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THE POSTSCRIPT CAMPAIGN.

A BEGINNING BY THE DEMOCRATS.

MASS MEETINGS CALLED IN INDIANA—ABRAM S. HEWITT ADDRESSES THE COUNTRY—SOUTHERN INVESTIGATIONS.

A number of Democrats met in Indiana yesterday and issued a call for mass meetings in all parts of the State. The existence of a war spirit was reported. Gov. Hendricks was present, but gave no opinion. Abram S. Hewitt issues an address assuming Tilden's election. Zachariah Chandler issues an address, in reply, declaring Hayes's election. The Southern investigations make slow progress. The Committee in Louisiana have called for certain campaign telegrams of Secretary Chandler. The Union League of America has taken action in regard to the campaign, but its nature is not disclosed.

ACTION OF THE RIVAL CAMPS.

MR. HEWITT'S FELICITATIONS.

NOTHING NOW EXCEPT FOR CONGRESS TO SAY MR. TILDEN IS PRESIDENT.

ROOMS OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, WASHINGTON, Dec. 13, 1876.

To the People of the United States:

The National Democratic Committee announce as the result of the Presidential election held on the 7th of November the election of Samuel J. Tilden of New-York as President and Thomas A. Hendricks of Indiana as Vice-President of the United States. We congratulate you on this victory for reform. It now only remains for the two Houses of Congress, in the performance of their duty on the second Wednesday of February next, to give effect to the will of the people thus expressed in the constitutional mode by a majority of the electoral votes, and confirmed by a majority of all the States as well as by an overwhelming majority of all the people of the United States. By order of the Executive Committee. ABRAM S. HEWITT, Chairman.

F. O. PRINCE, Secretary.

GOV. TILDEN'S ADVICE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The official announcement by the National Democratic Committee that Gov. Tilden has been elected President of the United States is the only address that will be issued at present, either by that committee or by the special caucus committee appointed for that purpose. The conclusion to postpone an appeal to the people to make their sentiments known through mass meetings or otherwise was in accordance with advice given by Gov. Tilden to Democrats who visited him on Saturday.

AN ADDRESS BY MR. CHANDLER.

HE DECLARES THAT GOV. HAYES IS FAIRLY ELECTED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—An address has to-night been issued by the Democratic Committee. It is the last desperate attempt to prop a failing cause. Gov. Hayes has been fairly elected by a clear majority of the electoral vote. There is no indication that any right-minded citizen has a doubt as to the result. The address of the Democratic Committee is an impudent and audacious attempt to prejudice and pervert the public judgment. Hayes and Wheeler are elected, and the will of the American people will be carried out and maintained.

Z. CHANDLER,
Chairman of Republican National Committee.

GOV. HAYES AND SOUTHERN MEN.

NO STEPS TAKEN TOWARD A TREATY—PARTY REORGANIZATION IN THE SOUTH DEMANDED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—All stories in circulation touching an understanding between Gov. Hayes and Mr. Lamar or other prominent Southern men in regard to the recognition of influential politicians from that section of the country by the Administration, provided Gov. Hayes is inaugurated President of the United States next March, may be finally set at rest. There is the very highest authority for the statement that no communications, either direct or indirect, on this or any other subject, have passed between the gentlemen named. Gov. Hayes has not sought to communicate with any Southern men on the subject, nor have any of the prominent Democrats from the South approached him in regard to it.

There is considerable talk in Washington among Gov. Hayes's friends in regard to his probable Southern policy after his inauguration, and there is a widespread belief that he will make an honest effort to reorganize the Republican party of the South on a much more respectable basis than the present.

MEETING OF INDIANA DEMOCRATS.

GOV. HENDRICKS PRESENT BUT NON-COMMITTAL—TALK OF WAR—AN ADDRESS CALLING FOR MASS MEETINGS.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 13.—The Democratic State Central Committee met here to-day, pursuant to the request of the Democratic electors, to consider the political situation. Quite a number of prominent politicians, including Gov. Hendricks and the State officers, were present, in addition to a representative from each Congressional District. Ex-Congressman Julian, who had been to Louisiana, being called upon, gave it as his opinion that the election in that State had been as quiet and as peaceable as the election in Indiana, and that Gov. Tilden carried that State overwhelmingly; he hoped the Democrats would have pluck enough to stand up for their rights now; he was satisfied we shall have no war.

Gov. Hendricks was called upon for his views, but the chairman reminded the meeting of the impropriety of one so personally interested speaking at this time.

The members gave the sentiment prevailing in their respective districts as follows:

Ist District—The people believe Tilden legally elected, and were disposed to see him through.

IId District—In favor of the inauguration of Tilden and Hendricks.

IIId District—Little excitement among the people, who, however, are convinced of Tilden's election, and are willing to follow their leaders.

IVth District—The people request the State Committee to demand the inauguration of Tilden, and favor a State convention.

Vth District—A State convention wanted, and a willingness expressed to meet the emergency, let it be what it may.

VIth District—Our people are in favor of seeing our man duly installed in office.

VIIIth District—Willing for a peaceable solution of this question, provided it results in the inauguration of Tilden.

IXth District—Great excitement according to Gen. Manson among the people, and some are inclined to go to extremes; Gen. Manson did not believe Democrats ought to talk about war; he did not think a minority of the United States would insist upon the inauguration of a President; he felt that there was certainly some way for a peaceable settlement; the people cannot afford a civil war; right is right, and he felt that the great and honest Republican party would see that right is carried out.

Xth District—The people of this district believe that Tilden should be inaugurated; they deprecate war-talk, although some of the working classes are strongly inclined that way.

XIth District—A certain element in this district is decidedly for war, but is looking to the action of this meeting, and particularly wants a State convention to decide upon a plan to be pursued. The feeling is: "We must have our rights; peaceably if we can, forcibly if necessary."

XIIth District—This district is determined that Tilden shall not be counted out. Submission now means submission for all time.

XIIIth District—The people of this district expect this committee to take the initial steps to secure the inauguration of Tilden.

A resolution was then adopted calling a convention of the people, regardless of their past political opinions, at each county seat on Dec. 23, to select and instruct delegates to assemble in State convention at Indianapolis on Jan. 8 to consider public affairs and to take such action as will secure a full execution of the Constitution and laws.

At 3 o'clock the committee presented the following address, which was adopted and copies ordered to be sent to the National and the several State Committees:

AN ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIANA: At a meeting of the Democratic Central Committee, held this day, it was unanimously resolved that meetings of the people of the several counties of the State be held at the county seats on Saturday, Dec. 23, for the purpose of considering the present condition of public affairs and of giving proper expression to their views, and for the further purpose of appointing delegates to a State Convention to be held at the City of Indianapolis on Monday, Jan. 8, 1877.

In calling upon the people to respond to the action of the committee it is proper to state the occasion which was deemed sufficient to authorize and require it. Samuel J. Tilden and Thomas A. Hendricks have been elected respectively to the office of President and Vice-President of the United States. This election has been in accordance with the Constitution and laws of our country, and by the expressed will of a majority exceeding one quarter of a million of the voters of the United States. This action was upon an issue distinctly made before the people of economy and reform in all the affairs of the Government. The maintenance of the Constitution and the laws, fair play and honesty, and the highest interests of the people demand that they shall be inaugurated in pursuance of their election. This is known not only to Democrats but to Republicans. All citizens who voted for them demand their inauguration as a right, and all who voted against them owe it as a duty. American honor requires it. The stability of our institutions demands it. There is now a combination very formidable and reckless to prevent the legal results of the election and to place men in the high offices who have not been elected to them, and thereby to defeat the changes and reforms which all classes of society and all of the great industrial and commercial interests of the country so much require. They have resorted to returning boards—party machinery heretofore unknown in National politics, powerless for good but pregnant with evil. They threaten to depart from the established usages in counting the electoral vote, by withholding from the people's representatives their constitutional prerogative of participating in the decision of all questions that may arise in the progress of the count, and by clothing one man with the power of allowing and of excluding votes, and thereby controlling the Presidential election.

The purposes of the dangerous conspiracy must be defeated. The right, as declared at the ballot-box, must be respected and maintained. As was said of Mr. Lincoln's election: "The people are strong enough to place him in his office." Our army must not be used to place either Governors or Presidents in office who have not been elected. The purpose of the aggressive and ambitious leaders which you must defeat is usurpation. It is revolution; its accomplishment will disturb the foundation of our institutions and endanger the cause of free government itself. We cannot maintain our institutions if the people allow their choice and will, as expressed in pursuance of law, to be defeated by fraud and force. The committee, therefore, call upon all the people, without respect to party, who make our country's welfare paramount to every other consideration; all who say that the vote of the people shall not be defeated by fraud, and all who stand by fair play and honesty, to meet at their county seats on the day above mentioned, and to make an expression of the popular judgment which cannot be disregarded, even by the most abandoned and reckless enemies of our institutions, and to appoint men as their delegates to the State Convention on the 8th day of next month, who will fearlessly and prudently make such declaration and take such action as will give our State her proper position and influence in maintaining constitutional government and the rights and liberties of our people.

Resolutions were adopted inviting the Hon. G. W. Julian to address the convention, particularly as to the action of the Returning Board in Louisiana, and inviting the Hon. D. W. Voorhees to present to the convention the legal status of the Presidential question. The committee then adjourned.

UNION LEAGUE IN SECRET SESSION.

PROCEEDINGS NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC—THE NEW OFFICERS.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 13.—The annual meeting of the National Council of the Union League of America was held to-day, quite a number of delegates being present from various States. Ex-Gov. W. A. Newell of New-Jersey was reëlected President; Thomas G. Baker of New-York and S. F. Gwinner of Pennsylvania, Secretaries; C. W. Godard of New-York and T. R. Rich of Maryland, Vice-Presidents, and W. V. Alexander of N. Y., Treasurer. Interesting addresses were made by Messrs. Mitchell and Hockley of Alabama, McAllister of Delaware, H. M. Turner of Georgia, Capt. C. W. Godard of New-York, and Gen. James A. Negley of Pennsylvania. Important action was taken on the political questions now agitating the country, the details of which were ordered to be kept secret.

LOUISIANA.

ACCESS TO THE RETURNS ALLOWED.

A CORPS OF EIGHT CLERKS APPOINTED TO TRANSCRIBE THEM—SUB-COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 13.—All the members of the Returning Board appeared before the House Committee to-day. Ex-Gov. Wells was the only one of them examined. He refused to testify about any matters which took place in the secret sessions of the board. He, however, said that no decisions as to the returns of any poll were made by the board except on evidence now on file among the records of the board. The board has agreed to allow the committee to have copies of returns and all evidence on file immediately. The committee has furnished funds and a corps of eight clerks, and the work of copying will begin to-morrow. The committee will therefore in a few days know the grounds upon which the board acted in rejecting the returns of certain polls.

The committee held a caucus last night and decided to divide into five sub-committees. Two sub-committees will remain in this city. One will go to Shreveport and the adjacent parish, another to Onachita and the country contiguous, and the remaining sub-committee will visit the Felicianas and the Parish of East Baton Rouge. These committees will begin their work as soon as the copies of the evidence on which the Returning Board acted are obtained. The Republicans at the Custom-house are actively preparing for the Senate Investigating Committee, and they assert that they will furnish some startling testimony.

The Chairman appointed the following sub-committees, to be located as follows:

At Shreveport, for adjoining parishes—Mead, Chairman (Dem., N. Y.), House (Dem., Tenn.), Danforth (Rep., Ohio).

At Monroe, for Ouachita and adjacent parishes—McMahon (Dem., Ohio), Chairman; Ross (Dem., N. J.), Crappo (Rep., Mass.)

For Baton Rouge and adjacent parishes—New (Dem., Ind.), Chairman; Beebe (Dem., N. Y.), Joice (Rep., Vt.)

For parishes adjacent to New-Orleans—Blackburn (Dem., Ky.), chairman; Phelps (Dem., Conn.), Hurlbut (Rep., Ill.)

General committee, with headquarters at New-Orleans—Morrison (Dem., Ill.), chairman; Jenks (Dem., Penn.), Townsend (Rep., Penn.)

The date of departure of the sub-committees is not yet decided. They will not leave, however, until copies of the Returning Board records have been obtained.

OVERAWING REPUBLICAN WITNESSES.

A PROTEST TO THE COMMITTEE BY REPUBLICAN COUNSEL—EX-GOV. WELLS REFUSES TO BE QUESTIONED.

NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 13.—Ex-Gov. Wells of the Returning Board was before the Congressional Committee to-day. He declined answering questions, and denied the authority of the committee to interrogate him as to Returning Board matters. Mr. Morrison said they would not press the questions. Mr. Wells stated that if the committee would employ eight clerks in addition to the clerical force of the board all the papers could soon be copied, and with them the committee would have all the information as to the votes cast in the State and the evidence which prompted the action of the Returning Board. The other members of the Returning Board were informed that they would be examined hereafter. Other witnesses were examined as to the late election, but nothing new or startling was developed. The Republican counsel this evening sent the following to the Investigating Committee:

NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 13, 1876.

The Hon. W. L. MORRISON, *M. C., Chairman of the Special Committee on Louisiana Affairs.*

SIR: The undersigned, of counsel for the Republican party in the investigation respecting Louisiana affairs now being conducted by your honorable committee, respectfully represent that, while due and convenient access and accommodation are obtained and seem to have been provided for the committee representing the Democratic party, no such accommodation has up to the present time been afforded to them.

The sessions of the committee being held in one of the parlors of a public hotel, a place of general resort, all the avenues leading to the committee room are constantly thronged by persons whose conduct toward witnesses of the Republican party is of such a nature as to materially interfere with a fair investigation. Threats and opprobrious remarks of the most violent nature were made to-day in the hearing of the undersigned, and others during the examination of ex-Gov. Wells, president of the Board of Returning Officers, and P. Clover, Supervisor of Registration of the Parish of East Baton Rouge, directed personally against the witnesses. One unknown person remarked, in a voice audible to several bystanders, that he (Clover) ought to have his —— —— throat cut. Another remarked that Gov. Wells was a —— —— liar, and ought to be killed. We have reason to believe that the persons who made these and similar threats did so for the purpose of overawing witnesses and preventing a full expression of the truth regarding the subject matter of your investigations.

We respectfully request that your honorable body direct that free access and suitable accommodations be afforded to the counsel representing the Republican party in this investigation, and also that witnesses subpenaed by your committee may be enabled to reach your committee-room without having to pass through a crowd of hostile and disorderly persons, and that when under examination before your committee they be protected against insult and threats. We have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servants,

JOHN RAY, HY. C. DIBBLE,
D. B. GORHAM, and others, of counsel.

WHAT REPUBLICANS SAY.

VIOLENCE AND WRONG IN LOUISIANA—AN IMPORTANT POINT CLEARED UP.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—One of the Republicans who went to Louisiana to see a fair count, has returned so horrified at the evidences of murder and violence in the bulldozed parishes that he says if he were called upon to choose between peaceable fraud and the methods resorted to by the Democrats to carry the State, he would justify the fraud. Liberty and law is at an end, he says, if a party is permitted to succeed by outraging and assassinating its opponents. In regard to the alleged violation of the Election law of Louisiana by the Returning Board in throwing out returns on certificates of intimidation not made in the manner required, another member of the committee states that the provisions said to have been disregarded are not mandatory but directory. It has been repeatedly held by the courts, he says, that the failure to comply with statutory directions as to the manner of performing an act does not invalidate the act itself if there are sufficient reasons for the failure, and if the spirit of the law has been obeyed. If, for example, an election supervisor in one of the bulldozed parishes did not make out his affidavit of intimidation, attach it to the return, and file a copy with the county court, as required by the law, but, instead, made it out in New-Orleans, his disregard of the statute would, it is claimed, be justified by evidence that compliance would have endangered his personal safety. Any other theory would render it only necessary to intimidate the election officers to prevent effectually any legal proof of intimidation of voters from being made.

A CALL FOR THE CAMPAIGN TELEGRAMS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—A. S. Brown of New-York City, Superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and Capt. Whitney, Manager of the Western Union office in this city, are the persons on whom subpenas have just been served by the House Sergeant-at-Arms to appear before the House committee now at New-Orleans examining into the recent election and action of the Returning Board of Louisiana and to produce certain telegrams, including those of Secretary Chandler sent pending the canvass of the vote. The Western Union is the only company thus called upon for dispatches. The Senate Investigating Committee have not as yet called for telegrams.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

A CRIME AGAINST THE BALLOT-BOX.

LETTER FROM GOV. CHAMBERLAIN—THE DESPERATE STRUGGLE IN SOUTH CAROLINA—THANKS TO DR. BACON.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Dr. Bacon has, as usual, discerned in advance of most others the real point of danger to our republican system at the present time. To us here, his letter in THE TRIBUNE of the 7th inst. is a faithful picture of what we see, and know, and feel—a condition of affairs as undeniable to truthful minds as any facts of history or experience. When Dr. Bacon says that the ordinary crimes which consign men to penitentiaries "fade into whiteness" when compared with the great "crime against the ballot-box," he speaks like a true statesman. In the midst of a fight far more desperate and more vital than the fight I have made for years against the abuses which have arisen from the anomalous condition of society here, I send him my profound thanks.

D. H. CHAMBERLAIN.

Columbia, S. C., Dec. 9, 1876.

WORK OF THE LEGISLATURES.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 13.—The Democratic House to-day passed a resolution to count the votes for Governor and Lieutenant-Governor to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. The resolution was communicated to the Senate. There was another ballot for United States Senator by the Democrats to-day, which resulted in no choice. The Senate and Republican House in joint session declared the election of D. T. Corbin as United States Senator.

FLORIDA.

THE PLAN OF THE INVESTIGATION.

SUB-COMMITTEES DIVIDE THE STATE—SENATORS EXPECTED SOON.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Dec. 13.—The investigation by the Congressional Committee was fairly opened to-day. The first county taken was Leon, which is not yet finished. The committee to-day divided into two committees. The Republican members voting against the division were Messrs. Walling, De Bolt, and Woodworth. The sub-committee will leave for the eastern counties to-morrow morning, stopping in Jefferson County for a day or two. It is believed the headquarters of the committee will be Jacksonville. It is impossible to say when the committees will complete their labors.

The Supreme Court met this morning and took steps toward bringing forward the mandamus case. The argument will be opened to-morrow morning, and the decision reached before the week has closed.

A dispatch received from Washington announces that the Senate Committee left for Tallahassee this evening. They will reach this city Saturday night. The work of the committee has as yet furnished no testimony that was not brought out before the State Canvassing Board.

SPEECH BY GOV. HAYES.

HE IS SERENADED WHILE VISITING A FRIEND AT DAYTON—HIS BELIEF IN A QUIET SUBMISSION TO WHATEVER THE LAWFUL AUTHORITIES MAY DECIDE.

DAYTON, Ohio, Dec. 13.—Gov. Hayes was serenaded in this city this evening at the house of a friend, Mr. R. C. Anderson, whom he is visiting. Early in the evening a salute of 185 guns was fired, and a concourse of fully 1,000 people gathered about the house with music and fireworks. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed. The Governor responded as follows:

My Friends: I will not detain you longer than four or five minutes. I am here on a short visit to your beautiful city of Dayton, not on any political mission, or to talk on any of the political questions of the remarkable canvass that has just been closed. I understand that these greetings here to-night are not so much in honor of myself as on account of the peculiar interest that is felt in the present condition of the country. In the excitement that has pervaded before and since the election, people of ardent temperaments have said and done things that are indiscreet, but as the excitement subsides we begin to return to our better wisdom and judgment. I have too much faith in the saving common sense of the American people to think that they desire to see in their country a Mexicanized Government. Whatever may be the result at which the lawful authorities shall arrive, you and I will quietly submit, and I have sufficient respect and confidence in the great majority of the opposition party to believe that they will do the same.

I was glad to see in a paper this evening an article from *The London Times* respecting the condition of this country. "Such a state of affairs," it said, "could not occur anywhere else in the world. The entire area of the country agitated by the uncertain issue of a political conflict, yet not one shot fired, not one man killed, no breaches of the peace." We have seen this Centennial year the wonders of our growth displayed in the exhibition of agricultural and mechanical arts, and we are now afforded an opportunity of giving to the world an example of the value of republican government. In speaking to you this evening I have referred without previous thought to what must have occurred to every one of us standing here, and I take my leave of you with the most sincere acknowledgment of this expression of your friendship and good will.

WASHINGTON.

AN INTERESTING DAY IN CONGRESS.

PLAN OF REFERRING THE ELECTION TO THE SUPREME COURT DEFEATED—THE SILVER BILL PASSES THE HOUSE.

Mr. Edmunds's plan for a constitutional amendment, referring the electoral vote to the Supreme Court, was defeated yesterday in the Senate by 14 to 31. The Kelley Silver bill, remonetizing the silver dollar of 1837, passed the House by 167 to 53; it is said Gen. Grant will veto it. Senator Bayard apologized for Gov. Grover in the Senate yesterday. The electoral votes of the States are now being received.

SILVER BILL IN THE HOUSE.

NOTABLE SPEECHES BY MR. WILLARD AND MR. HEWITT—LITTLE CHANCE OF THE BILL BECOMING A LAW.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The passage of the Silver bill to-day has been anticipated by those who have given the subject careful attention ever since it was before Congress last session. Nothing prevented its adoption then except the adjournment and the persistent filibustering of its opponents. The bill as it has passed is the one introduced by Judge Kelley last session. It simply remonetizes the old silver dollar of 1837.

Several short speeches were made during the two hours devoted to the discussion of the bill, the most notable being those of Mr. Willard of Michigan, a member of the Silver Commission, and Mr. Hewitt of New-York. The former gave it as his opinion that the report of the commission would warrant the restoration of the silver dollar as the standard. The investigations of the commission, he said, show that the silver dollar has a greater supremacy in commerce than any other coin, not excepting even the sovereign of England or the franc of France. He also said that nearly all the political economists called before the commission agreed that if silver is thrown out of the world's coinage the tendency will be to change the present value of gold.

Mr. Hewitt, in a speech ten or twelve minutes in length, presented some of the strongest points against the passage of the bill; and it was a very remarkable circumstance that during his speech a telegraphic dispatch was placed in his hands announcing that the market price of silver in London to-day was 58½ pence. This, he said, would make the silver dollar worth in the markets of the world the same as a gold dollar. He was probably slightly mistaken in this, as it is necessary for the market price of silver to go above 59 pence before its legal and market ratio would be identical.

The arguments in favor of the bill were those advanced during the debate last Summer. The most potent of them apparently was that by its passage the people of this country would be enabled to pay their debts in a cheaper currency than in any which is now a legal tender. This bill, either in its present or some other modified form, will probably be passed by the Senate during the present session if it is reached by that body. There is little danger that it will become a law, as it is reported by the very best authority that Gen. Grant has announced his determination to veto any bill making silver coins a legal tender.

DISQUALIFIED ELECTORS.

TESTIMONY SHOWING THAT THE OREGON LOGIC DID NOT APPLY TO NEW-JERSEY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—In order to show the inconsistency between the action of the Democratic Governor of New-Jersey and the Democratic Governor of Oregon in the matter of disqualified electors, the sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, consisting of Messrs. Morton, Logan, and Kernan, began looking into the New-Jersey case to-day. They examined Mr. John Y. Foster, editor of *The Newark Courier*, and Secretary of the Republican State Committee, and John L. Murphy, proprietor of *The Trenton State Gazette*, in reference to the ineligibility of Benjamin Williamson, a Democratic Presidential elector.

These gentlemen testified that they entered a protest before the New-Jersey Board of Canvassers against the issue of a certificate to Williamson on the ground that he was a United States Commissioner. The board nevertheless issued a certificate to Williamson, who, when the electors met, resigned, but was at once elected by the board to fill the vacancy occasioned by his own resignation. The witnesses produced a copy of the law of New-Jersey in reference to the filling of vacancies in the State Electoral College, which law gives the electors the power to fill all such vacancies. The laws of New-Jersey and Oregon on this subject are identical. The committee have summoned Gov. Bedle, Mr. Williamson, the elector in question, and Secretary of State Kelsey, and they will appear to-morrow.

SUPREME COURT NOT TO ARBITRATE.

EDMUNDS'S AMENDMENT DEFEATED OVERWHELMINGLY—WAYS OF SOLUTION NOW LEFT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Mr. Edmunds's constitutional amendment for settling the Presidential question by conferring upon the Supreme Court power to count the electoral votes was to-day defeated by an overwhelming majority. It received only fourteen votes, one of which was given by a Democrat, Mr. Key of Tennessee, and the others by the following named Republicans: Messrs. Allison, Anthony, Blaine, Burnside, Conkling, Edmunds, Ferry, Frelinghuysen, Hamilton, Hitchcock, Morrill, West, and Wright. There were thirty-one votes in the negative, pretty evenly divided between the two parties. The result of this vote is of great importance in its bearing upon the political situation. It shows first, that the Democrats with practical unanimity are not willing to accept the Supreme Court as an arbiter in the present dispute. They prefer rather than take the risk of a judicial decision by that body to adhere to their plan of throwing out the votes of States by the action of the House alone, and depending for the establishment of Gov. Tilden's claims to the Presidency on an election by the House.

It is possible that a few of the Democrats, including perhaps such eminent lawyers as Mr. Thurman and Mr. Bayard, may have voted as they did from an unwillingness to change the character of the chief judicial tribunal of the country; but it is evident that the motive which controlled and solidified the Democratic vote was a purely political one. On the Republican side, the 13 Senators who supported Mr. Edmunds's proposition comprised probably all the strength that could be rallied in favor of placing the settlement of the question out of the control of the Senate. There were two or three Senators probably who voted against the resolution because they thought the Supreme Court should be held entirely aloof from politics. On the other hand, there were about as many who supported the resolution not because they thoroughly approved of the method of settlement it provided, but because, seeing that it was doomed to certain defeat, they desired to place themselves in the attitude of making a very liberal offer to the Democrats in the way of a compromise.

The loss of the resolution puts a new face upon the situation. It is now evident that no solution can be reached by an amendment to the Constitution. The parties are thrown back upon the powers of Congress, whatever they may be, to determine under the Constitution the method of counting the votes. The Senate will undoubtedly proceed at a very early day to consider Mr. Morton's bill of last session, not with the idea that the House will accept it, but for the purpose of taking a step in the direction of a fair settlement. If the House should pass the McCrary resolution for a joint committee to consider the whole subject, as it no doubt will, the Senate will promptly concur. There will thus be two roads open to the end sought by all patriotic men, namely, the Morton bill, with whatever amendments or substitutes the House may adopt, and with the final action of a committee of conference and the special general committee raised under the McCrary resolution.

If neither of the committees agree upon any proposition that will harmonize the differences between the two Houses, then there will be nothing further to do except for the President of the Senate to do what his predecessor did in a similar case in the early history of the Government—inform the House that on the second Wednesday in February he will open and count the electoral votes in his place in the Senate, as required by the Constitution of the United States.

AN APOLOGIST FOR GROVER.

SENATOR BAYARD ENDEAVORS TO EXCULPATE HIM BY QUOTATIONS FROM LAW BOOKS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The Governor of Oregon found a very eminent apologist in the Senate to-day. No less distinguished a person than Mr. Bayard came up to his support. Perhaps the motive was a chivalric sympathy for a man who appears to have no friends. It seemed so, for the defense was weak and half-hearted. Mr. Bayard, however, while excusing the sinner, did not defend the sin. He confined himself to showing by copious citations from a pile of law books, that there are precedents for awarding an office to a defeated candidate when the successful one is disqualified. He did not say that Gov. Grover was right in trying to overturn the result of the election in Oregon, but rather tried to palliate the great political and moral offense committed by him, by showing that a diligent delving among court reports discloses a few cases which may be set up as precedents against the greater weight of authority on the other side. He appealed to the Senate to look upon Gov. Grover as an honorable man who has acted conscientiously; but he did not attempt to get over the stumbling block that lies in the way of all attempts at justifying this miserable political trick, namely, the fact as claimed by the Republicans, that Gov. Grover trampled upon the plain letter of the statute of his State which required him to certify to the election of the candidates having the highest number of votes, and confers no vestige of authority upon him to inquire whether they were qualified or not to hold the office of elector.

Both parties in the Senate appear to have committed tactical blunders in their attitude toward the Oregon case. The Democrats should have promptly declined to profit by the transparent fraud perpetrated by Grover and Cronin, and thus won the sympathy of the public in their complaints of foul play in Louisiana. The Republicans, acting on their theory that Congress has not the power to go behind the certificates and returns of a Presidential election, or at least, that neither House of Congress has alone that power, should have taken no steps to investigate the case, but should have stood upon the perfectly tenable ground that Gov. Grover's certificate itself exposes the illegality of Cronin's return, and fully authenticates that of the two Republican electors and the third elector whom they chose to fill the vacancy.

CREDIT MOBILIER CASE IN COURT.

SUIT OF THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The Supreme Court was to-day engaged in hearing the Crédit Mobilier case, of which the following is the substance: No. 38—The United States against the Union Pacific Railroad Company; appeal from the Circuit Court for the District of Connecticut. This is the case brought by the United States, under the act of May, 1873, directing the Attorney-General to cause a suit in equity to be instituted in the name of the Government against the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

The charge is, as is well known, as to the great body of individual defendants, that, as stockholders, directors, and officers of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, having obtained control of its franchises and property at an early period in the history of the corporation, they entered into a combination to pervert the charter and abuse the trust confided to the corporation by dividing among themselves, under cover of corporate action, its stock, bonds, moneys, and other assets, by means of pretended contracts made by them as representatives of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, with themselves, as individuals, under the cover and disguise of various designations, the chief of which was known as the "Crédit Mobilier of America." The court below sustained a demurrer to the bill, holding that the United States possesses no power to sue for and recover this debt due to the Pacific corporation, and can give none to its Attorney-General. The opinion of Mr. Justice Hunt was published at that time. The Government here insists that the pecuniary interests of the United States are sufficient to sustain the suit, there being primarily over $27,000,000 subsidy bonds issued in aid of the great undertaking, intrusted by Congress to the Union Pacific Railroad Company, the bare simple interest of which to maturity will amount to over $49,000,000, so that if little or no current reimbursement is made by the company the amount due by it to the Government at the maturity of the bonds will exceed $77,000,000, and in that event it may be estimated that the accumulated debt of the company to the United States at that time will probably be not less than $65,000,000, and possibly a larger sum. It is claimed that there is grave reason to apprehend that, unless the relief or a substantial part of the relief contemplated by the act of 1873, and sought by this suit is granted, the company will be utterly unable to pay this enormous debt at maturity.

The court has jurisdiction to grant the relief, it is urged, on the grounds that the transactions were *ultra vires* and void under the charter, it being a duty of equity jurisdiction to protect the public interests against violations of charters. On the part of the appellees it is maintained that the United States do not stand in such relations to the Union Pacific Company, by virtue of its charter, that, if it were not for the act of 1873, this suit could be maintained; and that it is not within the power of Congress to create and confer on the Government the right to maintain such a suit because it cannot establish a special remedy or mode of procedure for the Government repugnant to the remedies and modes of procedure established by law for all its citizens in like cases. Besides it is urged the provision of the law violates the Constitution by attempting to authorize the Attorney-General to confer jurisdiction upon such tribunal as he may select. It is said that it is not in the power of Congress in any case to annihilate the common law principle which forms part of the law of a State by which executors and administrators can sue and be sued in that State or district only in which and by whose authority they are appointed. The Government is represented by Solicitor-General S. F. Phillips and Messrs. J. Hubley Ashton and Aaron F. Perry and the appellees by Messrs. Wm. M. Evarts, Sidney Bartlett, Charles Tracey, Wm. Tracey, F. S. Talmage and B. D. Silliman.

UNION PACIFIC.

ARGUMENT OF THE QUESTION AT ISSUE BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND GOVERNMENT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The Court of Claims has had before it this week the case of the Union Pacific Railroad against the United States, on a demurrer filed by the company to the counter-claim of set-off of the United States. The demurrer is designed to raise and have determined the question whether the Government, instead of paying one-half of the sums earned and due the company for services, has the right to extinguish the claim of the company thereto by an offset or counter-claim founded on the 6th section of the act of 1862, under which, until the bonds granted as a subsidy, with the interest thereon, are paid, "at least five per cent of the net earnings of said road shall also be annually applied to the payment thereof."

The United States filed a counterclaim, in which it avers among other things that during each year since the 6th day of November, 1869, it became and was the duty of the claimant to pay to defendant annually at the end of each year five per cent of the net earnings aforesaid of said railroad for the year next preceding, amounting in each year to a large sum of money, to wit, the sum of $500,000, to be applied to the payment of the said bonds and interest, as in said act required; yet the claimant has wholly neglected and refused to pay to the defendant the amount of the five per centum aforesaid due in each year as aforesaid, or any part thereof when the sum became due as aforesaid, or at any time thereafter; and said sums amounting in the aggregate to $4,000,000 as aforesaid, together with interest on each of the said sums from the date when the same became due and payable, amounting in the aggregate to a large sum, to wit, $1,000,000 of interest, are still due and unpaid. Wherefore the defendant asks judgment for this, his counter-claim, of $5,000,000 against the claimant, or for so much thereof as they may be entitled to have in judgment, after deducting the amount of any recovery herein which the claimant may lawfully establish, and for such other and further relief as to the court may seem just. The case was argued by Mr. Bartlett of Boston for the company, and by Assistant Attorney-General Simons for the United States, and is now under advisement by the court.

ANOTHER ELECTORAL BILL.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Dec. 13, 1876.

The bill which Senator Edmunds gave notice he will endeavor to call up for action to-morrow is the measure originally introduced by Senator Morton, which was passed by the Senate last March, but replaced on the calendar April 19, 1876, by the adoption of a motion to reconsider its passage. It provides for an assemblage of the Senate and House of Representatives in the hall of the latter, on the last Wednesday of January, for the purpose of counting the electoral votes, and its main feature is contained in a provision that no electoral vote or votes from any State to the counting of which objections shall have been made by a member of either branch of Congress shall be rejected except by the affirmative vote of the two Houses. The vote on the passage of this bill on March 24 was 32 against 26, Messrs. Thurman, Key, and Merrimon (Democrats) voting with 29 Republicans in the affirmative, and Messrs. Conkling, Edmunds, and Howe uniting with 23 Democrats in the vote against it. The motion to reconsider the passage of this bill was carried by the votes of 26 Democratic Senators and 5 Republicans—Messrs. Conkling, Dawes, Edmunds, Howe, and Paddock. The votes against reconsideration were all cast by Republican Senators, numbering 23.

THE GAS EXTORTION.

WHAT THE CITY WILL DO.

VIGOROUS OPPOSITION TO BE MADE TO THE MONOPOLY—THE COMPANIES TO BE HELD TO STRICT PERFORMANCE OF THEIR CONTRACTS.

The Gas Commission of the City Government, consisting of the Mayor, the Controller, and the Commissioner of Public Works, held an informal meeting yesterday and conversed freely in regard to the excessive demands of the gas companies for 1877. Nothing was decided, but all the members expressed a determination to resist the extortion. As all the mains and pipes belong to the companies, no plan for manufacturing gas by the city, which involves their use, can be adopted; but there are several kinds of gas machines, in which naphtha or gasoline is used. One of these might be attached to each lamp-post. A temporary expedient of this sort, however, would be very expensive. Another difficulty in the way of using naphtha is its dangerous character, and the objections there would be to storing the quantity necessary for daily use within a convenient distance of the city. The subject will be thoroughly examined before the bids of the gas companies are accepted.

The evidence of a combination between the companies is believed to be conclusive. The specifications in the contracts as to quality and quantity of gas are explicit; it is required to be of 16-candle power, each lamp to burn three cubic feet per hour and 3,833 hours per year. Each lamp would then consume about 11,500 cubic feet, and this is the basis of the bids. Following are the contract prices per lamp for four years and the bids for next year:

	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
New-York	$39 00	$33 00	$28 00	$23 00	$36 00
Manhattan	39 00	33 00	28 00	23 00	36 00
Metropolitan	39 00	33 00	38 00	34 12½	32 00
Harlem	39 00	39 00	38 95	37 95	37 50
N. Y. Mutual	....	35 00	25 75	25 75	36 00

Previous to 1874 there were only four companies in the city, each having its own district, in which the others had no pipes. There was then no competition and the companies made their own prices. The New-York Company controlled all of the city below Grand-st., the Manhattan from Grand to Thirty-fourth, the Metropolitan from Thirty-fourth to Seventy-ninth, and the Harlem all above Seventy-ninth. In 1873 they received from the city $39 per lamp or $3 39 per 1,000 feet. In 1874 the Mutual Gas Company began operations and had mains laid through several of the streets in the New-York, Manhattan, and Metropolitan districts. This company had come into existence on account of the extortions of the old companies, and put in a bid for 1874 at $35 per lamp. The other companies with which it competed at once lowered their bids to $33, but the Harlem still kept up its demands. In 1875 and 1876 the Mutual continued to lower its demands, and the old companies found it profitable to underbid it each year, with the exception of the Metropolitan, in whose district the Mutual had made only slight inroads, and the Harlem, in which it had made none. This year the number of lamps lighted by the several companies are: New-York, 4,142; Manhattan, 4,116; Metropolitan, 3,719; Harlem, 4,061; Mutual, 3,535. The Mutual seems to have come into amicable relations with the members of the old monopoly it was created to destroy, for the bids this year have gone nearly up to the old figures of four years ago, and each company has bid for—not all the lamps in the streets in which its mains are laid, but only for those which it now lights. Thus there is no competition, and the reduction by the Metropolitan of $2 12½ per lamp, or nearly $8,000 in the aggregate, presents a singular contrast with the rise of $13 per lamp by the two older companies. The proposed extortion is so great that the city officials are determined to make every effort against it. The appropriation for lighting the streets next year is $700,000, out of which it was proposed to erect a few new lamps. Under the prices demanded it will require $132,000 in excess of the appropriation to pay gas bills alone.

Assertions are freely made that the law will be appealed to to protect the people. The Legislature of 1874 passed a law for the special purpose of providing against extortionate charges against the city. It enacts that no gas company shall discriminate against the city, the penalty for violation being $50 for every 1,000 feet of gas so overcharged. The price charged by the New-York Company to private consumers is $2 50 per 1,000 feet, and that of the other companies does not differ materially. This would compel them, under the law of 1874, to limit their charge to the city to $28 75 per lamp, even if the quantity of gas consumed by the street lamps were equal to the demands of the contract—concerning which there are serious doubts.

It was reported about the City Hall yesterday that the charter of one of the companies had expired. If this is correct, measures will be at once taken to prevent its breaking up the street pavements, or doing any other act which was lawful only under charter authority; and it will find the combination with which it seems to have entered a bad preliminary step toward obtaining a renewal of its charter by the Legislature this Winter. A TRIBUNE reporter called on the President of the New-York Gas Company, but he declined to say anything about the reasons for increasing the charges for next year, except that they had lighted the streets for nothing this year and intended to be paid for it next year. Questions as to the amount of dividends paid, and the market value of their stock, met with no response.

There are two young gas companies, the managers of which were active yesterday, hoping that they might gain some advantage from the present complications. The Anthracite Gas Company was chartered a few years ago, and built small works at Forty-first-st. and North River, but never advanced much further. The Knickerbocker Gas Company was organized as its successor, and bought its franchise—the right to lay mains, &c. The Municipal Gas Company was organized a year ago, and bought the Knickerbocker's works, but has no franchise. One is laying pipes, and has three or four miles already down in Madison and Fifth-aves., and Broadway above Madison-square. It, however, has no works, and the Municipal has no pipes. By combining they could accomplish something in the present exigency if they covered a larger part of the city; at present they would not be able to light more than about 100 lamps.

ERIE RAILWAY FINANCES.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RECEIVER—EARNINGS AND EXPENSES—STOCK AND DEBTS.

The annual report of H. J. Jewett, receiver of the Erie Railway, has been made. The total cost of the road and equipment is given as $117,140,287 47, being an increase since the last report of $1,144,340 84. The business of the year in transportation and total miles run is as follows:

Number of miles run by passenger trains..........	3,201,005
Number of miles run by freight trains..........	7,507,842
Number of passengers (all classes) carried in cars.	5,042,831
Number of miles traveled by passengers, or number of passengers carried one mile..........	163,074,795
Number of tons, of 2,000 pounds, of freight carried in cars..........	5,972,818

Concerning the expenses of maintaining the road or real estate of the corporation, the report gives the following figures: Repairs of road-bed and railway, excepting cost of iron, $1,458,689 02; cost of iron used in repairs, $434,400 72; repairs of buildings and bridges, $311,376 56; taxes on real estate, $263,390 02, making a total of $2,630,-486 45. This does not include the expenses of repairs of machinery, which make another total of $2,664,456 87. The expenses of operating the road have been $6,936,-258 46, which makes the total transportation expenses $12,231,201 78.

Of the earnings and cash receipts and payments, the following figures are given: From passengers, $3,427,-626 45; from freight, $11,429,929 70; from other sources, $994,904 99, making a total of $15,852,461 14. Other earnings, as from Pavonia Ferry, the Grand Opera House and the Weehawken Docks, are given in total as $687,304 19, which completes a grand total of $16,539,-765 33. The report gives a total of payments other than for construction, such as for transportion expenses, interest on funded debt, rental for leased lines, etc., as $17,769,395 52. Deducting the earnings there remains a deficit of $1,229,630 19.

The number of persons killed is reported as three passengers, 37 employés, and 61 others, or a total of 101. The number of injured persons is 169, 16 of whom were passengers. The following is the table of stock and debts:

Capital stock, as by charter..........	$86,536,910 00
Amount of stock subscribed..........	86,536,910 00
Amount paid in, as by last report..........	86,536,910 00
Total amount now paid in of capital stock..........	86,536,910 00
Funded debt, as by last report..........	54,271,814 00
Total amount now of funded debt..........	54,271,814 00
Floating debt, as by last report..........	1,421,641 83
The amount now of floating debt (loans and bills payable)..........	1,159,060 46
Total amount now of funded and floating debt..	55,430,874 46
Av. rate per annum of interest on funded debt..	7 per cent cur.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 13.—The State Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry continued its session to-day.

ELMIRA, N. Y. Dec. 13.—The sixth annual convention of the New-York State Dairymen's Association was held in this city to-day.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 13.—The Pacific Mail Company's steamship City of New-York arrived to-day from Sidney, via Honolulu, bringing the British mails.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 13.—The Directors of the Bank of California yesterday decided to reduce the rates of interest, fixing the minimum at 9 per cent.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 13.—A Newport dispatch says that the schooner Nettie, from New-Bedford, with potatoes, is reported sunk in the East River, near Taggart's Ferry.

ERIE, Penn., Dec. 13.—The United States steamer Michigan has been virtually put out of commission, all of her officers having been detached except six, and all the crew discharged except ten.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 13.—The Board of Brokers offer a reward of $1,000 for the arrest and conviction of the persons who were instrumental in sending bogus dispatches to New-York purporting to be from members of the board, and intended to depreciate the value of the stock of the Central Railroad of New-Jersey.