PACIFIC MAIL CORRUPTION

THE CASE OF R. B. IRWIN.

A PETITION FOR A MORE COMFORTABLE PRISON REFUSED—THE WHEREABOUTS OF EX-POSTMASTER KING.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Mr. R. B. Irwin, the witness whom the House ordered yesterday to be committed to the common jail, sent a petition to Congress this morning, asking that, in consideration of his bad health and the consequent danger which close confinement in such a place would subject him to, some other place be designated. Gen. Butler, who was absent when the question came up yesterday, made a strong plea in favor of granting the petition, and was supported by Mr. Eldredge. Two plans were suggested for the disposition of the petition, one by Mr. Butler, who proposed to refer it to the Committee on Ways and Means, and the other, by Mr. Tremain, who moved to lay it on the table. The latter motion prevailed, although a great number of representatives voted in the negative who had no desire to grant the petition, but simply wished to treat it with a little more respect by referring it to a Committee. Mr. Irwin has not yet been removed to his new quarters in the jail. Mr. Ordway, the Sergeant-at-Arms, has secured the room in which Gen. Sickles was confined many years ago and an adjoining one for the Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms, in whose custody Irwin will be. These are in the second story of the jail on the south side. The necessary articles of furniture will be furnished at the expense of the United States, and Mr. Irwin himself will add such articles as will make his stay there as comfortable as it can be under the circumstances.

The Sergeant-at-Arms is unable to hear anything from ex-Postmaster of the House King. The report that he was in Buffalo within a few days is generally credited, and it is suspected that he was on his way to Canada for the purpose of purchasing blooded stock for his farm near Minneapolis.

THE STOCKWELL-ROACH TRANSACTIONS.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION IN THE SHAPE OF A CANCELLED CHECK FOR $200,000—HOW A DEFICIENCY WAS COVERED UP—MR. IRWIN COMMENTS ON THE COURSE BY THE COMMITTEE—THE DIRECTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR STOCKWELL'S ACTIONS—DENIALS MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SAVING THE SUBSIDY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The Ways and Means Committee has received within a few days, but has not yet put in evidence, some further important information in regard to the $200,000 for which Stockwell originally gave a check to John Roach, which was so long "floating about" among the accounts of the Company, and which the testimony thus far taken seems to show was either stolen by Stockwell or used by him here. The information referred to is in the form of a canceled check from Lockwood to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company for $200,000, for which that Company received a credit in their accounts at the Bank of Commerce. The history of this transaction is therefore this: Stockwell gave John Roach a check of the Company for $200,000; Roach gave Lockwood a check for a like amount, and Lockwood returned his check for the same sum to the Company, the object of the whole transaction being to make iron steamers Nos. 5 and 6 appear to cost $100,000 each more than they really did, and thus cover up some other deficiency.

Irwin says this evening in regard to the $100,000 which, by Abert's testimony has been traced to his (Irwin's) hands, that this evidence only forms a circle bringing the Committee back to the point where they started. He originally held in his possession, as agent of the Company $150,000, and when they find $100,000 there it proves nothing. But in regard to that $100,000 he is willing to go before the Committee and account for it fully and satisfactorily as soon as the Committee are ready to hear him. He also complains that the Committee take no measures to get at the best kind of evidence which can be obtained and that is documentary. For instance, the Committee think that the testimony taken in New-York proves that he received from the Company $140,000 before the payment of the $750,000; but he says he never received that sum, and he has asked the Committee in writing to send for the canceled checks for the period from Jan. 1 to May 23, 1872, and then they can see just how much money he did receive and what indorsements are on the backs of those checks. Again, he says that the Committee could get a great deal of useful information from the minute books of the Company, for which they issued a subpena *duces tecum* once, but which Rufus Hatch prevented from being brought. The Committee should also get the contract with John Roach, made by the present directors, by which he agreed to come here and save the subsidy. The minute books, Irwin says, would show that the present directory ratified all that Stockwell ever did, and are responsible for it, and that their successive accusations, first, that he (Irwin) stole the $750,000; second, that he and Stockwell lost it in stock speculations; and, finally, that if the money was actually spent in Washington the present directory are in no way responsible are all made for the purpose of saving the subsidy.

THE CONGRESSIONAL EXAMINATION.

CHARLES ABERT, IRWIN'S COUNSEL, AGAIN ON THE WITNESS STAND—HE OBJECTS ON LEGAL GROUNDS TO TELL TO WHOM HE PAID MONEY BY IRWIN'S DIRECTION—HE IS EXCUSED TILL SATURDAY—CHECKS PAID TO REPRESENTATIVE SCHUMAKER IDENTIFIED—MR. PARSONS TO MAKE A STATEMENT TO-DAY.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Mr. Charles Abert, the counsel and agent of Richard B. Irwin in his subsidy enterprise, appeared again this morning before the Committee of Ways and Means, when the following proceedings took place:

The Chairman—We left off in the examination yesterday at the question whether you would give us the names of the persons to whom you paid the money received from Mr. Irwin. I will repeat the question.

Witness—Before proceeding with that branch of my testimony I desire to submit to the Committee the opinion of Mr. Reverdy Johnson. I have said that had my examination preceded that of Mr. Irwin I should have felt no hesitancy in answering the question of the Committee as to whom, under Mr. Irwin's direction, I, as his attorney, paid certain sums of money intrusted to me by him for the purpose. As now advised, it appears that I would thus unknowingly have violated my duty as counsel or attorney. I have said that I felt a hesitancy in stating to whom the payments were made by me, from the fact that Mr. Irwin had declined to answer to whom he made payments, and I say that he did not direct me to pay any sum or sums to any member of either House of Congress; neither did I do so, nor did I pay any person with the knowledge, understanding, or agreement that any sum or sums were to be so paid. Mr. Irwin has not forbidden me to name, nor requested me not to name, the persons to whom he directed me to make payments, but having requested him to give his consent under the apprehension that with it I might answer fully as desired, he has addressed me the following letter:

WORRIKER'S HOTEL, WASHINGTON, Jan. 5, 1875.

CHARLES ABERT, esq.:

MY DEAR SIR: I have carefully reflected upon your request that I would release you from your obligations as my counsel, so as to enable you to answer any and all questions that may be put to you by the Committee on Ways and Means. I find myself still unable to express such consent. Indeed, I doubt whether any act on of mine can change those relations. I can only repeat that I most leave me the decision of the question to your conscience, your own sense of duty, and your own knowledge of the relative rights and obligations of client and counsel. I cannot believe that any counsel has a right, under any circumstances, to give up the confidence of his client. As this is a matter of great importance to you as your decision may bring you in contact with the physical power of the House of Representatives, as it involves a question of the highest professional ethics, and as it may affect your whole future career one way or the other, whatever you decide, allow me to go a step farther and most earnestly and respectfully advise you, for your own sake, and in order that your course may command the continued confidence of your clients and your professional brethren, that before definitely deciding, you consult the highest authority in your profession now available. Should you act either way, under the advice of the Hon. Reverdy Johnson or the Hon. J. S. Black, or any lawyer of a similar standing, I should feel that you had a protection against criticism from whatever quarter, and should any lawyer of the standing of these gentlemen advise you to answer all the questions of the Committee I, for one, would feel that you had exhausted your duty so far as I am concerned. Personally, as you are aware, I should be glad to release you unconditionally, knowing that your evidence could only confirm mine. Very respectfully,

RICHARD B. IRWIN.

It was in consequence of this letter that I wrote to the Hon. Reverdy Johnson as follows, he being personally well known to me for many years:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 5, 1875.

The Hon. REVERDY JOHNSON, *Baltimore.*

DEAR SIR: I am summoned to testify before the Committee of the House of representatives now investigating the Pacific Mail subsidy question, and must appear to-morrow. I was of counsel for R. B. Irwin, who had control of the interests of the Company before Congress during the session of 1871-'72. I was directed, in the course of my employment by him, to make payments to certain persons not members of Congress of either House, for their aid and counsel in the matter. I desire to have your opinion whether, under my obligations as counsel, I have the right to give the names of those persons if called on to do so by the Committee. In the course of my examination is it consistent with the relative rights and duties of client and counsel to answer such questions? Please give me your opinion fully on the principle involved. Very respectfully,

C. ABERT.

Here is Mr. Johnson's reply:

BALTIMORE, Jan. 6, 1875.

TO CHARLES ABERT, esq., *Washington.*

DEAR SIR: Your letter of yesterday is received. If you were employed by Mr. Irwin as counsel and in that capacity were directed by him to expend other persons and to pay them out of the funds placed in your hands for the purpose, you cannot legally or morally, without his consent, disclose their names. You tell me, and from my knowledge of you I am sure it is so, that you made no payment to any member of Congress. Yours, with regard, REVERDY JOHNSON.

The witness here quoted from a ruling in the Committee on Banking and Currency in the Ocean National Bank investigation, which he regarded as sustaining his views, and said, from the indicated opinion of the Chairman, Mr. Maynard, his views seem fully to accord with the opinion of Mr. Reverdy Johnson, already given. Where a difference in the course of action on the same point by two Committees of the House occurs both courses cannot be right, and in my opinion the House itself should decide which is right. There is a recognized difference between the position of Mr. Irwin and myself before this Committee, in that he was an officer or agent of the Pacific Mail Company, and I was an attorney and counselor employed by him.

Communications made on the faith of that professional confidence which a client reposes in his counsel, attorney, or solicitor, are not allowed to be revealed in a court of justice.—[Phillips on Evidence, Vol. 1, Page 162.

With respect to the character and situation of the persons receiving the communications, it is to be observed that this professional privilege extends to the three classes of counsel, attorney, and solicitor. (Page 163.) Therefore, in the payments made by me, as the attorney of Mr. Irwin, am I not debarred from testifying, especially when, on applying to my client to be allowed to testify on this point, he declines to give his consent? Phillips says:

An attorney is not to be allowed, against his client's will, to disclose matters of professional confidence though he himself is willing to do so. (Page 163.)

In the Ocean Bank investigation case, already referred to, the witness was not allowed to answer the question as to whether he knew of any illegal or improper conduct in the management of the affairs of the bank on his (Mr. Davis') part, or on the part of any other official in any way connected with the bank, because what the witness knew came from Mr. Davis himself. Having exhibited to this committee an opposite course of action pursued by it from that adopted by the Committee on Banking and Currency on the question of professional confidence, I respectfully contend that the House alone can decide which is the right course; and, therefore, before answering the pending interrogatory of this committee, I ask that the committee will obtain the decision of the House on this point as applicable to my case.

The Chairman—I will not ask you just now to divulge any communication made to you by Mr. Irwin; but I will ask you to testify to matters of your own acts, without any regard to any communications. I therefore put the question to you, To whom did you pay this money?

Witness—It strikes me that that is the very question at issue. I made the payments voluntarily. I made them under the direction of Mr. Irwin.

The Chairman—About communications between counsel and his client, the courts say that these communications are confidential, but I never heard of a court saying that a man can conceal his own acts because his client told him to do them. I ask you now about your own acts.

Mr. Niblack—I desire to call the attention of the witness to the distinction that exists between communications made by a client to his attorney and disbursements made by the attorney, simply as an agent. In other words, the duties of counsel do not, as a rule, extend to business of that sort, but simply to advice and general direction.

The Chairman to Witness—Do you hold, as a matter of law, that this Committee is not entitled to hear any communications made to you by Mr. Irwin, if both you and Mr. Irwin consent to it? That seems to be the doctrine laid down by the Committee on Banking and Currency in the case to which you have referred?

Witness—No, Sir; the difficulty in this case is, that Mr. Irwin himself declined to answer. If Mr. Irwin had not declined to answer, I should not have considered this a privileged question at all.

Mr. Beck—Let me make a suggestion to Mr. Abert. Mr. Johnson says, in his letter, that if you were employed by Mr. Irwin as counsel, and in that capacity were directed by him to employ other persons, and to pay them out of funds put to your hands for the purpose, you cannot legally or morally, without his consent, disclose their names. You recollect that you said to us yesterday that the payments were made by you to men whom you had never seen before or since in many cases. Does it not occur to you that where payments were made by you to men whom you never saw before nor approach the question at all?

Witness—It is not a question of employment by me, certainly.

The Chairman—Nobody is more desirous than I am himself to guard jealously the rights of a client in the hands of his counsel. They are considered by the profession the most sacred of its obligations, and I for one would not knowingly trench upon those rights. We desire to get at certain acts of yours which we believe we are entitled to without hazard to the discussion of this question. As Mr. Nicholas has said, these acts of disbursement by you cannot, under any construction, be considered as confidential communications between client and counsel.

Mr. Kasson—In the very nature of things the party to whom the money is paid is as well aware of the fact as the client himself, and therefore it cannot be a personal secret. I hold further that universal law requires a counsel in a case in court to testify to a payment which he has made to another party by direction of his client or not, if that question arises.

Mr. Niblack—Under the law of my State, a physician is prohibited from disclosing communications made to him by his patients, but that prohibition would not prevent him, if called upon in a proper way, from communicating the fact what medicine he gave to his patient.

Mr. Kasson—Or if a suit was brought by the apothecary who sold the medicine and he should put the physician on the stand, the physician would be compelled to testify that he ordered the medicine.

Mr. Niblack—Or take the case of a priest. He may properly refuse to tell what a dying man communicated to him, but that would not protect him from disclosing to the court what became of the money of the dying man that came into his possession, if that became a material question.

The Chairman—He might be shielded from saying what the dying man told him, but not from stating what he did with the money.

Mr. Beck—The question here does not raise at all the question between attorney and client. We are investigating now what corrupt means have been used to obtain legislation by Congress. Mr. Irwin is in no sense a party to that matter. He is a witness, and this man is a witness, and they cannot constitute the relations of client and attorney in covering up payments made for corrupt purposes. As we are endeavoring to get at the bottom of the question whether corrupt means were used or not, the relations of client and attorney cannot exist in the matter. Congress does not recognize any such taint. It is against public morality for men to come here attempting to influence legislation, and spending money for that purpose. Whether Mr. Irwin employed counsel or not, he could not constitute a relation which would keep Congress from getting at the facts. I therefore go away beyond all this question of attorney and client.

Mr. Wood—You express my sentiments exactly.

Mr. Kelley—And I concur entirely.

The Chairman—I do not doubt a word of what Mr. Beck has said that this matter is distinguishable from the relations of attorney and client.

The Witness—I would state that I only want to clear my professional honor and my honor as a man, who, up to 52 years of age, has passed through life with his character untarnished. I therefore ask that you will decide the question which I have submitted, and that then you will allow me until Saturday morning to decide fully on my position. I have been suffering from chronic ozena, which has weakened me very much, and I should like to have rest until Saturday morning. I would feel in a different position if I had the decision of the House. I want to feel fully fortified in the matter.

Mr. Beck—Will you abide by the decision of the House?

Witness—Do you mean by that that if the House decides I shall answer I will answer?

Mr. Beck—Yes.

Witness—I cannot say yes or no to that.

After a short consultation the request of the witness was complied with, and he was excused until Saturday morning.

Messrs. Schumaker and Parsons were not examined to-day, owing to the slowness of the Committee. They are promised for to-morrow. Mr. Riggs and Mr. Cooke, the bankers, on whom the $150,000 in checks payable to Schumaker were drawn, were examined briefly for the purpose of identifying the checks.

PROGRESS OF WORK ON THE CENTENNIAL BUILDING.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 7.—Work on the Memorial Hall of the Centennial Building is pushed with great rapidity. At the main entrance granite has been placed in position to the hight of 20 feet, while in other portions of the building the stone has reached an average of about five feet. The portion of the stone designed for the facing of the pavilions has been laid. The brick work is also far advanced, and the interior walls are nearly to the contemplated hight. The center hall of the main exhibition building will be a grand feature in the general design. The sides will be formed with open arcades, heavy pilasters with projecting columns being supports to the dome. This portion has reached nearly its full hight, and will soon be under a temporary roof, in order that the interior work can be prosecuted during the Winter. The artist who is engaged to cast the figures which are to ornament the dome has been accommodated with a building upon the ground, and a furnace for his use is in the course of construction. Some of the figures are of colossal size, and will be cast of zinc metal. The models and molds are now being prepared. The iron columns and girders are being prepared for the exhibition pavilion, the foundations of which are now completed. It is expected that the contractor will have the building completed at least six months before the contract time shall have expired.

A BRUTAL WIFE MURDER.

NEWTON, N. J., Dec. 7.—John Hughs, a laborer, residing at Ogden-burg, Sussex County, committed a brutal murder about noon to-day, by chopping his wife's head with an ax. After striking her five blows he left her, fired the house to cover his crime, and locked the door. Two men happening to pass a few moments afterward and seeing smoke issue from the windows, burst open the door and discovered Mrs. Hughs reclining in an arm-chair with her head hanging back. Hughs was arrested and taken to Newton Jail. He is about 45 years old, a desperate character, and a most repulsive-looking specimen of humanity. He has several times before been in jail for beating his wife.

BRUTAL LYNCHING IN KANSAS.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 7.—A *Republican* special from Topeka, Kan., states that Joseph B. North, alias Buffalo Joe, who murdered George Jones on Christmas evening a year ago, was hanged to a telegraph-pole by a mob on the night of the 30th at Wallace, Kan. The knot of the rope with which he was hanged caught under the chin and did not choke him. He hung this way for a long time talking to the mob, imploring them to release him, but received only jeers in return. He did not die for over two hours and finally froze to death. The Sheriff of Elis County is after the mob and the leaders will soon be captured.

GENERAL POLITICAL NEWS.

THE PENNSYLVANIA SENATORIAL FIGHT.

A GENERAL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE—THE NOMINATION OF A SENATOR POSTPONED TILL NEXT THURSDAY—THE CHANCES IN FAVOR OF MR. WALLACE.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

HARRISBURG, Jan. 7.—A joint caucus of the Democratic members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Pennsylvania Legislature was held this afternoon in relation to the nomination of a candidate for United States Senator, to take the place of Senator Scott. The proceedings throughout were very harmonious. Senator Playford of Fayette County occupied the chair. Mr. Parker of Mifflin County, in a short speech, congratulated the Democrats upon the fact that for the first time in many years they had the chance to elect a United States Senator. He then proposed a resolution that the caucus proceed to the nomination of a candidate. Senator Ermentrout of Berks objected to haste in the matter, and asked leave to read a protest against any hasty proceeding. At the time he was ruled out of order. Mr. Talley of Delaware County also thought it was better to postpone the nomination for the present. Mr. Parker of Mifflin then explained that his resolution only meant that there should be a fair interchange of opinion. He did not intend to force the matter, nor did he desire that it should be forced. If the caucus deemed it best to postpone the question he was willing. He then withdrew his resolution. Mr. Talley of Delaware thereupon proposed a resolution that another caucus be held on Tuesday next at 3 o'clock, but after some discussion withdrew it in order to allow the reading of the protest referred to. This protest was signed by some 30 members and Senators. It pronounced against any nomination being made at once, and alluded to the fact that the last nomination of a candidate for United States Senator was made on the eve of the day upon which the election was held. It called upon the Democrats to stand by a time-honored usage of the party. It proposed, in conclusion, that the nomination should be made in caucus on the evening of the 18th inst., as the election was to take place in joint convention of the two Houses on the 19th inst.

A resolution was then offered to hold the caucus on the night of the 18th. Mr. Lambick of Franklin County was opposed to this resolution. He said two months had elapsed since it became known that the Democrats would have a majority in the House, and that there had been ample time to find out the wishes of the Democratic constituencies in the matter. The subject had been fully discussed throughout the State. The merits and demerits of all the candidates proposed were known. While he was opposed to nominating the candidate today, still he was not in favor of a postponement until the date indicated in the resolution. Senator Wallace of Clearfield followed. He said that haste was unnecessary, and that he preferred the caucus should be postponed to some future day in order to allow everybody a fair chance. Senator Chalfant of Monroe knew that when the nomination was made it would be heartily approved and supported by all the Democratic members, no matter whom they might have preferred to the caucus nominee. The resolution to hold the nominating caucus on the evening of the 18 n inst. was then voted upon and lost. Mr. Talley of Delaware then again introduced his resolution to hold a caucus on the afternoon of Tuesday next. Mr. Erwin of Allegheny moved an amendment that the caucus be held on the evening of Thursday next. This was agreed to, and the resolution, as amended, was adopted. Mr. Fincher of Luzerne offered a resolution that the candidate for United States senator should receive the votes of a majority of all the Democratic members elected to the House and the Senate before he should be declared the nominee of the party. This resolution was agreed to, and the caucus then adjourned.

No candidates were mentioned in the caucus, but the result of it is considered favorable to the chances of Senator Wallace. The eighty odd members who signed the call for the caucus are said to be all Wallace men. If this be so he will have a clear majority in the caucus when he is proposed as a candidate. Heister Clymer is the second favorite; then Judge Black; then Mr. Buckalew. There are no indications whatever that any members will bolt the caucus nomination.

GOV. GASTON'S MESSAGE.

ENCROACHMENTS OF FEDERAL POWER ON STATE RIGHTS CONDEMNED—THE STATE FINANCES IN A SATISFACTORY CONDITION—REPEAL OF THE PROHIBITORY LAW URGED—STATE RAILROAD INTERESTS.

BOSTON, Jan. 7.—Gov. Gaston's message is a long one. At the outset National affairs are considered, a currency liable to inflation is condemned, and the encroachment of Federal power on the rights of States is strongly pronounced against. He urges the abolishing of sectional animosity and a return to amicable relations as the only guarantee for the peace and prosperity of the nation at large.

The present funded debt of the State is classified as follows:

Railroad loans	$14,971,016
War loans	12,936,188
Ordinary loans	1,568,000
Total	$29,465,204

The Sinking Fund created for its redemption amounts to nearly $11,000,000, so that the net debt is less than $19,000,000. While this exhibit is reassuring, he urges strict economy in legislation. The expenditures and payments from the revenue of the present year are estimated at $3,214,550; and the ordinary revenue of the year is estimated at $3,568,983 55, from which it is evident that a State tax of $2,225,000 will be requisite. The State has expended over $600,000 for charitable institutions; and he favors the creation of public institutions for the poor and insane in addition to those now existing. He questions the policy of erecting a new State prison. He favors the employment of women and children in the factories and urges a proper provision for the education of the latter. He commends the efficiency of the militia, which he places at 6,612 enlisted men.

The Prohibitory law is discussed at length. He says the problem is not an easy one to solve, a high moral cause having been dragged from the house of its friends and thrown into the arena of party strife. While legislation, to some extent, may aid it, it is a fatal mistake to rely upon law as the sole agency for promoting temperance. Low only sustains the appeals to the moral sense and judgment of people, but it cannot in itself prove effectual. For more than 20 years the people have waited for predicted blessings that were to result from a prohibitory law. To-day public sentiment demands the repeal of the law. The people do not desire this repeal because their zeal in the cause of temperance is less than it was 20 years ago, but because they believe that the law has signally failed to accomplish the great and beneficent purposes for which it was enacted, and that it has tended to corrupt the administration of law in the State. Notwithstanding decided opinions as to the general character of the legislation best adapted to accomplish the reform, he doubts if it was within his province to seem to dictate the details of legislation on this subject. He recommends, however, the repeal of the existing prohibitory law, and the enactment of a law in its stead which shall place the sale of intoxicating liquors in responsible hands, and shall surround such sale with the strongest practicable limitations and safeguards; also the repeal of the Constabulary law, and in its place the enactment of a law creating and providing for a police force in the nature of a detective force.

He commends the repealing of the amendments to the Constitution which require the Legislature to prescribe by general laws for the election of sheriffs, registers of probate, commissioners of insolvency, clerks of courts, and district-attorneys by the people.

There has been no diminution in the aggregate of business done by existing railroads, and only a comparatively small diminution of receipts. The receipts of the roads for last year were $34,652,483; those of the year preceding were $34,930,527. Referring to the Hoosac Tunnel and its availability, he says it should be the policy of the State to connect the tunnel and the railroad which belongs to it with other important railroads, and make the property owned by the State a part of the through line. He commends the action of the last Assembly in passing the act creating the Boston, Hoosac Tunnel, and Western Railroad Company to the present Legislature. The total payments to contractors on account of the tunnel in places at $12,973,822 31. He commends the Centennial celebration to the people, and closes his message by speaking a good word in favor of short sessions of the Legislature, arguing that this year presents unusual opportunities and inducements for abbreviating its length.

MESSAGE OF GOV. DINGLEY OF MAINE.

DECREASE IN THE STATE DEBT—THE ELIGIBILITY OF WOMAN TO OFFICE FAVORED.

AUGUSTA, Me., Jan. 7.—Gov. Dingley was inaugurated to-day. His message places the receipts of the State during the past year at $1,853,904, and disbursements, $1,537,719. Of this amount $714,426 was on account of the war debt, and $407,477 on account of schools. The ordinary expenditures, therefore, during the past year have been $320,694,101, a little less than one and a half mills on the dollar of State valuation. The debt is now, after deducting sinking funds, $5,561,076, a reduction of $321,375 during the past year. In ten years nearly $1,000,000 have been paid by the people of Maine on account of the State debt, nearly $3,000,000 being paid for the reduction of the principal, and $4,000,000 on account of interest. Should the present rate of taxation be continued, the remainder of this debt will be extinguished in 15 years. The Governor favors equalization of taxation on railroads, banks, and corporations, so that all expenditures may be met without assessing a dollar on the towns and cities. He urges the enforcement of the collection of taxes from delinquent railroads, $90,000 remaining unpaid out of $105,069 assessed last year, and favors the increase of the license fees of insurance companies doing business in the State. If these suggestions are enforced, a State tax of 3½ mills on the dollar, instead of 4, would be sufficient to meet all the State expenditures. He suggests that the divorce laws be reformed, the adoption of an enabling act recognizing the eligibility of women to office, and a revision of the State Constitution. The educational affairs of the State are in a most prosperous condition. He deplores the fact that the trustees of savings institutions have thought it necessary or advisable to invest out of the State eleven and a half million dollars, or more than one-third of the deposits of the people of Maine—capital which is needed at home for the development of the abundant resources of the State.

[NOTE.—The apparent discrepancy in figures in the above is explained by the fact that $95,122 in expenditures is covered by special and exceptional appropriations, not ordinary expenses. The body of the message did not account for this.]

SENATOR CHANDLER RENOMINATED.

LANSING, Mich., Jan. 7.—At the caucus of Republican Senators and Representatives to-night 57 were present. An informal ballot for a candidate for the United States Senate was taken, with the following result: Chandler, 52; J. Webster Childs, 3; Gov. Bagley, 1; Judge Campbell, 1. Chandler's nomination was made unanimous by a rising vote. The election takes place on the 19th inst. There is little doubt of Chandler's election.

POLITICAL REORGANIZATION.

THE TAMMANY AND LIBERAL REPUBLICAN GENERAL COMMITTEES.

The new Tammany Hall General Committee for the year 1875 met last evening in Tammany Hall for the purpose of organization. A call of the roll of the various delegations showed that there were contesting delegations from the Ist, IId, IIId, VIIth, VIIIth, XVIIth, and XXIst Districts, and from the Twenty-third Ward. Henry L. Clinton offered a resolution that a committee, consisting of two delegates from each of the districts where there was no contest, be selected to constitute a Committee on Contested Seats and temporary Committee on Organization, to whom the protests should be sent. The Committee will meet on Saturday at 4 p. m., and decide upon the merits of the contesting delegations. This was adopted, and the following Committee appointed:

Fourth District—J. C. Keating, Bernard Ryan. Fifth District—Henry Hughes, Henry A. Gumbleton. Sixth District—T. J. Campbell, J. Jay H. Hughes. Ninth District—George W. Wentz, Edward Gibbons. Tenth District—Owen Murphy, John Zahn. Eleventh District—John Morrissey, John R. Fellows. Twelfth District—Patrick Keenan, Henry Wellman. Thirteenth District—William Lamb, Patrick Gilbert. Fourteenth District—Peter O'Rourke, Thomas Sullivan. Fifteenth District—W. T. Kane, Michael Fitzsimmons. Sixteenth District—Edward Cooper, M. J. Power. Eighteenth District—John Kelly, Edward Kearney. Nineteenth District—Thomas O'Callaghan, A. T. Smith. Twentieth District—William C. Connor, T. J. O'Donohue. Twenty-fourth Ward—H. C. Purroy, Frederick Bahe.

John Kelly offered a protest against the interference of the Federal authorities in Louisiana legislation and the action of Lieut.-Gen. Sheridan. Tals will be found in another column. The Committee then adjourned subject to the call of the temporary Chairman.

The Liberal Republican General Committee met to organize last night at their headquarters in Fourth-ave. Congressman Benjamin A. Willis was called to the chair, upon assuming which he made a brief address, referring to the Louisiana question, finance, and Municipal Government. The election of officers then took place, and the following were chosen by acclamation, Mr. Pullman being the only one of the old officers who was retained: President, Marvin Fraleigh; First Vice-President, Horatio N. Twombley; Second Vice-President, Robert L. Dorlach; Treasurer, Christopher Pullman; Recording Secretary, Asher Barnett; Corresponding Secretary, James A. Colvin.

A heated discussion took place over the names of the delegates from the XVIth Assembly District, which resulted in the matter being referred to a committee of five. Two seats in the Committee were claimed by two sets of delegates from the IXth District, and the matter was also referred to a committee. The action of the Committee in reference to the Louisiana outrage is reported elsewhere.

THE INDIANA LEGISLATURE.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 7.—The Legislature met to-day. The Senate organized by a combination of Republicans and Independents. Of the principal officers, two Republicans and one Independent were chosen. In the House, the Hon. David Lurpie (Dem.) was elected Speaker by a strict party vote. The Independents have only 12 votes on joint ballot, thus giving the Democrats a clear majority of eight in joint convention. There are no new developments in Senatorial contest to-day, except a failure of the Independents to show that they hold the balance of power, as claimed heretofore.

THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE.

TALLAHASSEE, Jan. 7.—Several ballots were taken in the Senate to-day for President *pro tem.*, without any definite result. When the Assembly met, W. W. Hicks made a short and eloquent speech, counseling harmony and good feeling, and wound up by recommending T. Hannah (Dem.) of Wasahington County for Speaker. Mr. Hannah was elected Speaker on the first ballot, having received 27 Conservative and 3 Republican votes. He is the first Democrat elected Speaker of the House since 1866. Both Houses adjourned until noon to-morrow.

GOV. BAGLEY'S MESSAGE.

LANSING, Mich., Jan. 7.—Gov. Bagley read his message to the Legislature this morning. It is a long and important paper devoted entirely to State affairs, with the exception of a statement that an invitation has been received to participate in the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia. The financial exhibit is gratifying, faithfully fulfilling every requirement of the organic law, paying every obligation as it matures, providing in advance for every appropriation, creating no new debt, and renewing no old one.

SENATOR HAMLIN RENOMINATED.

BOSTON, Jan. 7.—The Republican Senatorial caucus at Augusta to-night nominated the Hon. Hannibal Hamlin on the first ballot, he receiving 78 of 116 votes cast. Israel Washburn received 18 and the remainder were scattering. Judge Peters, the most prominent candidate opposed to Mr. Hamlin, withdrew his name before the ballot.

THE ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE.

CHICAGO, Jan. 7.—An *Evening Journal* special from Springfield says the House met this morning at 10 o'clock and effected a permanent organization by the election of E. M. Haines of Cook County (Dem.) as Speaker. Up to latest advices no selection had been reached in the Senate for President.

THE RECENT ELECTION IN MINNESOTA.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 7.—The Legislature in joint Convention to-day counted the votes on the State ticket at the last election. The official Republican majority for Chief-Justice is 16,186.

THE NEVADA SENATORSHIP.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 7.—The Republican caucus of the Legislature of Nevada last night nominated Mr. Sharon for United States Senator. He has 46 votes pledged, and 38 only are necessary to a choice.

MEMPHIS MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

MEMPHIS, Jan. 7.—The municipal election passed off quietly to-day. The Democratic ticket was generally successful.

THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE.

OMAHA, Jan. 7.—The Nebraska Legislature convened at Lincoln to-day.

HOME NEWS.

THERMOMETER, YESTERDAY, AT HUDNUTS, IN BROADWAY. 6 a. m.—33° Noon—35° 3 p. m.—36° Midnight—33

PROMINENT ARRIVALS.

Fifth Avenue Hotel—Controller Nelson K. Hopkins and the Hon. B. R. Pierson of Albany, Judge George F. Comstock of Syracuse, and Judge Charles Wheaton of Poughkeepsie.... *Metropolitan Hotel*—Speaker Kenaith McGuire of Elmira, State Senator W. S. Dealhouse of Bangor, N. Y.; the Hon. DeWitt C. Littlejohn of Oswego, and D. C. Ellis, Superintendent of the New-York Bank Department.... *Hoffman House*—Baron de Boudiere of Paris.... *Everett House*—Prof. L. H. Atwater of Princeton College.... *St. Nicholas Hotel*—The Rev. Dr. W. C. Cattell, President of Lafayette College, and Judge A. E. Suffern of Haverstraw, N. Y.... *Westminster Hotel*—Alfred Wilkinson of Syracuse.... *New-York Hotel*—Gen. B. H. Robertson of Tennessee.

NEW-YORK CITY.

A meeting of the members of the Cotton Exchange has been called for Saturday noon to consider the ordinary clause of the by-laws as applied to contracts.

At the meeting of the VIth Assembly District Republican Association last evening the officers of the past year were reelected, and Executive and Patronage Committees appointed.

The new steamship City of Vera Cruz of the Havana line, P. Alexandre & Sons, will be open to the public for inspection to-day at Pier No. 3 N. R. The City of Vera Cruz will make her first trip to Havana on Saturday.

Charles Spring, fireman on the tug-boat Hennessey, who surrendered himself on Wednesday at the Central Police Office on the charge of having killed Peter Davis, another fireman on the same boat, was committed to the Tombs yesterday by Coroner Eickhoff to await an inquest, which will be held on Saturday.

The regular monthly meeting of the Master Coopers' Association was held at the Roberts Building in Water-st., yesterday. It was announced that Union No. 2 had ceased to have any control over its former members, and that the men were hired daily by the master coopers subject to the provision adopted for the protection of the interests of the trade. No further trouble was expected.

At the annual election for directors of the Long Branch and Sea Shore Railroad Company, held at the Company's office at Long Branch, N. J., on Wednesday, the following persons were elected directors: Jay Gould and G. P. Morosini of New-York, R. F. Stockton of New-Jersey, John H. Bacon, Jr., of New-York, Nehemiah Perry of New-Jersey, C. J. Trowbridge and John W. George of New-York.

Detective Richard King arrested James Williams, a "sneak doctor thief," yesterday at Canal and Elizabeth-sts., on a description furnished by Dr. James S. Carradine of No. 103 West Thirteenth-st. Dr. Carradine charged that Williams had called at his house on Dec. 16, and, asking "to see the doctor," the servant had shown him into his reception-room. While waiting, as the doctor charges, Williams collected $400 worth of property, and, watching his chance, ran off with it. Detective King said that Williams was an old offender, having before been arrested upon and convicted of a similar charge.

The Danes of this city held a meeting yesterday at the Germania Assembly Rooms, at which they organized a literary society. William Borgen called the meeting to order, and was subsequently elected President of the new society. Henry Brasra, Danish Consul in this port, and Gen. C. T. Christensen were elected Vice-Presidents. Father Bjerring of the Russian Church delivered an address upon the necessity of forming a Danish literary association. The Society will have a library and reading-room. One of the principal objects is to keep up the social and political intercourse among the Danes in this city.

The National Curling Club contest between the North and South of Scotland, which was announced to take place yesterday at the Central Park, was postponed for one week on account of the ice not being in a fit condition. A large number of the contest ants embracing members of the different clubs in the vicinity of this city, were on the grounds. The ice having been tested and found unsuitable, it was decided to play a "scrub game," more for the amusement of those who had come several miles to take part in the match than for any real enjoyment to be derived from the game itself.

The Produce Exchange managers have appointed as the Complaint Committee for January Messrs. Bostwick, Phelps, and Herrick. A meeting was held at noon yesterday of the naval store members of the Exchange to take action with reference to the death of E. S. Holdrew. Zephar Mills presided, and John Tarton was appointed Secretary. Suitable resolutions were adopted, and a copy of them ordered to be sent to his family. The members will attend the funeral. The members and those interested in the lighterage business met at 3 p. m. in the Managers' room to revise the rules governing the business.

John Merz, a German, age 45, died at the Ninety-ninth Street Reception Hospital yesterday from the effects of injuries received on Jan. 1. He presented himself on the evening of that day at the Twenty-second Precinct Station-house, and stated that he had been drinking in a beer saloon at Forty-second-st. and Ninth-ave., kept by Henry Vallenger, and that the latter quarreled with him, and threw him out of the doorway on the sidewalk. He had walked from the saloon to the station, and was sent in an ambulance to the Hospital, where it was discovered that he had received a compound dislocation of the ribs, and a fracture of the fibula. Vallenger is not under arrest.

An inquest was held yesterday by Coroner Woltman in the case of John Stewart of Greene County, who died from a blow received on Dec. 8 at the barroom, No. 215 West-st. The two men whom he charged in his ante-mortem statement with inflicting the wounds were found serving a sentence at Blackwell's Island for assault. When the case was last called on Warden Liscomb refused to let them go on the Coroner's warrant. A writ from the Supreme Court was obtained on Wednesday, and yesterday both men were present. The testimony was to the effect that one of the men, Edward McLaughlin, had inflicted the blows, the other, James Gore, being present only as a spectator. The j