# AT THE STATE CAPITAL.

## IN LEGISLATURE AND IN COMMITTEE.

A RUMORED SUCCESSOR TO SUPERINTENDENT SMYTH—ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE RAILROAD BILL—A NEW SCHOOL BILL.

It was intimated in the Senate yesterday that a nomination of a successor to the Insurance Superintendent would soon be made, and last night there was a rumor that it would be sent to the Senate to-day. A large number of merchants and manufacturers appeared in opposition to the Hepburn Committee's Railroad bill. Among the bills introduced in the Senate was a bill relating to the public schools of this city.

## A SUCCESSOR TO JOHN F. SMYTH.

RUMOR THAT A NOMINATION IS TO BE SENT IN TODAY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, March 9.—It was rumored among the politicians of the Legislature and city to-night that Governor Cornell would send to the Senate to-morrow the name of a successor to John F. Smyth as Superintendent of the Insurance Department, and that the new nominee would be acceptable to every Republican Senator. Great weight is ascribed to Senator McCarthy's remarks in the Senate to-day, intimating the appointment of a new man as Superintendent of the Department. The name of he probable nominee is not mentioned.

## OPPOSING THE RAILROAD BILL.

IMPOSING GATHERING OF MERCHANTS AND MANUFACTURERS TO PROTEST AGAINST THE PASSAGE OF THE HEPBURN COMMITTEE'S BILL AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN FREIGHTS—ARGUMENT BY EX-SENATOR POMEROY.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, March 9.—There was a very remarkable spectacle in the Assembly Chamber this afternoon. It was crowded with merchants, manufacturers, grain buyers and farmers from the interior of the State, who had come to Albany to protest against the passage of the Hepburn Committee's bill forbidding discrimination in railroad rates. The bill is now before the Assembly Railroad Committee, which gave a first hearing on the bill last Thursday. Then their room was overcrowded. To-day it was evident that no committee room, however large, would hold the people who desired to be heard before the committee. The Assembly Chamber was accordingly taken.

At 4 p. m. that great room was crowded with merchants and railroad men. Fully 500 were present. They had held a meeting in the morning in Agricultural Hall, passed resolutions against the bill, resolved upon a plan of action, and selected their speakers. Every place along the line of the New-York Central and the Erie Railway was represented.

Ex-Senator Pomeroy, on the part of the manufacturers, was selected as the first speaker. The railroads were represented by Chauncey M. Depew, counsel of the New-York Central, and James A. Rutter, general freight agent of the Central; George R. Blanchard, assistant to President Jewett of the Erie Railway; and ex-Judge William D. Shipman, counsel for the Erie Railway.

Mr. Pomeroy said substantially:

The railroads and the merchants are satisfied with things as they were. The utmost latitude should be left to commercial men. The law of progress is the fullest individual development under the least possible legislative restraint. The Legislature is the last undertaker to come in and settle certain interests. The most dangerous legislation in the world is that predicated in legislative theory. The origin of this bill is here; it comes from no want of the State. The manufacturing interests alone can hold New-York in her present position. The present era is one of unexampled prosperity, and it will continue if the Legislature will keep its hands off. There is a better state of affairs existing now between the merchants, the manufacturers and the rail roads than ever before. The existing system of special rates has been equitably ruled by the railways. I want no better test than the business of this State. No city has come against it except from the agricultural interests. I see before me the representatives of every kind of business, and they all agree that the present system is good.

This bill is purely political, and founded upon the erroneous supposition that the agricultural classes demand it. The opening of those immense wheat fields in the West depress the farmers of this State. How is that to be met? This bill proposes to do it by putting obstacles in the way of transporting wheat from the West to New-York City. Liverpool makes the market and the Red River country and Dakota will compete with Russia in that market either through New-York or around it. The interests of agriculture are identical with those of the railroads and the manufacturers. I believe the correct system is to leave things as they are. Certain contracts must be special. What are to be the rates for transporting my good s the coming year? It is a question which is asked by every manufacturer at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Pomeroy was followed by Horace Bemis, of Horseheads; A. C. Miller, of Utica, William Van Marnie, of Lyons, William Hamilton, of Livingston, A. S. Childs, of Waterloo, M. H. Comstock, of Utica, and ex-Senator Campbell, of Utica.

The hotels of the city are as crowded to-night as though a State convention were in progress. This surprising gathering of strangers is composed almost wholly of the 500 merchants, manufacturers and grain buyers who appeared before the Assembly Railroad Committee this afternoon in opposition to the bill forbidding discrimination in railroad rates.

No such committee meeting was ever held in Albany before; it is the universal subject of talk to-night, and if the demonstration was intended to impress members with a sense of the magnitude of the interests that will be affected by the passage of the bill, the men who engineered it have accomplished their purpose. The friends of the measure are charging that the New-York Central ran a special train from Buffalo to this place, bringing the men who profit by the discrimination in rates to the committee meeting. On the other hand, the New-York Central people say that all the part they took in the demonstration was to send a copy of the discrimination bill to the recipients of special rates and inform them when the committee meeting would be held.

Some of the merchants who have taken part in the demonstration stated to acquaintances privately this evening that they hoped that the bill would pass, and that they had come to Albany merely because they were afraid they would lose their special rates if they disregarded the implied request of the railroads that they should attend the meeting. This class of men, however, was small. Unquestionably the mass of the men who attended the meeting were honest in their expression of opinion that the passage of the bill would be detrimental to their business interests. They said that they obtained no great profit by special rates; that the rates merely enabled them to retain trade in certain localities, and that most of the profit went to the men to whom they sold or from whom they bought goods.

The manufacturers were especially vehement in their opposition to the bill, saying that if it passed they should be compelled to remove from the State. The statement was made that the men who did appear before the committee were in fact delegates of a sixth larger number of opponents of the bill; that they had been selected at mass meetings of merchants and manufacturers in their several localities to come to Albany and show the greatness of the opposition to the measure.

To-morrow the Railroad Committee will listen to argument in opposition to the bill from Chauncey M. Depew of the New-York Central, and George R. Blanchard and ex-Judge Shipman of the Erie Railway. On Thursday the friends of the bill will be heard. Among these will be the Chamber of Commerce of New-York, Mr. Hepburn, and the Oswego Board of Trade.

## LEGISLATIVE WORK.

REDUCED CLERICAL FORCE IN THE ASSEMBLY—SALARIES OF BROOKLYN OFFICIALS—THE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT—COMMON SCHOOLS OF NEW-YORK.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, March 9.—The last Legislature passed a law reducing the number of its employés of all classes to such an extent that the annual Legislative expenditures for this purpose were reduced $40,000. The present Legislature is the first to experience the burden of the law. There have been complaints from committees that they needed clerks; from doorkeepers that they have too many doors to watch; and from the Clerk's desk that there is not sufficient force to transact the business of the Legislature. A special committee was finally appointed by the Assembly to hear these complaints and report some remedy for defects in the legislative machinery. If any was needed. The special committee reported a bill last week, as the result of their inquiry, increasing the force of employés by twenty four. The bill was made a special order for to-day. It elicited a long and somewhat bitter debate.

Further consideration of the bill was at this point postponed till to-morrow.

Mr. Wren introduced a bill in the Assembly relative to salaries of Brooklyn City officials. It provides that the engineers in the Departments of Fire and Buildings shall each receive a salary of $1,200, and the firemen and drivers each $1,000, provided that all engineers appointed after the passage of this act shall, during the first year of their service, receive a salary of $900, and thereafter an increase of $50 per annum until the salary shall reach the sum of $1,200; firemen and drivers to receive the first year $700, and $50 per annum increase until $1,000 is reached.

The watchfulness of the Senate regarding the reputation of a successor for John F. Smyth, of the Insurance Department, was strikingly shown to-day. Senator Strahan presented a resolution declaring that *The Albany Times* had asserted that insurance companies felt timid under the present thumb of the Insurance Department, and that as this statement tended to show an oppressive exercise of power over the companies, Mr. Smyth should be called upon to furnish the Senate with any correspondence that had passed between himself and an insurance company that could possibly bear this interpretation. As Senator Strahan is an outspoken friend of Mr. Smyth, his introduction of the resolution was looked upon as a manœuvre of the Superintendent to gain popularity for himself in some way.

The opponents of Mr. Smyth accordingly questioned Mr. Strahan closely about the matter. It was apparent from his answers that the only correspondence of Mr. Smyth's that he desired to have made public was that about a certain alleged mortgage of Weed, Parsons & Co. to an insurance company.

Senator McCarthy, another friend of Superintendent Smyth, intimated in a very roundabout way that Governor Cornell intended to nominate a new man to succeed Mr. Smyth. Senator Woodin thereupon said he wished the insurance companies were under the thumbs of a trustworthy Insurance Department, and one that would command public confidence. However, he was glad to have it known that the Senate was to have, in a brief period, a man sent to it for Insurance Superintendent who would meet with public approval. The assurance quelled apprehension, and might restore brotherly feeling in the Republican party, of which it was just then in sad need. He would say: "Let the love-feast begin."

Senator McCarthy then said that he did not speak by authority of a new nomination. Senator Strahan's resolution was then tabled.

The following bills were reported favorably in the Senate: Regulating pilot fees in New-York; relative to pilotage on the East River; a law regulating the public health.

Mr. Sessions's bill, fixing the amount to be paid upon a policy of insurance, was lost—yeas 16, nays 15—not a majority of the Senate. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the bill was lost and that that motion lie on the table, was carried—Yeas 20, nays 4.

Bills was introduced in the Senate—By Mr. Edman to abolish the office of Marshal of the City of New-York; by Mr. Seebacher, relative to common schools in the City of New-York; by Mr. Strahan, to create a Board of railroad commissioners, and to define and regulate their powers and duties. Also, to regulate the transportation of freight by railroad corporations.

Mr. Seebacher's bill provides that there shall be eight school districts in the City of New-York, as follows:

Ist District—First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Eighth Wards.
IId District—Seventh, Eleventh and Thirteenth Wards.
IIId District—Tenth, Fourteenth and Seventeenth Wards.
IVth District—Ninth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth Wards.
Vth District—Eighteenth, Twentieth, and Twenty-first Wards.
VIth District—Nineteenth and Twenty-second Wards.
VIIth District—Twelfth Ward.
VIII District—Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards.

The Mayor of New-York shall appoint three persons as Commissioners of Education within fifteen days after the passage of the proposed bill. The terms of office of the present Commissioners shall cease within twenty days after the passage of this Act. All male principals of schools shall receive uniform salaries, and all female principals shall also receive uniform salaries.

In executive session the following nominations were confirmed: Commodore P. Vedder as State Assayer, vice Sterling G. Hadley, whose term has expired.

Managers of the Western House of Refuge for Juvenile Delinquents: For the term ending the first Tuesday in February, 1881, Jonah D. Decker, Emory B. Chase, Ira L. Otis, Charles H. Merrill; for the term ending the first Tuesday in February, 1882: William Purcell, William N. Sage, Frederick Cook, Daniel W. Power; for the term ending the first Tuesday in February, 1883: William C. Rawley, Ezra R. Andrews, Lewis J. Billings, Andrew M. Semple, Jonas Jones.

The Senate Railway Committee has decided to take a vote to-morrow morning on Senator Astor's bill reducing fares on the elevated railroads of New-York to 5 cents. The report of the committee will probably be a favorable one.

## ALBANY NOTES.

ALBANY, Tuesday, March 9, 1880.

Mr. Cushing, who was absent when the vote was taken on the Elevated Railroad Fare bill, asked last evening to be recorded in the affirmative.

Mr. Youngs has offered a resolution that the Attorney-General take measures to ascertain whether the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of New-York City is a legally constituted body. Laid on the table.

Mr. Wren offered a resolution that the Committee on Internal Affairs report by the 22d inst. an Excise bill applicable to cities, which shall abolish the three-hed or hotel clause, making it possible for Excise Commissioners to grant licenses with out rendering themselves liable to penalties, making but one classification of licenses, and doing away with espionage. Tabled.

## *NEW-JERSEY LEGISLATURE.*

ADJOURNMENT ON FRIDAY IN VIEW—STATE OFFICERS IN RECEIPT OF FEES THEY DO NOT REPORT ON—NO BIENNIAL SESSIONS.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

TRENTON, N. J., March 9.—The bill making the annual distribution of the public printing has passed the Senate and will reach the Governor through the House to-morrow. If the Governor should sign the measure immediately, there is no doubt that the Legislature will adjourn sine die on Friday noon.

The Senate Judiciary Committee made an important report to-day upon the statements of the State officers as to their fees and compensation. The following is the important part of the report:

They have considered the same, and have examined the Hon. Robert F. Stockton, Controller of the Treasury; the Hon. Henry C. Kelsey, Secretary of State; the Hon. Harry S. Little, Clerk in Chancery, and the Hon. Benjamin F. Lee, Clerk of the Supreme Court, touching the quarterly statements made by the said Secretary of State, Clerk in Chancery, and Clerk of the Supreme Court respectively, for the three quarters ending December 31, 1879, under the provisions of the act entitled "An act concerning official fees and rendering an account thereof," approved March 14, 1879, and the statements of the said Controller and the testimony of the said Secretary of State, Clerk in Chancery and Clerk of the Supreme Court, taken under oath before your committee, and put in writing by the stenographer from his stenographic report, are annexed to and form part of their report.

The Committee find, upon considering the said testimony in connection with the statements filed with the Controller, * * * that said Secretary of State, Clerk in Chancery and Clerk of the Supreme Court, when they have been paid in any one quarter since the passage of said act, any fees or money due to them for services rendered or performed in a preceding quarter, have made no statement or account thereof in either of the quarterly statements or accounts made by them to the Controller, and have therefore received for their own use large sums of money during the time covered by their said quarterly statements, for which they have rendered no account as required by law. * * *

That the quarterly statements filed with the Controller by the Secretary of State, Clerk in Chancery and Clerk of the Supreme Court, respectively, since the passage of the said act of March 14, 1879, do not contain in the record of the gross amount of all fees and compensation fees received by them during the quarter next preceding the filing of each of such statements, but that, on the contrary, the sums of money so reported as received by said officers, respectively, will not exceed one-third of the gross amount of fees and compensation received by them for their own use, during the three quarters covered by the statements of each of said officers. * * *

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GARRET A. HOBART, W. H. FRANCIS, RUDOLPH F. RARE, } Judiciary Committee.

The Senate to-day finally rejected by the decisive vote of 6 to 12, the concurrent resolution for biennial sessions of the Legislature. There seemed at first to be a general sentiment in favor of the proposition, but it has faded away as the session advanced. A similar fate probably awaits other measures attempting to modify the Constitution. A number of bills have been vetoed by the Governor, mostly on Constitutional grounds. The bill granting all well-behaved convicts the right of suffrage after their discharge was among the number.

A resolution was adopted in the Senate directing the Controller to bring suit against all officers who have not reported to him the amount of fees received in their offices respectively.

The following bills were passed, among others: The bill distributing the public printing; to appropriate $5,000 to the Fish Commissioners; to encourage local improvements by seaside companies; to authorize Boards of Freeholders to send for persons and papers; to allow counsellors-at-law residing in other States to retain their rights in this State by keeping an office; fixing the compensation of the Essex Road Board members; the bill to give bounties to New-Jersey volunteers who served in regiments of other States; to reduce the interest on school district bonds to 6 per cent; fixing the length of the terms of the Riparian Commissioners at four years each; providing a penalty of $10 for every woodcock killed between January 1 and September 1; extending the time for completion of canals to ten years; exempting practising physicians from jury duty; making taxes a first lien on property; to set off a portion of the Maurice River, in Cumberland County, to Cape May; to abolish the office of Water Register in cities; to appropriate $15,000 to the Morris Plains Asylum; to give the consent of New-Jersey to the United States Government to use land in the State as a depository for powder.

In the House eight bills were received from the Governor with his veto on Constitutional grounds. The following bills were passed: To make the term for which constables shall be elected three years; to authorize telegraph companies to erect poles in cities; to require purchasers of railroads, turnpikes, etc., to organize within thirty days after purchase.

The bill to revoke the licenses of saloon and tavern-keepers who sell on Sunday was lost.

## *NAVY ORDERS.*

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Ensign Winslow Alderdice is detached from the Wachusett, South Atlantic Station, and ordered to return home, and resignation accepted, to take effect on arrival in the United States.

Passed Assistant-Surgeon Howard E. Ames is detached from the Navy Yard at Washington, and ordered to the training-ship Saratoga.

Passed Assistant-Surgeon A. F. Magruder is detached from the training-ship Saratoga, and ordered to the Navy Yard at Washington.

## *A RECEPTION, BUT NO PARADE.*

The Ancient Order of Hibernians met last night at No. 1,168 First-ave. It was decided that the society should not take part in the parade on St. Patrick's Day, but, instead, should give a reception at its rooms in the evening, and devote the proceeds of this to the Parnell fund.

"THE UNSEEN WORLD."—Scientific Gent (with his hair on end, and the tassels of the cords to his dressing gown thumping behind him as he descends the stairs): "My grandfather! But I could almost swear—I hear footsteps—following me down-stairs—!" [Bolts into his bedroom, locks the door, and writes to *The Athenæum* the next day.—[Punch.

Mamma (entering)—"Now, I'm sure you children are in mischief, you are so quiet." Ethel (in a rapturous whisper)—"Hush, ma! Tommy's been painting a spider's web on Grandpa's bald head while he's asleep, to keep the flies off!"—[Punch.

# XLVIth CONGRESS—IInd SESSION.

## REGULAR REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

THE SENATE TO INVESTIGATE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PACIFIC RAILROADS AND THE STEAMSHIP COMPANY—THE PORTER DEBATE—POLICE FOR THE INDIANS—THE POLITICAL ASSESSMENT BILL IN THE HOUSE.

SENATE.....WASHINGTON, March 9, 1880.

In the Senate to-day the message from the President, concerning an interoceanic canal, was read, and with the accompanying documents referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. THURMAN (Dem., Ohio) presented a memorial of delegates of the Indian tribes in the Indian Territory, remonstrating against the passage of the bill to establish a United States Court in that Territory.

Mr. CAMERON (Rep., Wis.) presented a joint resolution of the Wisconsin Legislature, praying for legislation regulating interstate commerce. Referred.

Mr. KERNAN (Dem., N. Y.) introduced a bill giving to all religious denominations equal rights and privileges in the Indian reservations. Referred.

Mr. HILL (Dem., Ga.), from the Committee on Contingent Expenses, reported a resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Senate to appoint an Assistant Librarian for the Senate at a salary at $1,440 per annum. Laid over, on an objection of Mr. Edmunds.

Mr. BAILEY (Dem., Tenn.) submitted the following resolution:

*Whereas*, It has been announced in the public press, and there is reason to believe that a contract has been entered into by and between the Central Pacific Railroad Company and the Union Pacific Railroad Company, on the one part, and the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, on the other part, by the terms of which contract the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, in consideration of receiving the sum of $10,000,000 per month from the railway companies, binds itself to charge such rates for freight and passengers as may be fixed by the railway companies, and to collect the same from the commercial public; and

*Whereas*, The effect of such a contract is directly prejudicial to the public interest, and contrary to the public policy that controlled Congress in chartering the Union Pacific Railroad Company, and in granting to both railway companies large subsidies in money and lands; therefore

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to investigate and report whether such a contract has been made, and what legislation is necessary to prevent the execution of the same and protect the public interest; and such committee may report a bill to carry its recommendations into effect.

The words "and there is reason to believe" were stricken out on motion of Mr. Edmunds, and the resolution as amended was agreed to.

Mr. JONES (Dem., Fla.), from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported favorably the House bill authorizing the President to nominate Drs. Thomas Owens and William Martin Assistant Surgeons-General of the Navy. Placed on the calendar.

The Senate proceeded to consider the calendar.

The bill to provide for a settlement of accounts with certain Southern railway companies was objected to by Mr. EDMUNDS, and laid aside.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill for the relief of Fitz John Porter.

Mr. McDONALD (Dem., Ind.), addressed the Senate. There is no vacancy in the rank of Colonel in the Army, therefore legislation is necessary to enable the President to appoint Porter to that office. The commission of the appointee could not, under existing law, antedate the date of appointment. Therefore the President was right in referring the matter to the legislative body. Congress has unlimited power over the Army and Navy to the exclusion of the civil tribunals. The Constitution makes the President commander-in-chief of the Army, but Congress can appoint every officer under him if it chooses. The legislature can repeal a punishing law and arrest execution of sentence, even after conviction. Reference to that effect were cited by the speaker.

There is no bar to legislation reopening the case. The court-martial was called on charges by one of Pope's staff officers, and that technically Pope was not the accuser. The court was composed of men likely to be interested in the case, two of them—Ricketts and King—being commanders of McDowell's divisions and participating in the withdrawal of the Federal troops. Pope was the real accuser, and was the first and chief witness for the prosecution. Mr. McDonald took up and commented favorably on the printed report of the Board of Review exonerating Porter. Longstreet himself testified that if McDowell and Porter had attacked with less than 25,000 men on the 29th he would have destroyed the Federal Army. There was no evidence to show that he retreated a rod on the 29th. He remained in one place, whether by a blunder or not.

Mr. McDonald will continue his remarks to-morrow.

At 4:50 p. m. the Senate adjourned.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In the House to-day the memorial of E. D. Morgan & Co., Moses Taylor & Co. and other importers and refiners of sugars was presented by Mr. NORTON (Rep., N. Y.), praying for the retention of the present graduated scale of duties, with the addition of a clause to the present law obliging all sugars below No. 10 to color testing above 92° to pay the rate of duty as if between Nos. 10 and 13. Referred.

The bill coming over from the last morning hour to establish the Department of Agriculture was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the public calendar.

Mr. COVERT (Dem., N. Y.) submitted the minority report of the Committee on Agriculture, which was similarly referred.

Mr. SCALES (Dem., N. C.), chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported a bill authorizing the President to prescribe suitable police regulations for the government of the Indian reservations, and provides for the punishment of the crimes of murder, rape and burglary on the various Indian reservations. Placed on the House calendar.

Mr. WELLBORN (Dem., Tex.), from the same committee, reported the bill to prevent Indians on reservations from going into the State of Texas, and it was placed on the House calendar. The bill prohibits all officers and agents of the Army and the Indian Bureau from granting permission to Indians on any reservation to go into Texas on any pretext whatever, and provides that any officer or agent violating this law shall be dismissed from the public service.

Mr. WHITTHORNE (Dem., Tenn.), chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported back the bill to authorize and equip an expedition to the Arctic Seas. Referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

Mr. HOSTETTER (Dem., Ind.) moved that the House proceed to the consideration of the House calendar, his object being to take up for consideration the "Political Assessment" bill, which stands first on the calendar. The motion was agreed to—yeas, 126; nays, 104.

Mr. HOUSE (Dem., Tenn.) spoke in advocacy of the bill. He referred to the wild and reckless extravagance which had invaded the Republican administration of the Government, when, with a military force at its beck, corruption had stalked rampant in the land. But the people had spoken, and they were no mistaking the voice which had called the Democratic party to the front. Then the Republican party had appealed to reform and had inserted in its platform, at Cincinnati, a Civil Service Reform plank. The election had come on and Samuel J. Tilden had been elected President of the United States. The voice of the people had been defeated by fraud, and a man not elected installed as President. He (Mr. House) referred to the Civil Service order of President Hayes. Nothing like it in lofty moral tone had ever been seen since the attempt of Sapeno Pina to govern the Island of Hispaniola. He then referred to the fact that nearly every man who had taken an active part in counting the State of Florida for Hayes had been supplied with a public office—a fine bouquet of Civil Service Reform. Then there was Louisiana, where the tree of Civil Service Reform had taken similar root. Passing on he ridiculed the Civil Service Reform policy of President Hayes and Secretary Sherman, as carried on in New-York, by the removal of C. A. Arthur and A. B. Cornell from their offices as Collector and Naval Officer of the port of New-York.

In concluding his speech, Mr. House addressed himself more particularly to the bill under consideration, which would enable the feebleat man in the employment of the Government to paralyze the arm of the campaign collector, who would endeavor to filch from him a portion of his hard-earned wages.

The House then, at 4:45 p. m., adjourned.

## TRANSACTIONS OF COMMITTEES.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Representative Ellis, of Louisiana, appeared before the House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, yesterday in advocacy of his bill for the establishment of mail steamship lines between ports of the United States and foreign countries. The hearing will be continued at the next meeting of the committee.

The House Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures has agreed to report favorably to the House, Representative Fort's bill "to provide for the exchange of trade dollars for silver dollars. A proviso was added and the bill was agreed upon. It provides "that the Secretary of the Treasury shall cause to be exchanged at the Treasury and at all Sub-Treasuries of the United States, legal-tender silver dollars for trade dollars at par, and shall recoin the said trade dollars into legal-tender dollars as now provided by law, and shall stop the further coinage of trade dollars; provided that the amount so recoined and coined into legal-tender dollars shall not interfere with the minimum now authorized by existing law."

The Senate Ponca Investigating Committee heard Standing Buffalo, one of the Ponca chiefs, Monday. He testified that Mr. Kemble—claiming to represent the Government—came to their reservation and told them they must move to the Indian Territory, and when they refused to go, compelled them to do so by bringing down to their reservation soldiers from Fort Randall. He said the Poncas, then seeing there was no alternative except fighting the Government, went south unwillingly and with protestations and grief. The details of the journey, as related by Standing Buffalo, were in substance the same as those revealed by the testimony of White Eagle and other witnesses last week.

The House Committee on Ways and Means unanimously agreed to-day to report favorably to the House Mr. Morton's bill which provides for changing the rate of duty on malt from 20 per cent ad valorem to 25 cents per bushel. The committee agreed to give a hearing on Tuesday next to those interested in retaining the duty on salt, and to give a hearing on Friday next to those in favor of repealing the duty on paper and the materials entering into its manufacture. The sugar question was taken up and referred to a sub-committee consisting of Representatives Carlisle, Tucker, Frye, Gibson and Garfield.

The House Committee on Indian Affairs at its meeting to-day agreed upon the terms of a bill to be reported to the House to reimburse the Creek orphan fund for the sums which, as alleged, have been diverted from the said fund. The bill appropriates $181,099 68 to be paid to the Creek orphans or their heirs, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, or invested in registered bonds of the United States for their benefit, and the interest paid to them annually.

The House Committee on Commerce at its meeting today agreed to report favorably to the House the bill of Representative Russell (Mass.), which confers on the Secretary of the Treasury the power—heretofore exercised by Congress—to change the names of vessels under certain prescribed conditions.

The House Committee on the Judiciary agreed to-day to report favorably to the House Representative Toompson's bill "to regulate the number and pay of United States supervisors of elections and special deputy-marshals appointed under Sections 2,012 and 2,021 of the Revised Statutes." The bill was amended by the committee by the addition of a section relating to arrests on election days, and provides that not more than one deputy-marshal shall be appointed in any voting precinct or district by the marshal of the department in which such city or town may be situated; that the supervisors appointed by and under the authority of Section 2,672 of the Revised Statutes, and the deputy-marshals allowed by Section 2,021, as modified herein, shall not receive more than one dollar and a half per day for their services, nor the marshals shall not serve more than three days, and the supervisors more than six days for which they receive pay; that no other fees shall be charged for any services of said officers to the United States, nor shall any other fees be paid them out of the public treasury.

The House Committee on Claims agreed to-day to report favorably to the House a bill appropriating $3,500 for the relief of A. B. Meacham, for injuries sustained while in the service of the United States during the Modoc Indian outbreak.

## NOMINATIONS.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—The President sent the following nominations to the Senate to-day:

John B. Smith to be Postmaster at Goldsborough, N. C.
Levercit M. Hubbard to be Postmaster at Wallingford, Conn.
Eli G. DeWolfe to be Postmaster at Finley, Ohio.
William Ware Peck, of Wyoming Territory, to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of New Mexico.
S. Newton Pettis, of Pennsylvania, to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Wyoming Territory.

## *RAILROAD INTERESTS.*

### PLANS OF LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE.

CONTROL OF THE MOBILE AND NEW-ORLEANS RAILROAD SECURED—AN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS.

For some time it has been known in railroad circles in the South that a conference between the Louisville and Nashville and the Nashville and Chattanooga people was to be held in New-York for the purpose of finally settling all the points raised by the purchase of the controlling interest in the latter road by the Louisville and Nashville Company. Among the questions to be settled is the disposition of the Southeastern Road, the Owensboro and Nashville Road, and the carrying out of certain contracts made by the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad before the purchase. The actual transfer of the road has not yet been made, nor have the Louisville and Nashville managers yet placed any directors on the board of their newly-acquired road. H. Victor Newcomb, representing the Louisville and Nashville, and Colonel Cole, representing the Nashville and Chattanooga Road, were in close conference at the Fifth Avenue last night and the most of yesterday, but both gentlemen declared that no results had been reached that could be made public. Colonel Cole has been in conference also with R. T. Wilson, the head of the East Tennessee and Virginia, the Memphis and Charleston, and the Macon and Brunswick Roads.

Mr. Newcomb said to a TRIBUNE reporter late last night that he could not give any of the details of the conference between himself and Colonel Coale just at present, but he felt authorized to announce that his company had succeeded in concluding arrangements that give it control of the Mobile and New-Orleans road. The details of the arrangement he did not give, but said that the negotiations were concluded, the decree for the sale of the road had been entered. Under the law this will require six weeks' advertisement, so that the Louisville and Nashville Company will not be put in possession until about the 1st of May. When this occurs, through trains of passenger and baggage cars as well as sleeping cars will be run through from Louisville to New-Orleans night and day, and a large increase of travel by this route is expected. The terms on which control of this road is secured are most favorable, Mr. Newcomb says, to the Louisville and Nashville Company, and will yield it a very large profit. The original cost of the road, from first to last, is $12,000,000, and the Louisville and Nashville only assumed fixed obligations of $300,000 per annum. The Mobile and New-Orleans is well known as one of the best equipped, best-scheduled roads in the South, and a shortening of the time between Louisville and New-Orleans may be looked for. The early completion of the New-Orleans and Texas Road will prove a valuable feeder to this line, and will make it a short line to Southern Texas.

Mr. Newcomb took occasion again to deny the rumor that has prevailed for some days, that the Louisville and Nashville was trying to capture the Ohio and Mississippi Road. The slightest familiarity with the Southwestern system would show that the purchase of this road by the Louisville and Nashville would be worse than folly. He denied also what he termed the stock-jobbing report that the Louisville and Nashville was after the Mobile and Ohio Road, and remarked that if the acquisition of that road was desirable, his company would not attempt to secure it by buying the stock, which under the reorganization scheme had no vote in the control of that property at present. Concerning the conference with Colonel Cole, Mr. Newcomb said that he had no doubt a satisfactory and definite arrangement could be reached in a day or two, when the public would be advised.

### THE PENNSYLVANIA COMPANY.

PHILADELPHIA, March 9.—The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company was held to-day in Musical Fund Hall, Mayor Stokley presiding. Mr. Parker moved that the amount expended last year on real estate and permanent improvement be added together, and, with the amount received on account of riot claims, be divided among the stockholders. Colonel Scott suggested that the directors should declare dividends, and the resolution was referred to the incoming Board. William R. Lockwood asked if the stock of the Westchester and Philadelphia Railroad was owned by the company or by directors as individuals. Vice-President Roberts replied that every share of the stock was owned by the company. Mr. Lockwood submitted a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the responsibility incurred in the building of the Elevated Road on Fulbert-st. Laid on the table. Resolutions providing for the appointment of a ticket to be voted for at the ensuing annual meeting were adopted.

### THE NEW-JERSEY CENTRAL'S REPORT.

TRENTON, N. J., March 9.—The Central Railroad Company of New-Jersey has just filed its annual report for ten years ending December 31, 1879, with the Controller in accordance with law. It is as follows:

Capital stock, $18,563,200; funded debt, $32,766,600; other indebtedness, $6,341,208 90; railroad, main stem, Newark branch and Perth Amboy branch, $13,836,809 27; Jersey City Station, $1,315,805 50; Port Johnson Coal Station, $601,768 66; Elizabethport Station, $450,146 10; station-houses, shops, etc., $824,850 42; total, $17,029,373 65; equipment of road, $3,150,000.

Earnings—Passengers, $1,542,336 72; merchandise, $1,201,784 72; coal, $1,348,052 84; mail, express, rents, etc., $164,823 93; total, $4,317,218 21. Expenses—Running expenses, $1,064,086 97; fuel consumed, $177,328 30; repair of roads, decks, buildings, etc., $827,898 02; repairs of equipment, $336,985 40; ferry expenses, $268,601 51; miscellaneous expenses, $270,838 37; total, $2,945,638 57; balance net earnings, $1,371,579 64. The report is dated New-York, February 27.

### FORECLOSURE OF RAILWAY MORTGAGES.

MILWAUKEE, March 9.—An important decree of foreclosure and sale has been entered in the United States Court in the case of Jesse Hoyt, of New-York, trustee, against the Milwaukee and Northern and Menasha and Appleton Railway Companies. The amount due to the bondholders is $2,662,742, and the time for the sale of the property by the Marshal has not been fixed. The foreclosure includes the franchises, rolling stock, etc., of the lines.

### THE GREAT SOUTHERN LINE OPEN.

CINCINNATI, March 9.—The regular through passenger trains on the Cincinnati Southern Railroad passed over the entire length of the road, both North and South, Monday, the Northern-bound train arriving promptly on time. This marks the opening of the road to all kinds of business.

## *OBITUARY.*

### THE REV. DR. ROBERT L. DASHIELL.

The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Dashiell, corresponding secretary of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, died Monday at Newark, age fifty-four years. He was formerly president of Dickenson College, at Carlisle, Penn., and held charges in Baltimore, Jersey City, Newark and other places. He was ill five months.

He was born at Salisbury, Md., in 1826; was graduated with honor from Dickenson College, Carlisle, Penn., in 1846; joined the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1848, and for twenty years was stationed in charge of many of the largest churches of that denomination in Maryland and Pennsylvania. In 1868 he was elected President of Dickenson College. The General Conference which met in Brooklyn in 1872 appointed Dr. Dashiel, a corresponding secretary of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to succeed the late venerable Dr. J. P. Durbin, who had held the office for many years.

### ISAAC W. HAYNE.

CHARLESTON, S. C., March 9.—The Hon. Isaac W. Hayne, who was for twenty years preceding reconstruction the Attorney-General of South Carolina, died yesterday at the age of seventy years. He was a grandson of Isaac Hayne, who was executed here by the British during their occupation of Charleston in the Revolutionary war.

### DR. A. B. HAILE.

NORWICH, Conn., March 9.—Dr. A. B. Haile died this morning at the age of seventy-four years. He had practiced medicine here for about forty years.

# THE COURTS.

## REDUCING A WIFE'S ALIMONY.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION OF THE LESSEE OF THE BRENDRETH HOUSE.

Mary T. Kerr in 1863 obtained a divorce from her husband, William J. Kerr, proprietor of the Brandreth House, for his cruelty. A motion was made before Judge Lawrence in the Common Pleas, Chambers, yesterday to have the alimony reduced under peculiar allegations. Mr. Kerr in his petition avers that no copy of the judgment and decree was ever served upon him, nor did he see a copy until October, 1878. By an amicable agreement made between himself and Mrs. Kerr in 1863 he agreed to pay her $1,800 a year for the support of herself and their three children. Mr. Kerr not only continued to pay this amount until 1878, but he paid large additional sums of money for the support and education of the children. He procured at a cost to himself of $4,000 two several appointments for his son, William J. Kerr, jr., to a cadetship at West Point. When the son refused to accept the second appointment he spent $5,000 in paying his expenses at Lehigh University. The son is now a civil engineer and supports himself. The two daughters were also educated at their father's expense. One of them now receives a salary as a singer in a Philadelphia church, and the other one gives music lessons in the same city. Mrs. Kerr, as Mr. Kerr avers, has now a comfortable fortune of her own from savings and bequests of relatives. The business of conducting the Brandreth House has not been profitable recently. For all these causes the petitioner asked that the alimony should be reduced to $1,000 a year.

Mrs. Kerr in answer claims that the statements in Mr. Kerr's petition are grossly exaggerated, and that her present allowance is not more than sufficient to maintain herself and children in a style approaching that due to their social position. "I am not aware," Mrs. Kerr continues, "of any change for the worse in the defendant's means and business since the judgment in this case, neither do I believe there has been any such considerable change. I am informed and believe that the defendant is a man of extravagant habits, spending money lavishly on unworthy objects and for unworthy purposes; that he has, ever since the judgment, been living with the woman Kate Ward as his wife; that one or two children are reported to have been born of her as the result of such intercourse since such judgment, and that she and the said child or children are supported by the defendant in a luxurious manner, and that he has settled upon them or invested in their names large sums of money or