNMENT FINANCES. The Committee of Ways and Means will meet on Monday, after having digested Mr. Cobb's Report, to consider some plan of financial relief.

SOUTHERN SENATORIAL CAUCUS. All the Southern Senators are invited to meet in caucus on Saturday at 11 o'clock, for the purpose of determining their policy in the present emergency.

SECRETARY FLOYD'S LETTER. Secretary Floyd's letter advocating the abstract declaration of secession, conforms to his recent declarations here.

THE SENATE ADJOURNMENT. The Senate adjourned till Monday, because, under its rules, no business can be attempted during the first six days, and until the Committees are organized.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Dec. 6, 1860. The President sent to the House to-day a very large mass of documents in response to the resolution at the former session. From a cursory examination of their contents it is shown that the cost per annum of the African Squadron, from the year 1843 to 1859, was \$284,000.

Among the documents from the State Department is a note from Lord John Russell to Lord Lyons, which the latter, by direction, read to Secretary Cass. It is dated in February last.

Mr. Seward said that the President has read with surprise and dissatisfaction certain British official reports, and that he has been informed by the Secretary of State that the British Government has frequently complained to our own about the increase of the slave trade.

THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO-DAY, pending the request of Mr. Hawkins to be excused from service on the Select Committee, was carried by the conservative vote.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Mr. MORRIS (Dem., Ill.) said it would be commendable that on Tuesday he should introduce a resolution concerning the perpetuity of the American Union.

Mr. COBB (Dem., Ala.) moved that the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill to construct the meaning of the word "minimum price of the public lands" in the act of March 3, 1857.

Mr. HAWKINS (Dem., Fla.) rose and said—Mr. Speaker, for reasons I beg to be excused from serving on the Committee. I beg the House to excuse me for no reason which is wholly unconnected with the subject.

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being a member of this body I am anxious to conform to all its rules and its discipline. I would feel very unwilling to draw upon myself a rebuke or reprimand, particularly when I consider that I might take the nature of a member of this body I am anxious to conform to all its rules and its discipline.

Mr. JOHN COCHRANE (Dem., N. Y.) rose to address the House. He said: Mr. Speaker, I have listened with a great deal of regret to the application made by my friend from Florida (Mr. Hawkins) that he may be excused from serving on this Committee.

Mr. COCHRANE proceeded. God grant that all the members of the Committee on this great issue may be stamped with that manly and patriotic spirit which is the only one that can be trusted in this hour of our country's peril.

Mr. GARRETT (Dem., Va.) rose, and said—Mr. Speaker, in considering a matter of such great importance, that the deliberations of this House will be allowed to proceed without interruption, whether from this floor or from the galleries.

Mr. GARRETT continued, excitedly—I now move, as a matter of self-respect, and as due to the dignity of this House, that the galleries be cleared. [Hissing more general.]

Mr. COCHRANE, resuming—I deprecate, Sir, any interruption to the proceedings in the galleries or elsewhere, either of censure or applause. Yet, Sir, an excuse may be found probably in the greatness of the theme that occupies us, and which in its characteristic qualities appeals to the emotions and thrills the heart.

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and twenty-five cents, or less, per acre; or eighty cents per acre, to be paid in three installments, the first to be paid at the time of the purchase, and the balance in two equal installments.

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A WATER PANIC. BREAKING OF THE CROTON PIPES. LOWER RESERVOIR DRAINED. No Water Below Fourteenth Street. THE WHOLE CITY ON SHORT ALLOWANCE. OLD WELLS REOPENED. Precautions Against Fire. MANUFACTURES AND ENGINES STOPPED. Police and Fire Department all on Duty. RESULT OF MAYOR WOOD'S WEDDLING.

It is possible to do without run, although, from the amount sold in this city, a stranger might think otherwise; but the cutting off of water is a very different matter. There was some excitement at the reception of the Prince, much at the Presidential election, and considerable ever since accession, but such trifles are hardly a drop in the bucket to that yesterday morning when the city found itself without water enough to wash its face.

DISCOVERY OF THE BREAK. At about 9 o'clock on Wednesday night, one of the policemen belonging to the Central Park force observed a stream of water, which he described as "about the size of a barrel," issuing from the bottom of an embankment near the Transverse Bridge in the Central Park, about 300 feet north of the Old Arsenal, and the same distance west of Fifth avenue.

HOW THE BREAK WAS CAUSED. The disaster was probably caused by water from the leakage above percolating along the pipes, and loosening the foundation upon which they rested, which is alternate rock and swamp, when, of course, in consequence of the great pressure from above a strong tension was produced on that portion of the pipes crossing from the ridge of one ledge to that of another, until finally they gave way.

WHEN THE REPAIRS WILL BE DONE. It is uncertain how long it will take to put the mains in operation again, from the fact that it cannot be determined with exactness where the breakage exists. Should it be found directly beneath where the excavation is now being made, repairs sufficient to allow the passage of water through the pipes might be made in the course of a few hours from the time they are reached.

THE GREAT SUPPLY MAINS. The two 36-inch mains disabled for use are the principal conduits by which the city is supplied with water. Two 30-inch pipes, one in Third avenue, the other in Eighth avenue, now furnish the only sources left to supply Croton, and there is in consequence great inconvenience experienced, from the limited amount they are capable of delivering.

PLENTY OF WATER—ABOVE THE BREAK. The draft on the upper reservoir has been more than made up, and it has been found necessary to open some of the waste gates at High Bridge to prevent an overflow. Had the Chief Engineer shut off the water at the Croton lake on Tuesday, as was contemplated, for the purpose of making the annual inspection of the aqueduct, which would have occupied three days, the calamity would have been still greater than it is.

THE CASE OF MORRIS.—The jury in the case of Morris' late night about 12 o'clock brought in a verdict of guilty of manslaughter in the first degree.

THE CHIEF ENGINEER has sent men out with orders to shut off the water from factories, as well as to strip all the hydrants from which vessels get their supply. The following notice was also served: Croton Aqueduct Department, Dec. 7, 1860. To Consumers of Croton Water for Manufacturing Purposes and Shippers: You are hereby notified to use no water for the above purposes until the further notice of the Board.

WHERE WE MUST GET WATER NOW. Various expedients have been adopted to meet the emergency; the meager drippings from roofs have been hoarded with painstaking economy, and the water of such wells as have not been filled in was sought eagerly. Most of the large manufacturing establishments employing a team-work get their supplies of water from Brooklyn, the Mayor of that city allowing it to be freely taken from any premises where the owners thereof make no objection.

ARTESIAN WELLS. Attention is being drawn to various large wells in the city. Several sugar refineries have Artesian wells, which have been constructed to save Croton rents. Those who have had occasion to cross the ferry to Hoboken from Canal street must have noticed the strong odor arising from the stream flowing from the refinery near by, which is owing to the peculiar chemical qualities of the water from an Artesian well.

LOOK OUT FOR FIRE. The greatest apprehension is felt in regard to fires, against which no ample provision can be made for the central portion of the City. Too great a precaution cannot be taken for their prevention, as should one get headway the consequences might be most disastrous than ever before experienced. Last night the whole Police force was ordered to be on hand in case of fire.

HELP FROM JERSEY CITY. Last evening Chief Engineer Decker of New York applied to Chief Engineer French of Jersey City for aid in case a serious fire should break out which the supply of Croton water is cut off. The Chief Engineer of Jersey City has a large stock of engines in the city, and is ready to send them to New York at once should their services be required.

THE VETERANS OF DUTY. The following notice has been served on all the men interested: No Croton Water—Exempt Engine Company.—Members must be ready at every alarm of fire, until further notice. J. G. Storz has steam on ready for duty. By order. J. V. WATKINS, Jr., Secretary.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS. The Aldermen last night advised the reopening of the old wells, and that suction pipes be attached to fire engines so that they could draw up the water. All the Fire Companies, with praiseworthy zeal, propose to be on duty night and day until the water is restored. The Insurance Companies have largely increased their watch, and the police are to be doubly attentive to stray smokes and suspicious lights.

REPUBLICAN CLUB.—An extra meeting of the Club was held last night at its new quarters, No. 814 Broadway. President Draper in the chair. Communications were received from the Eighth Assembly District stating that a permanent organization had been effected, and sending the following delegates to the Club: J. F. Freeborn, Jas. S. Hinckman, E. McGowan, E. Soper, and J. Spear.