money to those who have remitted cash with their orders. But I have agreed to stand by the other manufacturers."

Hazleton Brothers did not actually lock out yesterday, although they have agreed to do so. They stopped giving out new work on Saturday, however, and will only permit the men to finish the work now in hand. A few days will close it out, and the factory will be locked.

Lindemann & Co., and Grovesteen & Fuller, in Mercer-st., were at work yesterday, and neither will the firms join the manufacturers nor the men the strikers.

C. Fischer, of the firm of J. & C. Fischer, said: "We closed our manufactory this morning. The men took it very quietly. They have been coming and going during the day. There will be no trouble. I cannot say what will be done. After the meeting of manufacturers this afternoon we can determine more definitely." The firm employs about 250 men; the latter were uncertain as to what they would do, and were inclined to await the action of the next meeting of their members.

Decker Bros., who employ 200 men, had all their hands at work. According to the statement of a Union manufacturer, this is the only firm of the Union which has refused to join in the lockout. The firm intends to keep at work and seems not to have much faith in the present movement.

Francis Bacon (late of Bacon & Karr) said that he joined in the lockout yesterday morning, but in his opinion it would not last long in his own case. "All firms connected with the Manufacturers' Union except Decker Bros.," said he, "have taken part in the present movement. It is difficult to say what we can accomplish, but we intend to stand by the agreement we made with the Union."

Christie & Co., William Schaeffer, Lichte & Ernst, Hartmann & Co., Calcubera, Vaupel & Co., and J. B. Nugent are not members of the Manufacturers' Union. At all these places work was proceeding as usual; the men were said to be contented, and the most satisfactory relations apparently existed between employers and employés. All these firms stated that no strikes had taken place with them since they began business; they had always endeavored to use their men well, and to pay them what was just.

The men who were yesterday locked out at Fischer's and at Bacon's had been willing to work, and appeared yesterday morning as usual at these places. They took the announcement of the lockout quietly and made no threats, so far as could be learned. They have no plans at present, and will wait the issue of events.

Mr. Dowling, of the firm of Hartmann & Co., expressed the opinion that the question was a very serious one and formed only a part of the coming struggle between labor and capital. "Employers must be very careful," said he. "They cannot drive men; they must resort to arbitration and meet them as reasoning beings; otherwise we shall have a terrible time."

The strike of the cabinet-makers employed by Henry Herrmann has practically come to an end. A notice was placed on the Mott-st. factory yesterday morning calling upon the machinists to come to work this morning. These men did not strike, but were thrown idle when the factory was closed. Dispatches were also sent yesterday to Mr. Herrmann's Western mills and drying-houses, ordering them to be opened at once. Mr. Herrmann will make an offer of terms to the cabinetmakers differing in no essential particulars from the terms they demand, and it is believed that his factories will be in operation next week.

At a meeting of cabinetmakers yesterday it was stated that trouble is expected in the furniture manufactory of Herts Bros., at Nos. 163 and 165 West Eighteenth-st., where the workmen have demanded a reduction of the hours of labor to fifty-three hours a week. The firm has given no answer to this demand, but is making efforts to obtain other workmen.

MEETING OF THE STEINWAY MEN.

The Steinway men met last evening at Turtle Bay Hall. It was reported that one varnisher had gone to work, and his name was received with hisses. An open letter to the firm from one of the men was read, which said that Mr. Steinway's statement was false that the varnishers had tried to force the wages of apprentices to $10 a week; false that the varnishers did not give him time to consider before they struck; and false, that the Union tried to dictate whom he should employ. The letter also charged the Steinways with having thrown thousands of workmen out of employment, with the hope of seeing them suffer; and concluded by warning them that they would be forced to yield. An alleged conversation with William Steinway which was published yesterday afternoon, was read to the meeting and commented upon by one of the speakers, who denied that the lockout of 1863 broke up the Union at that time, and said the lockout of 1880 would not break it up.

The purpose of the organization, said the speaker, is to obtain ruing wages for every man working at the trade, and it will never forego this purpose. The conspiracy law passed against the workingmen can be used against the manufacturers, who have deliberately plotted to throw out of employment thousands of men. And I give them notice that the Union means to take steps to test the question whether or not they are amenable to that law. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

A letter was received addressed to the Steinway men signed "Confidential," of which the following is an extract:

"Important! Workmen! Brothers! Where are your wits? Give in to the Steinways at once and reach your ends another way. The Steinways have the respect and the united support of all the manufacturers. You may win, or suffer defeat, but only after long weeks of suffering. Go to work at once and accept their offer, and in the course of the next week strike at J. P. Hale's. He has not the sympathy and support of the others, as he has done more to lower the prices of pianos than anyone else in the trade. Hale, with no support, must succumb to your demands, and all the others must follow."

This letter was sent to Mr. Hale. After the meeting the men were paid $2,000 for relief, in sums ranging from $4 to $8 each.

A mass-meeting of house-painters was held at No. 205 Third-ave. last evening, under the auspices of the Mutual Benefit and Protective Society of Operative Painters. The object was to increase the wages, with the view of moving, in the near future, for an increase of wages. The chairman said there was no present intention of striking, because the painters were not prepared for a strike. He hoped there would be no need of a strike, as he had been told that most employers expected to advance wages. A painter present told a TRIBUNE reporter that the agitation for more pay had had a bad effect already. Said he: "I tried in vain all of last week to get work. The bosses all said they were not doing anything until they could see where the movement for an advance would end."

A meeting of cutters in tailors' shops, or "shop-cutters," was held last evening at No. 10 Stanton-st., to form a Protective Union to "guard its members against unjust encroachments of capital." Officers were elected and a constitution and by-laws were adopted, providing for the reception of delegates from the various shops in the city, and suggesting measures to aid members who were thrown out of employment. Another meeting will be held Thursday at the same place.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of plumbers, moulders and brassfounders was held at Military Hall, in the Bowery, also, last evening. Representatives from Jersey City, Brooklyn, Harlem and Yorkville were present. An association was formed, to be known as the Moulders and Brassfounders' Protective Union, and officers were elected. The object of this was stated to be the promotion of the interests of those concerned, and to secure a uniform rate of wages. The meeting was harmonious and no unusual excitement prevailed. The founders and finishers had been receiving too low wages in their estimation up to January last. During that month many leading firms employing them made a voluntary advance in their pay from 10 per cent to 12½ per cent, this securing for them from $2 25 to $3 a day. Some firms yet retain the old wages of $2. One aim of the new Union will be to ascertain what firms those are, and how to secure a proper advance.

It was stated by some of the leading spirits that one object of the new movement was to secure the adoption of the eight-hour law; others opposed the idea. Another meeting will be held one week from last evening, when it is expected there will be a much larger attendance. There are about 400 of the craft in the city. A delegation from the Western Union Telegraph workers were present and asked for admission to the organization. They were invited to attend at the evening meeting.

STRIKES ELSEWHERE.

OVER SEVEN THOUSAND PUDDLERS ON STRIKE.

READING, Penn., March 15.—The men at the extensive iron works of E. & G. Brooke did not resume work this morning, the temporary arrangement entered into recently, whereby they received an increase of 10 per cent, having ended on Saturday. The demand made was for an increase of 20 per cent, but the demand of the puddlers for $6 instead of $4 50 per ton seems to be the only obstacle in the way of a resumption of work.

HARRISBURG, Penn., March 15.—The puddlers and helpers in the mills of Charles M. Bailey & Co., McCormick and J. Wister have struck for an advance of wages. They are now receiving $5 per ton, and the proprietors offer $5 50, but the strikers demand $6.

PITTSBURG, March 15.—The strike of 7,000 puddlers began to-day. It includes those employed from Johnstown to Columbia, and is the most formidable that has occurred for many years. It does not affect Pittsburg, the manufacturers here having agreed upon a sliding scale for all classes of workmen.

POTTSTOWN, Penn., March 15.—The employés of the Potts Brothers Iron Company, Limited, and a number of the heaters employed by the Pottstown Iron Company, struck for higher wages to-day.

BUFFALO, N. Y., March 15.—One hundred and twenty puddlers and a number of rollers at the Union Iron Works struck this morning for an increase of wages. They receive $5 50 per ton now, and have struck for $6 25, claiming that the latter is the uniform price at the other mills throughout the country.

HURT BY A RUNAWAY HORSE.

Roundsman Matthew Campbell, of the Twelfth Precinct, saw a runaway horse attached to a light wagon dashing along Sixth-ave. and One-hundred-and twenty-fifth-st. last evening. He sprang to the horse's head and seized the bridle, but the animal continued to plunge madly, and Campbell was thrown from his feet. As he fell the shaft of the wagon struck him on the head. When the horse was stopped the roundsman was discovered lying bleeding and unconscious in the road. He was carried to the Ninety-ninth Street Hospital, where the surgeons found that his skull had been fractured.

A CHINESE IRRUPTION.

There was an irruption of Chinamen in the Kings County Court of Sessions yesterday afternoon, when a Chinaman, named See Hao Kaoh, was put on trial, charged with stealing $150 from a brother Celestial. The witnesses were all Oriental, and the services of an interpreter were necessary. The oath was administered after the Chinese fashion, with a lighted taper. One of the witnesses, however, took the oath on the Bible; he said that he considered this binding, as he believed in the Chinese religion when in China, and in the United States religion when in the United States. See Hao Kaoh was acquitted.

GENERAL ALBANY NEWS.

THE ATTACK ON MR. SMYTH.

THE JOINT RESOLUTION LAID ON THE TABLE—A NEW NOMINATION EXPECTED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, March 15.—Another attack was made upon John F. Smyth, the Superintendent of the Insurance Department, to-night. In the Legislature a week ago Mr. Rhodes, a Democrat, offered a concurrent resolution, removing Mr. Smyth from office, and to-night he called it up. This brought it directly before the Assembly, and it was presumed that Mr. Rhodes intended to make a speech advocating its passage. Mr. Skinner shut off all speeches, however, by abruptly moving that the resolution should be laid upon the table. Mr. Rhodes palpably surprised by Mr. Skinner's motion said excitedly, "I hope the motion will not be adopted." Mr. Alvord replied loudly, "I hope it will." Speaker Sharpe put the motion and it was adopted by an almost unanimous vote.

The Republican majority, it was evident, would not permit a Democrat to take the lead in such a matter, and, moreover, many Democrats thought Mr. Rhodes's introduction of the resolution impolitic. The resolution is now in a position to be taken up whenever the majority may deem it best to do so.

Mr. Skinner, who made the motion to lay the resolution upon the table, is in favor of the removal of Mr. Smyth, but with other Republican opponents of that gentleman he is of the opinion that no further attacks should be made upon him in the Legislature this ample opportunity has been given to Governor Cornell to nominate his successor. It is the general belief of politicians that a new nomination for the office of Superintendent will be made on Wednesday. Henry R. Pierson and Speaker Sharpe are among the persons named for the office.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

THE RAILROAD INQUIRY TO BE PROLONGED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, March 15.—The Senate to-night considered Senator Strahan's bill forbidding walking matches in which women take part, and ordered it to a third reading. An effort was made to include men in the prohibition, but the amendment was rejected.

The Assembly Railroad Committee will continue during the week to hear arguments on the Hepburn railroad discrimination bill. General B. F. Tracy will make to-morrow an argument in opposition to the express company feature of the bill; on Wednesday the New-York Central and the Utica and Black River Railroad Companies will be heard, and on Thursday Mr. Hepburn, the chairman of the noted committee, will speak.

The Assembly this evening rejected Mr. Mitchell's resolution to repeal the law forbidding the reduction of fares on railroads until they had paid dividends of 10 per cent. Mr. Skinner said the resolution was in the interest of the elevated railroad companies. Mr. Mitchell then moved for returns from all the railroads, but the resolution was tabled.

The bill authorizing the Superintendent of Public Works to make repairs and improvements on the canals, was discussed at some length and amended so as to put more fully the work in the hands of the Superintendent, exclusive of the Canal Board, and then ordered to a third reading.

Adjourned.

The New-York Free Circulating Library filed articles of incorporation with the Secretary of State to-day. Among the incorporators are Hamilton Fish, Joseph H. Choate, Abram S. Hewitt, Robert Hoe, sr., Levi P. Morton, Elizabeth C. Hobson, Annie Redfoo and Ruth D. Draper.

LIFE INSURANCE REPORTS.

RETURNS OF THE BUSINESS TRANSACTED LAST YEAR.

ALBANY, March 15.—Superintendent Smyth, of the Insurance Department, has published a chart giving the figures from the reports of life insurance companies for the year ended December 31, 1879. The following is a synopsis therefrom of the business of the New-York companies:

	1879.	1878.
No. of companies	12	15
Assets	$2625 0039	$2 05 2631
Liabilities	1390 7094	1747 9359
Surplus income	32872345	31759292
Premiums	$3 0025213	$32271633
Interest	10353409	10396625
All other	776599	680174
Total	$41158408	$43335430
Death claims	$10191240	$9783741
Endowments	4127731	4236921
Lapsed and surrendered policies	7562659	10128115
Dividends to policy holders	7137533	7704098
Dividends to stockholders	136003	138842
All other payments	5900083	6106004
Total	$35058299	$38141720
POLICY EXHIBIT.		
New policies issued, number	34263	31710
New policies issued, amount	$39465572	$37629332
Old policies terminated, number	31159	31642
Old policies terminated, amount	$36270993	$11642547
Policies in force, number	261799	258706
Policies in force, amount	$730645800	$721744888

The companies from other States make a smaller exhibit. The number of companies is nineteen, the same as in 1878:

	1879.	1878.
Assets	$198867019	$197532514
Liabilities	166952358	164792287
Surplus income	32214661	32740227
Premiums	$22269657	$24964702
Interest	11725346	11512778
All other	590492	598089
Total	$35021545	$37105569
Death claims	$10719837	$9901392
Endowments	4681400	4928606
Superseded an surrendered policies	5166232	6967879
Dividends to policy-holders	6199291	6933351
Dividends to stockholders	142196	140507
All other payments	4881773	5144521
Total payments	$31811434	$33986348
POLICY EXHIBIT.		
New policies issued, number	33136	35330
New policies issued, amount	$63399378	$69471207
Old policies terminated, number	4444	4544
Old policies terminated, amount	$1148797	$1148797
Policies in force, number	335687	337042
Policies in force, amount	$709312663	$729057513

NAVY INTELLIGENCE.

OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO THE SHIP CONSTELLATION—SUPPLIES FOR IRELAND TO BE RECEIVED AT THE NAVY YARD.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Commodore John M. B. Cutz, Captain S. P. Quackenbush, Lieutenant George H. Wadleigh, Master Hugo Osternaus, and Ensign Samuel C. Lemby have been ordered to examination for promotion.

Lieutenant Charles W. Ruschenberger has been ordered to the receiving-ship St. Louis, at the Navy Yard, League Island, Penn.

The following detachments have been made: Lieutenant-Commander James M. Forsyth, from the Navy Yard, League Island, and ordered as executive of the Constellation; Lieutenant Wm. F. Low, from the receiving-ship Colorado, and ordered to the Constellation; Lieutenant Newton E. Mason, from the receiving-ship St. Louis, and ordered to the Constellation; Lieutenant Albron V. Wadhams, from duty at the experimental battery, and ordered to the Nipsic; Lieutenant John D. J. Kelly, from the Nipsic, and ordered to duty at the experimental battery; Paymaster Luther G. Billings, from duty as Inspector of Flour, etc., at New-York, and ordered to the Constellation; Passed Assistant-Surgeon Chas. W. Gravatt, from the Naval Hospital, Norfolk, and ordered to the Constellation; Passed Assistant-Engineer A. G. Dixon, from the Alarm, and placed on waiting orders; Boatswain Edward Bousal, from the Navy Yard at League Island, and ordered to the Constellation.

Commander Edward E. Potter has been ordered to command the Constellation. The Secretary of the Navy has instructed the Commandant of the Brooklyn Navy Yard to receive all provisions offered for the relief of the sufferers in Ireland, the same to be placed on board the Constellation, now at that Yard.

Captain William R. Brown and First-Lieutenant A. C. Kellon, U. S. M. C., at League Island, Penn., have been ordered to report to Captain James Forney as members of a board of survey to convene at Philadelphia to-morrow, Tuesday.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM HAWKINS FERRIS.

William Hawkins Ferris, ex-Cashier of the United States Sub-Treasury, died of consumption yesterday at his home, No. 332 Ninth-st., Brooklyn, in the fifty-second year of his age. For a quarter of a century Mr. Ferris was one of the best known men in Wall-st. In 1845, he entered the service of Samuel J. Beebe & Co., bankers, now of J. B. Colgate & Co., remaining with them until their failure in 1857. He then became a partner in the firm of Sewell, Ferris & Co. In 1861 he entered the Sub-Treasury and rose rapidly to the position of cashier, which he held for seven years when he was forced to resign by sickness. Mr. Ferris was on intimate terms with many prominent men of letters, and numbered among his personal friends W. Gilmore Simms, the Southern novelist, William Cullen Bryant, Paul H. Hayne and John Neal. Mr. Simms was a constant visitor at his home after the war and planned several of his literary works in association with Mr. Ferris, who added to his financial ability fine literary taste. J. G. Brown, the artist, painted for him in 1868 the picture "Waiting for a Swing," which attracted much attention at the Academy of Design. The subject of the picture was the young daughter of Mr. Ferris.

GONE WITH "BUFFALO BILL."

George Mason, a sixteen year old boy, whose parents live at No. 165 Suffolk-st., was missing from his home last night. He left the house after breakfast yesterday, and told some of his playmates that he was going to leave the city with the theatrical company managed by "Buffalo Bill," and to follow it until "Buffalo Bill" returned to the Western prairies.

XLVIth CONGRESS—IId SESSION.

REGULAR REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

THE SENATE BILL TO PROHIBIT THE ARREST OF ELECTION OFFICERS—THE STAR ROUTE DEFICIENCY—A HOUSE BILL IN REGARD TO THE SEIZURE OF TELEGRAMS—MR. ACKLEN'S CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

SENATE.....WASHINGTON, March 15, 1880.

In the Senate to-day the memorial of the publishers of the principal newspapers of Chicago asking that the present duty of 20 per cent on the value of unsized paper be repealed was presented by Mr. DAVIS (Ind., Ill.) The memorialists say this tax produces little revenue, and serves only to enlarge the profits of manufacturing monopolists. They also ask the abolition of the duty on soda-ash and wood, straw and other pulp, and on type. Mr. DAVIS spoke in advocacy of the memorial, and in the course of his remarks said that while he regretted that it might not be practicable at this session to reform the tariff as a whole, there was no reason why this particularly desirable change should not be made at once.

Memorials of the Press Associations of Kentucky and others for the abolition of duty on all articles used in making paper were presented.

Mr. BAYARD (Dem., Del.), from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported favorably the Senate bill prohibiting the arrest of election officers on election day. Placed on the calendar. It makes it unlawful for any marshal, deputy-marshal or supervisor of elections, or any person acting by their authority, to arrest or imprison on election day any election officer, acting as such under and by virtue of election or appointment under any State law, for any offence against the United States election laws; but the warrant or process for such offence may be executed at any time after the close of such election day.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Rep., Vt.) stated that he and other members of the committee did not concur in the majority report.

Mr. THURMAN (Dem., Ohio), from the same committee, reported, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute, the Senate bill making the crime of rape in the District of Columbia punishable with death. Placed on the calendar. Mr. Edmunds stated that he did not concur in the majority report, and would submit his views in writing in a few days.

The substitute of the committee leaves the penalty to the discretion of the jury or the Judge.

Bills were introduced and referred as follows: For the suppression of infectious and contagious diseases among domestic cattle; for the punishment of tramps in the District of Columbia; to amend the patent laws.

Consideration of the bill for the erection of a public building in Denver was resumed.

Pending debate the morning hour expired.

Mr. McDONALD (Dem., Ind.) submitted the views of the minority of the Judiciary Committee on the bill to reimburse the several States for interest paid on war loans, which was lately reported adversely.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the "Star" Route Deficiency Appropriation bill.

The preamble recites that the deficiency is caused by the Post Office Department disregarding the law prohibiting expenditure in excess of appropriation, which deficiency, unless supplied, threatens to deprive the people of the necessary mail service. It appropriates $1,100,000 for that purpose. During the remainder of the year no further expediting of service or increase of trips on any Star route shall be made. The further sum of $100,000 is also appropriated for placing new service according to law, provided that the Postmaster-General should hereafter have power to expedite any contract, either now existing or hereafter given, to a rate of pay exceeding fifty per cent upon the contract as originally let.

This differs from the House bill in several particulars. Mr. Wallace explained the bill, and gave the views of the committee. Its said Star routes covered 215,000 miles, while all other routes amount to 100,000 miles, so that Star routes cover more than twice as many miles as railroad and steamboat routes. The Postmaster-General, on December 8, said the deficiency was $1,720,000, and asked an appropriation of $2,000,000 to cover it. The Sixth Auditor says $1,155,000 will cover it. These figures demonstrate that either the Post Office Department did not know its own needs or the Sixth Auditor or the Treasury does not know what the service needs. The conclusion is forced upon us that they do not know their own wants, or else has some other purpose to serve. It is our duty, of course, to take a charitable view of the subject, and the committee simply call attention to the discrepancy in the figures. It is our duty to give the money needed to carry on the service on its basis to the end of the year, but no more.

Mr. CONKLING (Rep., N. Y.)—What is to happen after July 1?

Mr. WALLACE—The Appropriation bill for the succeeding year will be passed before then, appropriating what is ascertained to be required for that fiscal year. The determination of the committee was simply to ask the Department to obey the law, and we would continue the existing service. The House proviso cut it down on 107 routes, all of them west of the Mississippi River. The total increase of expense for expedition on the 107 routes during the current fiscal year was $836,819; for this fiscal year it is $308,946; making the total increase $1,145,765. Here is the tremendous increase in cost of $1,145,000, when the whole cost per annum is about $7,000,000. The increase is more than 1,000 per cent in some cases; for instance, Bismarck to Fort Keogh, $2,350 to $70,000, and Rock Creek to Fort Custer, $10,507 to $88,768. This is too much discretion to vest in any executive officer. He went on to show that the forfeitures incurred by the abrogation of contracts under the House bill would take $267,113. The amount appropriated was $970,000, making total expenses of $1,237,113; wherefore the Senate bill appropriates $1,100,000, the amount shown to be sufficient by the Sixth Auditor. So that, from every standpoint, the Senate bill is better than the House bill.

Mr. MAXEY (Dem., Tex.) supported the bill as amended, but did not concur in the preamble. The Postmaster-General had acted under the law; if the law was bad ought it should be repealed; that was for Congress to decide; but the Postmaster-General should not be accused of crime in exercising the discretion vested in him.

There had been much said about some of these routes, the Yuma route especially. He himself was probably more than any other man responsible for the increase on that route. He and other representatives of the interests of Texas and of the whole country had urged the increase on the Postmaster-General; he had granted it, and the result had fully justified this action, for that country was being settled up with remarkable rapidity. Though he was not in love with the present Administration, he would not attack it in the way it had been attacked in connection with this matter by making accusations injurious to a man's reputation for integrity because he had exercised a discretion granted him by law.

Mr. BECK (Dem., Ky.) insisted that the preamble was justified by the facts. For the first time on record, the Blue Book has been divided into two parts, the second part containing all information regarding routes and contracts, and being kept back until March or April for the purpose of withholding the information which would have enabled Congress to know what the Department had been doing. Mr. Brady was obliged to admit that there was no other necessity for this than the failure of the proper bureau to furnish the information.

Mr. Beck will resume his remarks to-morrow.

At 4:25 p. m. the Senate went into executive session, and when the doors were reopened adjourned until to-morrow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In the House to-day, under the call of States, the following bills were introduced and referred:

By Mr. BERNDON (Dem., Ala.)—To make more explicit Section 2,505 of the Revised Statutes, relating to the importation of bullion and the ore of gold and silver.

By Mr. SINGLETON (Dem., Ill.)—In relation to telegraph communications. It provides that all telegraph messages delivered for transmission to any telegraph company availing itself of the provisions of Title 65 of the Revised Statutes, and copies thereof made by such company at the place of destination or any intermediate point, shall be deemed to be and shall be protected from unreasonable search and seizure, or from production as evidence in judicial and legislative proceedings, to the same extent as communications sent by the United States mail.

By Mr. RYAN (Rep., Kan.)—For the relief of the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad Company.

By Mr. ELLIS (Dem., La.), by request—To revive the act of June 30, 1856, and to make a grant of land to Morgan's Louisiana and Texas Railroad and Steamboat Company.

By Mr. ACKLEN (Dem., La.)—Proposing a Constitutional Amendment. It recites the fact that the evidently growing tendency in the United States to centralization of power in the Federal Government has awakened throughout the country a just fear that in the near future the perpetuation of this Union may again be imperilled by internal commotion, thereby wrecking the peace and prosperity of this Republic, and breaking down those doctrines of the perpetual union of the States finally and fully settled by the war, as well as infringing upon the home rule of the States guaranteed by the Constitution; and proposes a constitutional amendment declaring that the union of these United States shall be perpetual, and that all acts or attempts to separate or destroy this Union shall be treason against the Federal Government; and shall be punished as such. State limits and boundaries shall be inviolate, provided that new States may be formed with the consent of the States from which they are formed; and the right of the State to make, execute and enforce its local laws by or through its chosen representatives or officials shall never be interfered with by the Federal Government.

By Mr. BUCKNER (Dem., Mo.)—For the adjournment of Congress on the 24th of May.

By Mr. DAGGETT (Rep., Nev.)—To reduce the price of public lands within railroad limits.

By Mr. COVERT (Dem., N. Y.)—To create a scientific commission to establish legal tests for the protection of dealers in butter, oleomargarine, etc.

By Mr. MORTON (Rep., N. Y.)—Amending the laws relative to the seizure and forfeiture of vessels for breach of the revenue laws.

By Mr. KELLEY (Rep., Penn.)—A resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish the House with a detailed statement of the amount of bonds purchased by the Treasury between the 1st of January, 1844, and 1st of January, 1859, with other particulars.

By Mr. WARD (Rep., Penn.)—To equalize the salaries of customs officers.

By Mr. YOUNG (Dem., Tenn.)—For the appointment of a commission to examine and report on the method of settling claims against the United States.

The Speaker recognized Mr. DUNN (Dem., Ark.), who, on behalf of the Committee on Public Lands, moved to suspend the rules and take up for consideration the bill relating to the public lands of the United States.

After a debate of fifteen minutes in support of the bill and fifteen minutes in opposition to it, the motion to suspend the rules and consider the bill was defeated—yeas, 114; nays, 89; not the necessary two-thirds in the affirmative.

Mr. CABELL (Dem., Va.), chairman of the Committee on Railways and Canals, moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill to abolish all tolls on the Louisville and Portland Canal.

After half an hour's debate the motion was agreed to and the bill passed.

A letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, in response to a resolution of the House calling for certain commercial statistics relative to the trade between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, was referred to the Committee on Interoceanic Canal.

Mr. COX (Dem., N. Y.) was recognized by the Speaker to move to suspend the rules for the purpose of passing the bill for the relief of the suffering Irish, but he was cut off by a motion to adjourn. He, however, obtained leave to have printed the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs upon the bill.

The House then, at 4:05 p. m., adjourned.

TRANSACTIONS OF COMMITTEES.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—The House Committee on Comage, Weights and Measures discussed at some length to-day the subject of the capacity of the mints to meet the demands made upon them for the coinage of gold and silver. It was thought advisable to obtain the views of the Director.

The House Committee on Claims decided to-day to report adversely upon twenty claims, aggregating $100,000.

The House Committee on Reform in the Civil Service had under consideration to-day the subject of fixing the hours of labor in the several departments of the Government. No conclusion was reached.

At the meeting of the House Committee on Naval Affairs to-day, Representative Whitthorne presented a report and substitute for Representative Morton's bill "to regulate the rank of engineer officers of the Naval Academy." The committee directed that the bill and accompanying report be reported to the House to be printed and recommitted. Mr. Whitthorne's bill proposes that in "estimating the length of service in the staff corps to decide questions of precedence the several officers of the staff corps shall respectively take precedence in the several grades, and with those officers of the line of the navy with whom they hold relative rank who have been in the naval service six years longer than such officers of said staff corps have been in said service: provided that nothing in this section shall be so construed as to give to any officer of the staff corps precedence of, or a higher relative rank than that of another staff officer in the same grade and corps, and whose commission in such grade and corps antedates that of such officer; and officers who have been advanced, or lost numbers in the navy register, shall be considered as having gained or lost in length of service accordingly."

The House Committee on Commerce resumed the hearing upon the bill which proposes to abolish compulsory pilotage to-day. John H. Cooper, of Baltimore; Mr. Skillinger, of Philadelphia; Mr. Edwards, of Norfolk, and Mr. Guerney, of Boston, pilots, opposed the bill and presented the pilots' side of the case. Captain Hall, of Boston, a shipmaster of twelve years' experience, spoke in advocacy of the bill. It is understood a special hearing will be given by the Committee to the Southern pilots, who believe they will be especially aggrieved by the proposed bill.

To-day the Senate Exodus Committee began the examination of John H. Burch, a colored ex-Senator from Louisiana, and one of the Republican Presidential electors of that State in 1876. Mr. Burch began his testimony by stating that the exodus at one time last year slackened somewhat, but since the State election in Louisiana last December it has largely increased. He said the effort made last Winter by the Democrats in the Legislature to pass what was called the "Chain Gang Law," the agitation of this subject and the uncertainty of the status of the colored people under Democratic rule prevented many from making the usual labor contracts in January and February of this year, and that the result of this is already observable in the large number of colored people who have moved from the planting districts into the cities and towns lying on the banks of the rivers, so as to take advantage of opportunities for transportation to the West. The proposition to pass these Chain Gang laws and other measures intended to abridge their industrial rights, the negroes, he said, believed were designed, and would eventually place them under a system of peonage, and hence the controlling idea with them is to get away from the State. Mr. Burch testified at great length about the oppression of the negro and the suppression of his vote in Louisiana.

The Hon. F. W. Phelps made an argument before the House Committee on Railways and Canals to-day in opposition to the bill granting a subsidy to the San Antonio and Laredo Rail way Company.

The Senate Committee on the removal of the Poncas to-day interrogated White Eagle, Standing Buffalo and other prominent members of the tribe on the general question of the Indian policy. They strongly favored the plan of allotting homesteads of Indian lands in severalty with provisions to make the titles unalienable for a term of years, and to sell the surplus lands to form permanent funds for the benefit of the Indians, the interest thereon to be distributed annually. They would not, however, be willing to have their lands sold in such a way as to lead to white settlers being interspersed among the Indians, near the wastes, according more than they did, should take advantage of them.

The House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads resumed to-day the consideration of the bill providing for the payment of the claim of the Burlington and Quincy Railroad for compensation for extra mail service (carrying the mail on Sundays). The committee agreed to report favorably to the House Representative Singleton's bill, which authorizes the Postmaster-General to introduce postal cards with a flexible flap to conceal the messages written upon them.

GENERAL POLITICAL NEWS.

DISCIPLINE IN THE XVIth DISTRICT.

The XVth District Republican Association last evening gathered for the purpose of listening to the charges made against the president, Sherman Shook, and the treasurer, William M. Montgomery. Mr. Shook is charged with having allowed the issue of tickets bearing the name of Robert Powers, Anti-Tammany candidate for Member of Assembly, from the Republican boxes in certain districts. It is also charged that Mr. Shook in various ways endeavored to defeat the Republican candidate for Governor, A. B. Cornell. Mr. Montgomery is charged with having [illegible] Cornell and other Republican candidates at the last election, and with having proposed the names of Democrats for membership in the association. The gravity of the charges was sufficient to call together a large number of the members of the association, and though there was little more than preliminary skirmishing, a good deal of feeling was displayed on both sides.

Mr. Shook was not present when the Committee of Investigation opened its session, and the cases of Augustus Lyon, John McCormick, Charles S. Smith, Thomas Farrell and John Conroy, who were charged with belonging to a Democratic organization, were taken up. They are accused of belonging to the Robert H. Fox Association, so named in honor of a Democrat of Alleyne. The defence was that the organization was a social and not a political one. All the accused men testified that they supported the entire Republican ticket. E. C. Lee appeared for all of them.

When the case of Mr. Shook was again called, Mr. Lee said he appeared on behalf of the seventy persons who had made the charges against Mr. Shook. Indignation was expressed by Mr. Lee and some of his colleagues at the fact that the Committee of Investigation had given no information to the complainants that the case of Mr. Shook would be taken up that evening. The committee stated that no notification was needed. A long dispute followed, ending with the committee adjourning the hearing in the case of Messrs. Shook and Montgomery for one week.

PRIMARIES ON LONG ISLAND.

The primaries for the nomination of town officers in most of the towns of Queens and Suffolk Counties L. I., will be held this week, and considerable stir is already being made in regard to the coming Spring elections. In Newtown, the present Supervisor, John E. Van Nostrand (Rep.), has a strong following, and from present appearances will have no opposition. For Supervisor of Flushing, A. K. P. Dennet (Rep.), the present incumbent will be renominated. S. D. Roe and Joseph Dede will both probably be in the field for the office of supervisor on the Democratic side, regardless of the action of the Convention. In North Hempstead John M. Clark (Rep.), present Supervisor, will be renominated. The Democrats talk of nominating Stephen Taber. Hempstead is strongly Republican. The present Supervisor, Mr. Clement (Rep.), will be renominated. Ex-Sheriff Rushmore is being urged to take the Democratic nomination.

Jamaica Democrats will nominate John H. Brinckerhoff. The Republicans have not yet named a candidate. The fight will be on the excise commissioners, overseers of the poor, justices of the peace, and constables. There are five candidates for justice of the peace in the town of Jamaica, on the Democratic side. The chances are in favor of ex-Judge Henry S. Lott, of Woodhaven. In the town of Oyster Bay, which is strongly Democratic, the present Supervisor, George S. Downing, will not be a candidate, unless the nomination is offered unanimously. This is not likely from present indications, as Townsend Cook and Scudder V. Whitney are seeking the nomination. In this town there are five aspirants for the office of Justice of the Peace. There will be no election for Supervisor in Long Island City, Mr. Claron holding over under the charter amendments, which increased the term to two years. In Suffolk County, which is Republican, the Board of Supervisors is Democratic. Last Fall the Republicans elected their entire county ticket, and a strong effort will now be made to elect a Republican Board of Supervisors. The elections will be held on April 6.

DISCUSSIONS OF GREENBACK DELEGATES.

The National Greenback-Labor Clubs of the city convened last evening in Clarendon Hall, to arrange preliminaries for the State Convention to be held at Albany on March 23. Sixty-five delegates were present, representing eighteen districts. Mrs. M. R. Still, who claimed to be a legally chosen delegate, desired to have administered to her the oath of office. The request caused much discussion, and was finally laid over for two weeks. Five districts were not represented, and it was moved by George Blair that power be given the Convention to choose any persons who had taken part in this movement to represent such districts; being unable to come to a conclusion, those present agreed to postpone the further discussion until next Monday night.

A committee of fifteen was appointed to be known as the Central Agitation Committee, whose duty will be to arrange all meetings.

A GERMAN SHERMAN CLUB.

A German club to favor the nomination of Secretary Sherman for President has been formed, the first meeting having been held at No. 232 East Ninth-st. Resolutions commending Mr. Sherman's course and presenting his qualifications for the Presidency were adopted and the following officers were elected: John W. Bremmer, President; Aug. Ziegenburg, first vice-president; Henry Lichter, second vice-president; Hugo Seuncke, secretary; Freidrich Heim, corresponding secretary; Gustav A. Dorge, treasurer. The club adjourned until Thursday evening, March 18.

THE TRIBUNE has a long article about a brainless man away off in San Francisco. Reports from there indicate that he isn't lonesome.—[Boston Post.

THE COURTS.

STEALING FROM HER HUSBAND.

SINGULAR SUIT BY A BOWERY OYSTER-DEALER AGAINST HIS WIFE.

Richard O'Donnell has brought a singular suit in the Court of Common Pleas against his wife, Margaret O'Donnell, and several of the savings banks of the city. The plaintiff alleges that he has been carrying on the oyster business in the Bowery for nineteen years. His wife, he says, has been accustomed on every evening for five years to "open the till-drawer and secretly abstract various sums of money" without the plaintiff's consent, and these peculations, amounting in the aggregate to more than $14,000, threatened to destroy his business. Mr. O'Donnell claims that a part of this money has been given to the wife's daughter by a former marriage, whom the plaintiff brought over from Ireland at his own expense, and the rest has been deposited to the wife's credit in the defendant savings banks. These sums he seeks to recover by this suit. As if these domestic woes were not enough, the plaintiff alleges further of his wife, "that her conduct is also uniformly cruel and inhuman to me, she using vile language and calling me vile and opprobrious epithets before my servants and employés, injuring me in my business by her conduct in the presence of customers, and has struck me and otherwise ill treated me, which will be fully proven at the trial of the suit now pending in this Court instituted by me against her for a legal separation."

Judge Larremore yesterday in Chambers continued the injunction restraining the savings banks from paying out the deposits to the wife until the determination of the suit.

A QUEST