New-York Tribune.

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ACTIVITY AT ALBANY.

GENERAL SHARPE RENOMINATED.

THE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS UNDISTURBED BY ANY CONTEST FOR THE SPEAKERSHIP—LATEST PHASES OF THE SENATORIAL CANVASS—THE PROSPECTS OF THE RIVAL CANDIDATES—A RUMOR ABOUT THE COMMITTEES.

General Sharpe was nominated for re-election as Speaker by the Republican caucus held in Albany last night. Mr. Skinner withdrew gracefully from the contest, and the proceedings were entirely harmonious. The Senatorial canvass is proceeding actively. The Conkling men are alarmed at the want of harmony in their ow ranks, and are anxious to find some one candidate on whom they may unite. Mr. Crowley, Mr. Platt and Congressman Morton continue to divide their preferences. Mr. Depew, who is to be in Albany to-day, has the largest number of votes of any candidate so far, and is likely to receive the full support of Senator Conkling's opponents in the Legislature. There is a rumor that the committees may not be appointed until after the Senatorial election.

PARTY CAUCUSES HELD.

PERFECT HARMONY THROUGHOUT—ERASTUS BROOKS NAMED BY THE DEMOCRATS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, Jan. 3.—The dullest and quietest canvass for the Speakership Albany has known in years closed to-night with the unanimous nomination of General George H. Sharpe. The caucus was as harmonious as the canvass was good-humored, and the result leaves no heart-burnings. It is within the fact to say there was not a man among those supporting Mr. Skinner who did not have the highest respect for General Sharpe, as well for his personal qualities as for his record as a soldier and in public life. It is also within the fact to say that there was no bitterness among General Sharpe's supporters toward those who for reasons good to themselves supported Mr. Skinner. It rarely happens that a canvass which is a real one closes with such general good feeling and with such an utter absence of the angry talk which often follows a defeat.

As was indicated in THE TRIBUNE this morning, it was finally decided late in the day not to present Mr. Skinner's name to the caucus. A good deal of active work had been done for him during the day, and his friends were manifestly more hopeful of making a good showing in the vote than they were yesterday. Pledges of support were received from thirty-five members in all, but when some of these men saw that Mr. Skinner could not be elected, and that General Sharpe would surely be Speaker, they began to show a willingness to be on the winning side, where there were committee places, clerkships, and a host of small appointments to be given away, and they began to argue that the Speakership was not of much consequence anyway. Not all of them could then be held to their promises, and it was deemed wisest on the part of Mr. Skinner's friends to make no further contest.

The caucus was held in the Assembly Chamber this evening. The splendid hall was brilliantly lighted and filled with a crowd which took rather more interest in the alleged, but now invisible crack in the ceiling than in the speeches. Henry Hurd, a young member from Erie County, was made chairman. General Sharpe's name was presented by the Hon. B. F. Baker, of Saratoga County. Mr. Baker's oratory was not exhilarating, as he read his speech from manuscript and had to stop at critical points to look up the next word. The audience could not help giving a good natured laugh when ex-Lieutenant-Governor Alvord raised his white head some minutes after Mr. Baker had concluded, and said in his quick, brisk way: "Mr. Chairman, I have known George Sharpe a long while; he is a clever man, and I move that his nomination be made unanimous." The contrast was plainly intentional, and too good not to be enjoyed.

Mr. Skinner made a pleasant little speech, thanking his friends for the support they had given him, and closing with the remark that if there was any other candidate than George H. Sharpe, he was not that candidate. The speech was received with kindly applause, the only applause of the evening. Marius Turck, General Sharpe's Republican colleague from Ulster, also spoke. A call of the roll followed, and each member rising in his place voted for General Sharpe.

Mr. Johnson was, of course, unanimously nominated for Clerk, and the minor nominations followed.

The Democratic Assembly held their caucus half an hour earlier in the Court of Appeals' room. Forty-three of the forty-seven Democrats were present. The older members by silent agreement refrained from any motion that might lead to a sudden classification of the body into Tilden and Kelly Democrats. Mr. Pratt, of Albany, in a speech of praise, nominated Erastus Brooks for Speaker, who was then chosen unanimously. The only nomination that gave rise to questions was that of John Q. Adams for second doorkeeper; there was a general inquiry if it was the "old man eloquent." Mr. Adams was nominated and the caucus adjourned.

General Sharpe had scarcely been nominated before there were men in his room seeking places on the committees. There is already much gossip afloat about the important chairmanships. Dr. I. I. Hayes is named as his own successor at the head of the Committee on Cities. Mr. Husted as head of the Ways and Means, Mr. Skinner of Railways, Mr. Draper of Insurance, Mr. Bowen of Manufactures, Mr. Hurd of Canals, Mr. Russell of Judiciary, and Mr. Alvord of Rules. There is some suspicion expressed that the committees will not be announced until after the Senatorial caucus.

THE SENATORIAL PRIZE.

THE GENERAL OUTLOOK—WHAT IS SAID OF THE RESPECTIVE CANDIDATES—THE CONKLING MEN ANXIOUS TO UNITE ON SOME ONE CANDIDATE—MR. DEPEW EXPECTED IN ALBANY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, Jan. 3.—While the contest between the rival candidates for Speaker—a contest hardly for the office, but rather over the division of the vote—has stood in the way of the Senatorship, there has been much talk, with some intrigue, upon the latter. It was evident to-day that the Conkling leaders were seriously frightened at the strength which they knew the friends of Chauncey M. Depew to possess. The machine managers began to see, as they have not seen before, that the division of their forces among several candidates was a growing danger. It is admitted by many that Mr. Depew is sure to-day of a larger number of votes than any other candidate now named; Thomas C. Platt coming next, and Congressman Crowley, the only other candidate who has friends here at work for him, coming last. If the situation should be prolonged until the time of the Senatorial caucus, which must be held before the 18th inst., the day on which the Senator will be elected, Mr. Depew would have a clear lead, with all the advantage that implies. There have been efforts, therefore, to bring about a compromise upon some one candidate. One of the most prominent Conkling Republicans in the State remarked privately to-day, with evident cheerfulness, that in two days more there would be only one machine candidate for the Senate in the field. The remark was highly significant, not only because of its distinguished source, but because it showed that the need of a speedy fusion among the Conkling men was appreciated. It is not impossible, therefore, that the Conkling candidate will be designated very soon. But this will not end the contest by any means. The opposition will no doubt coalesce about any one of its present candidates who shall be agreed upon. Mr. Depew now seems most likely to be that one. He has great personal popularity, and has here working for him a body of the shrewdest politicians in the State. They declare that they will nominate him; and with a considerable majority in his favor in the Senate and a strong vote in the House the struggle is likely to be close and exciting. If the Conkling leaders succeed in making the fusion they desire, the final contest will probably, from present appearances, narrow down to these two—the Conkling candidate and Mr. Depew.

Who the Conkling candidate is likely to be is as dark yet as ever. Some say Mr. Platt, and many Mr. Morton, and a few Governor Cornell. But it is not apparent that anybody really knows. It will not be easy to get Mr. Platt out of the way, nor Mr. Crowley if the show the latter's candidacy makes is a reality. There was a flurry of Crowley talk this morning. A well-known Conkling man said that General Arthur earnestly desired Mr. Crowley's election. This is generally believed, with the companion statement that Governor Cornell is just as warmly in favor of Mr. Platt. This gentleman went on to predict that Speaker Sharpe would pack the committees in Mr. Crowley's interest, and declarations could be heard on all sides that Mr. Crowley was Senator Conkling's candidate. But Mr. Platt's supporters vehemently deny this. One of them said: "That is all untrue. Senator Conkling has expressed no preference, and is not likely to express any. He will let this thing work itself." It is noticeable that the men who are recognized as special friends of General Arthur are outspoken for Mr. Crowley, and it is the opinion of some shrewd observers that it is a genuine canvass to be pushed to success if possible.

On the other hand, it is thought that this is merely a demonstration against Mr. Platt. It has already resulted in bringing about a direct rivalry between the two men, and the plan is, on this theory, to make the contest so sharp that a third candidate will be necessary, and thus Mr. Platt will be forced out. It is certain that an attempt to construct committees in Mr. Crowley's interest would make trouble, inasmuch as Mr. Platt's friends have been quite as earnest in support of General Sharpe as the Arthur men.

There is plainly a marked feeling against Mr. Crowley on personal grounds, even among Conkling men. He is a Roman Catholic, and that fact makes some unreasonable prejudice against him. He is in an unfortunate position financially, and there is a good deal of talk about the absurdity of a Senator from the great State of New-York being in that situation. It is a fact also that there is some feeling among Conkling men against Levi P. Morton, because he is not an original Conkling man. It has always been the Conkling principle to reward the veterans—not the recruits. Mr. Morton is in some sense a recruit. It was stated to-day that Mr. Morton was one of the members and financial backers of the Republican Reform Club which was formed in 1876 by Republicans in New-York City to oppose Senator Conkling's nomination for the Presidency, and which sent an address to the Cincinnati Convention, presented there by George William Curtis.

The story that Mr. Morton was offered the Secretaryship of the Navy, with the understanding that it should continue under President Garfield, and declined it, is revived with an appendix. It is now stated that he has reconsidered this decision and will accept. If this should prove true, it would simplify the situation. Some of his friends, however, evidently expect to see him here next week, looking after his interests in this contest.

Chauncey M. Depew will arrive here to-morrow, no doubt to begin an active canvass. The fight then will thicken.

THE STATE TREASURER'S REPORT.

THE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF THE FISCAL YEAR—THE AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM NEW TAXES.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, Jan. 3.—State Treasurer Wendell, as cashier of one of the chief banks of this city, showed that a banking office could be well managed and an influential part taken in politics at the same time by the same man. He has displayed the same capacity to ride two horses usually considered unmanageable in his position as State Treasurer. His first annual report is just completed, and will be presented to the State Legislature to-morrow. He reports that on January 1, 1880, there was a balance in the State Treasury of $3,255,550 12, and on January 1, 1881, a balance of $2,382,578 07. This decrease of the amount of the State's ready money at the bank is due to several causes. The chief is the unusually large expenditure for the new Capitol, $1,600,000. Controller Wadsworth still further reduced the balance by buying more bonds for the Common School Fund and the United States Deposit Fund than were bought for the same purposes the year before by Controller Olcott. The excess of purchases amounted to $280,515.

The State tax also yielded less than it did the year before. For the year ended October 1, 1879, the State tax brought in $6,169,736 50; for the year ended October 1, 1880, only $4,700,083 32. This decrease upon examination is discovered to be due to the payment during the fiscal year ending October 1, 1879, of balances due from County Treasurers on October 1, 1878, amounting to $1,385,369 09. The County Treasurers were far less remiss the following year, only $147,984 66 being due from them on October 1, 1879. The $147,984 66 collected during the fiscal year ended October 1, 1880; concerning which Mr. Wendell now reports. The new tax on corporations brought in $141,127 03; the redemption of lands sold for taxes to $89,060; the fees of the Secretary of State to $6,439; salt duties to $84,471; auction duties to $32,997; railroad companies paid $21,231 toward the expenses of the State Engineer; insurance companies, $82,600 toward the support of the Insurance Department; and the United States paid $61,858 on war claims. Superintendent Pillsbury's management earned for the State $217,105 94 in Sing Sing Prison, $116,205 20 in Auburn Prison, and $54,540 86 in Clinton Prison. The total expenditures on behalf of the prisons, which include the enlargement of Clinton Prison, amounted to $697,012 73. The tolls on the canals amounted to $1,104,468 in comparison with $839,435 received in 1879. On the new Capitol there was expended $1,035,678 50. The remainder of the appropriation, $1,600,000, will be used in payment of work for which contracts have already been made. The State expenditures on behalf of the National Guard amounted to $431,683 31.

GENERAL POLITICAL NEWS.

THE PENNSYLVANIA SENATORSHIP.

THE HOUSE TO BE ORGANIZED BY THE SUPPORTERS OF MR. OLIVER—AN ORDERLY CAUCUS HELD.

HARRISBURG, Penn., Jan. 3.—The contest for the United States Senatorship, to fill the place of William A. Wallace, was virtually closed this evening. One hundred and twenty members of the House of Representatives, supporters of Galusha A. Grow and Henry J. Oliver, the leading candidates, went into caucus for the nomination officers of the House. The test of strength was to be made on the organization of the caucus. This was effected by the Oliver men electing John M. Pottery, of Franklin, as president of caucus by a vote of 69 to 51. The result was generally received as an evidence of Mr. Grow's weakness. The caucus was conducted without any dissensions.

The candidates selected, at the regular caucus, for the organization of the House to-morrow are B. F. Hewitt for Speaker, Henry Hubn, Chief-Clerk, J. D. Patterson, Resident Clerk, Mr. Cooper, Journal Clerk, and George Pierson, Reading Clerk. The Reading Clerk was named as the proper person to call the House to order. Willis J. Hulings, who has taken an active part in the anti-Oliver movement, and Mr. Knewland, of Pittsburg, were made secretaries of the caucus this evening.

THE CANVASS IN MAINE.

AUGUSTA, Me., Jan. 3.—About two-thirds of the members of the Legislature have arrived, and are canvassing the Senatorial question very lively. The contest will be almost wholly between Messrs. Hale and Frye, and the friends of both these gentlemen are very confident of the success of their respective candidates by a small majority.

THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE ELECTION.

CONCORD, Jan. 3.—Governor Head this afternoon signed the certificate of Mr. Ray, the Congressman-elect, and it will be forwarded to him to-morrow. A count of the official returns of the votes of all but thirteen towns shows Mr. Ray's plurality to be over 5,000.

REPUBLICAN SPEAKER IN TENNESSEE.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 3.—The Tennessee Legislature met to-day. The House was organized by the election of W. B. Ramsey, Republican, of Shelby, as Speaker. The Senate balloted twenty-five times for Speaker, but without result.

A CONTEST FROM IOWA.

CHICAGO, Jan. 3.—Judge J. C. Cook has served upon M. E. Cutts a notice of his intention to contest the seat for the VIth Iowa Congressional District.

REFUSING TO APPOINT A RECEIVER.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 3.—In the United States Circuit Court to-day Judge Morris read the opinion of the Court in the case of D. K. Stewart, an English subject, formerly of Richmond, Va., and a preferred bondholder, against the president and directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, praying that the defendants be enjoined from any further control and management of the canal and asking for the appointment of a receiver to take possession of, manage and operate it. The motion was denied.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

THE STATE TRIALS RETARDED.

THE DEFENCE INTRODUCING LONG SPEECHES—ANOTHER LARGE IRISH LAND MEETING.

DUBLIN, Monday, Jan. 3, 1881.

On the resumption of the State trials this morning the Court was crowded, though the proceedings were very uninteresting, simply consisting of the reading of stenographers' notes of speeches by the traversers. The Court to-day decided that speeches delivered in favor of the traversers at various meetings throughout the country may be read by their counsel.

The counsel for the traversers took advantage of this decision to take evidence concerning the speech of Mr. Richard O'Shaughnessy, with the view of showing that the Limerick meeting was not characterized by the violent tone that the Crown sought to attribute to it. Mr. Nolan, of counsel for the traversers, also had read various long speeches.

Judge Fitzgerald thereupon remarked that they were a long rigmarole without any bearing on the issues of the trials, and if they had any, in his judgment, it would be one prejudicial to the traversers. If the defence persisted in such a course, he said, the Court would have to sit from 10 o'clock till 6.

The proceedings, except for this incident, consisted of the reading of extracts of speeches by Messrs. Parnell, Bigger, Dillon, Sexton, Brennan and O'Sullivan, showing that the traversers had encouraged tenants to hold farms and pay no rent if reduced rent was not accepted, telling them that the land question in Ireland would shortly be settled, as it had been in Germany, by their becoming the owners. At the rising of the Court Mr. Parnell was loudly cheered by the crowd in the hall of the Four Courts.

PRECAUTIONS IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, Monday, Jan. 3, 1881.

Relative to various reports concerning projected seizures of arms by Fenians in the North of England, the only fact known seems to be that the General Commanding at York has ordered the locks to be removed from the rifles in the armories of the volunteers.

A dispatch to *The Pall Mall Gazette* from Birmingham says: "Irish police have arrived here to watch the proceedings of the Irish political societies. It is stated that similar precautions have been taken in other large towns."

The Daily Telegraph states that a thousand guns are sent to Ireland surreptitiously from Birmingham weekly, and that within the last three weeks 4,000 Enfield rifles have been sent there from Birmingham workshops.

Daniels, the man in Cork who was shot and dangerously wounded by a party of men who visited his house, persistently refuses to tell the police who the men were who fired upon him, or for what reason they did so.

One of the largest land meetings ever held in Connaught took place at Loughrea, County Galway, on Sunday. Mr. Davitt was the principal speaker. Several thousand persons were present.

AN IRONCLAD IN DANGER.

A scheme to blow up the ironclad Lord Warden, the guard-ship of the Firth of Forth, Scotland, is supposed to have existed for the past week. A torpedo has been found beneath the bows of the vessel. A large torpedo net has consequently been buoyed around the ship to keep boats or torpedoes off, and other measures of precaution have been taken. The Lord Warden is an armor-plated steamship of 7,800 tons, and carries eighteen guns. She is in the Coast Guard Service.

At a land meeting at Carlow Sunday Mr. E. Dwyer Gray urged that if the Government introduce a coercion bill it should be opposed even if a good land bill is thus lost.

THE TRIALS LIKELY TO BE ABANDONED.

LONDON, Tuesday, Jan. 4, 1881.

A dispatch from Dublin to *The Standard* says: "It is rumored in official circles that Attorney-General Law will announce on Friday that in consequence of an intimation in the Queen's speech that ameliorative measures are to be immediately submitted in the House of Commons, the prosecution of the Traversers will be abandoned."

"A quantity of gunpowder placed on the window sill of a private house, here Monday night exploded and smashed all the windows in the dwelling. Two girls inside the house were knocked down and considerably hurt.

THE GERMAN ANTI-JEWISH MOVEMENT.

LONDON, Monday, Jan. 3, 1881.

The Berlin correspondent of *The Morning Post* telegraphs as follows: "Reports received here of a demonstration in the United States with the object of protesting against the anti-Jewish agitation here are producing a very unfavorable impression, the feeling being that Germany can tolerate no intervention in home affairs by a foreign State."

A Berlin dispatch to *The Times* says: "On the morning of New-Year's Day large crowds, mostly composed of students, made a demonstration before a café much frequented by Jews. They smashed all the windows and mobbed all the Jews they met. The police were comparatively helpless. Another café was invaded and emptied of Jews. Large and stormy meetings continue to be held, and the crusade seems to be gaining force, the fist now being substituted for the tongue."

HOW SKOBELEFF WAS REPULSED.

LONDON, Monday, Jan. 3, 1881.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg to *The Daily News* says: "The following are the details of the engagement between the Russians and Tekke-Turcomans near Geok-Tepe on December 24: General Skobeleff, desiring to make a reconnoissance of Geok-Tepe and effect a diversion from the repeated attacks on the lines of communication, advanced from Samurek with four companies of infantry and 200 Cossacks, with four field pieces and two mitrailleuses. The Tekkes came out in great numbers to oppose General Skobeleff's column, which they encountered six versts from Geok-Tepe, and fought so persistently that reinforcements were summoned from Samurek. The engagement lasted four hours, the Russians retiring on Samurek. The Turcoman loss was considerable. The Russian loss is, as usual, reported to be slight.

THE WAR IN THE TRANSVAAL.

LONDON, Monday, Jan. 3, 1881.

The Pall Mall Gazette, in a leading editorial article, says: "There is too much reason to think that an inquiry into the annexation and subsequent administration of the Transvaal would bring to light facts which would make all Englishmen indignant. If annexation be maintained it will turn against us the enmity of every Dutchman in South Africa. The reasons usually assigned for not giving up the country are little else than shadowy."

A dispatch from Capetown to *The Daily Telegraph* says: "It is reported on good authority that J. H. Brand, President of the Orange Free State, has wired here that he is unable to restrain the Boers of that State from joining the insurrection, and that in a few days he may be compelled to resign."

AMERICAN PROGRESS RECOGNIZED.

LONDON, Monday, Jan. 3, 1881.

The Times this morning, commenting on the increase in the population of the United States as shown by the recent census, says:

These eleven and a half millions of people are not a poor, indigent and untaught mass, such as would be produced in any European State by so great and rapid an accession to the population. They are well-fed, clothed, well-to-do, and, as a rule, well educated. There is room and to spare for them all, and for as many more during the next ten years. We cannot but look with some envy on a Nation whose easy lot it is to gather up the good things which fortune casts to it.

AFFAIRS ON THE BOSPHORUS.

LONDON, Monday, Jan. 3, 1881.

A Reuter dispatch from Constantinople says: "The Porte has dispatched a note to the Powers setting forth arguments against arbitration and proposing that a meeting of delegates of the Powers, including Turkey and Greece, be held at Constantinople to fix the Greek frontier."

A dispatch from Constantinople to *The Daily Telegraph* says: "In consequence of the report of the committee of physicians that the assassin of the Russian, Colonel Commeraoff, is insane, he will not be executed but will probably be confined in an asylum."

RIOTS FEARED IN PARIS.

PARIS, Monday, Jan. 3, 188

The police are preparing to suppress disorders which are apprehended on the occasion of the funeral of the dead Communist, Bianqui.

FOREIGN NOTES.

LONDON, Monday, Jan. 3, 1881.

Hanlan and Laycock were both afloat this afternoon. Ross and Hanlan started from the Aqueduct at a racing pace. Passing the "Star and Garter" Hanlan led by a length.

Mr. Scott, the champion shot of England, has signed articles of agreement with Dr. Carver for a match to shoot at 100 pigeons each for $1,000 a side, to come off the 1st of February.

The German colonists on the Volga, usually the most thriving agriculturists in Russia, are represented to be in a half-starving condition. In one settlement of 7,000 people there are only about six families whose members are not obliged to ask alms.

A telegram from Montevideo says that the relations between Uruguay and the Argentine Republic are becoming strained, in consequence of the impressment of Argentines into the Uruguayan army. The same telegram says that the Bolivian Parliament has ordered that the question of union with Peru be submitted to a vote in the departmental assemblies.

AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED.

SECRETARY SHERMAN'S OPINION OF THE REFUNDING BILL—THE BILL TO RELIEVE THE TREASURER—A MARSHAL UNDER A CLOUD—THE NAVAL SECRETARYSHIP.

It is the opinion of Secretary Sherman and others that the Refunding bill now pending in the House is not of a character to assist forward refunding operations. Senator Davis's bill to relieve the United States Treasurer from the necessity of making useless and vexatious reports is not deemed sufficient to accomplish that purpose. Charges of having defrauded the Government by means of illegal and extortionate fees need an explanation from United States Marshal Fitzsimmons, of Georgia. The President will appoint a Secretary of the Navy.

REFUNDING MEASURES.

LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE HOUSE COMMITTEE'S BILL—MONEY WORTH MORE THAN 3 PER CENT—SECRETARY SHERMAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Jan 3.—A correspondent of THE TRIBUNE conversed briefly to-day with the Secretary of the Treasury and with a number of other officials of the Department whose opinions are best worth knowing, and learned that no one there really expects that refunding operations will be materially forwarded by the passage of the pending Refunding bill, unless it is materially amended. Secretary Sherman said he did not like to interfere in the matter further than to secure it possible to his successor a law that will undoubtedly be a success.

"My opinions," continued the Secretary, "have been asked by many members of Congress, and I have advised them in all cases to vote for the measure in the best form in which it can be passed in the House of Representatives, with a view to amendment in the Senate and a fuller discussion there of the details of the bill. I have seen no reason to change the opinions expressed in my annual report."

A careful computation, based upon the market price of United States securities, shows that the borrowing power of the Government has never yet reached so favorable a point as three per cent. To-day the prices give an average annual interest yield to the investor of three and a quarter per cent. At their present price the four per cent consols pay three and thirty-one hundredths per cent per annum, and they will have to sell for more than one hundred and nineteen before they will pay as little as three per cent. At the present ruling prices, three per cents having the same time to run that the four per cents have would command only 94 cents.

The "Treasury Note" feature of the bill, supported by the Committee of Ways and Means, bears very little resemblance to the carefully matured recommendations of the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary proposed that Congress should authorize the issue of four hundred millions of Treasury notes, which would be substantially the same as bonds, inasmuch as they were to be in both the registered and coupon form, to mature at different periods within the next ten years, the amount maturing in any one year not to exceed the sinking fund for that year. The Secretary would thus have provided for about three-fourths of the redeemable bonds, estimating the straightout redemptions during the coming year with the anticipated surplus revenues at about $100,000,000. The Committee proposes to authorize four hundred millions of 3 per cent notes redeemable after one year and payable after ten years, the amount redeemed in any one year not to exceed forty millions. The feature of greatest novelty is contained in the provision that the particular notes to be redeemed each year are to be determined by lot. The lottery system has been found to work well in some countries, where loans are frequently placed at a discount and where in the annual drawings the chance of drawing a prize—that is, of having his bond drawn for payment at par—is no inconsiderable element in the calculation of the investor. It is doubtful, however, if the mass of the American people, and especially of the investor classes, are educated up to the niceties of lotteries as a feature of National finance.

To provide for the remainder of the redeemable 6 per cent bonds the committee's bill authorizes an issue of bonds to be redeemable after twenty years and payable in forty years. It is generally admitted that the security must be a long one if it is to carry only 3 per cent interest, and this fact weakens faith in the ability of the Government to dispose of so large an amount of one to ten-year three per cents.

The failure to make any provision for refunding would cost the Government about $15,000,000 annually, but the passage of an impracticable refunding measure would, it is feared, have a more damaging effect, not only upon the finances of the Government, but upon those of the country at large. Secretary Sherman's plan possesses, it is believed, sufficient elasticity to enable the Treasury Department to command an ample success.

CHARGES AGAINST A MARSHAL.

WHAT FITZSIMMONS OF GEORGIA IS GOING TO WASHINGTON TO EXPLAIN.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—The charges against Marshal Fitzsimmons, of Georgia, are much more serious and extensive than has been generally supposed. According to allegations made by the Internal Revenue Commissioner in documents filed by him, Marshal Fitzsimmons and his deputies have defrauded the Government of $15,000 or $20,000 in the shape of illegal and extortionate fees. It is charged that he and his deputies have instituted unnecessary and unjust prosecutions against alleged violators of the Internal Revenue laws who were not guilty of any penal offence, and who had not knowingly or maliciously violated any law, for the mere purpose of collecting fees, which are in all cases paid by the Government where the prisoner is not able to pay. Negroes have been prosecuted on trumped up charges, persuaded to plead guilty as a mere form, and then released on their own recognizance; and all for the purpose of enabling the Marshal to make out a bill of costs against the Government. Legitimate and responsible dealers in tobacco and cigars, permitting time for renewing their licenses to go through forgetfulness and then going to pay the full tax and penalty of fifty per cent for their neglect, have been prosecuted when it was clearly evident that there was no wilful violation of the law and no desire to defraud the Government.

Some six hundred of these cases were inquired into by a special officer of the Treasury Department, and the facts were found to sustain the accusation against the Marshal and his deputies. These practices have been going on for a year and a half, and at the same time "moonlight distillers" in Georgia have been encouraged to believe that the Revenue laws would not be enforced against them, so far as the Marshal was concerned. Not only does it appear that Fitzsimmons has been defrauding the Government by the collection of illegal fees in the prosecution of poor negroes, who actually had nothing to sell or to manufacture, and the enforcement of the Revenue laws have been obstructed; but the Marshal has been collecting illegal and dishonest fees from the Government for the transportation of United States prisoners from Georgia to Northern Penitentiaries. At the same time he has failed to pay over to his deputies their full share of the fees made by them, so that according to the allegations he is in arrears to his own men in addition to being charged with defrauding the Government. All these facts have been made the subject of repeated communications by Commissioner Raum to the Secretary of the Treasury, and voluminous affidavits said to contain abundant proof to sustain them are on file in the office of the Attorney-General. It is considered a remarkable instance of Executive leniency that an official with such charges hanging over him should have been permitted to remain in office for eighteen months without having completely vindicated himself.

It is understood that Marshal Fitzsimmons is about to visit Washington to make reply to the accusations. Should he be removed, as seems probable, a Mr. Kimball, proprietor of the Kimball House, in Atlanta, and president of a large cotton manufacturing company, is the foremost candidate for the position of Marshal. Kimball is a native of New-England. He has long been a resident of Georgia, and has large property invested there. He is a Republican, and came within forty or fifty votes of being elected Mayor of Atlanta recently.

EXPENSIVE PENSION MEASURES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—It is estimated that the cost to the country of the Arrears of Pensions bill, before its capacity is finally exhausted, even if no removal of the original limitation is made, will be about $224,000,000. A measure has already been introduced in the House of Representatives to remove the limitation fixed by the original act, and pay their arrears to all applicants whose cases shall be found meritorious. By the terms of the bill no claimants whose applications have been filed since the 1st of last July are entitled to arrears of pensions. There are now pending 11,000 original claims, which reached the office since that date, and the claims are coming in at the rate of about 1,600 a month. Each claimant becomes of course an active advocate of the passage of the measure referred to, or one similar in its provisions, and the pressure upon Congress will consequently become enormous within a comparatively short time. The average amount of arrears paid to individual claimants is more than $1,000; and the claims already filed would, if the limitation were removed, amount to $11,000,000 more than they otherwise will.

A fifty-million-dollar pension appropriation bill is now pending in the Senate. One-half the money appropriated will be given away by the Commissioner of Pensions without any knowledge upon his part that it is going to deserving persons. This is a statement that he makes himself to anyone who questions him upon the subject. His control of the matter ceases when the provisions of the present imperfect pension laws are complied with. If the Senate passes the measure without making more adequate provision for the protection of the Government against fraud and error, it will fail to perform a very important duty.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.

BONDS STILL UNREDEEMED.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Jan. 3, 1881.

Six million one hundred and ninety-two thousand dollars worth of the bonds which reached maturity last Friday, and for the payment of which with the accrued interest the money was ready at the Treasury, remained outstanding this morning. The receipts to-day have been about $100,000. The payment of the pensions to-morrow is expected to furnish the means by which a portion of these bonds may be redeemed from pawn and sent in for payment.

PLANS OF THE DEMOCRATS.

It is said to be the purpose of the Democrats now to bring up the Army bill on Wednesday, as they do not anticipate that there will be a full attendance the first day of the session, and do not wish to proceed with the Funding bill until there certainly is a quorum. There will also be a caucus of the House Democrats on Wednesday night, at which the attitude of the Democrats with respect to the Electoral count will probably be defined.

A HEADLESS DEPARTMENT.

In view of the decision which was reached at the last Cabinet meeting, that the President has no authority under the law to make another assignment for ten days of a member of the Cabinet to act as Secretary of the Navy, that Department will remain without a head until Wednesday, when President Hayes will send to the Senate for confirmation the name of some gentleman to fill the unexpired term till March 4.

NOTICE TO REMOVE ITS WIRES.

INDICATIONS OF LEGAL WARFARE BETWEEN THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH AND THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANIES.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 3.—Counsel for the Western Union Telegraph Company and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company met in the United States Court this morning to argue the question of a preliminary injunction which the telegraph company is about to apply for to restrain the railroad company from interfering with their wires between Philadelphia and New-York, but owing to the absence of Judge Butler the case went over until to-morrow. It is understood that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has given the Western Union notice to remove its wires, and that the Telegraph Company claims that under its contracts it has the right to maintain them without interruption. The case is one of great interest, as the line between here and New-York constitutes the great trunk line of the country, connections being made here with all principal points South and West.

Messrs. Bullitt and Dickson, of this city, and Chancellor Williamson, of New-Jersey, will appear as counsel for the Telegraph Company, while Mr. Wayne MacVeagh and Judge Logan will represent the Railroad Company.

SARAH BERNHARDT IN PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 3.—Mlle. Sarah Bernhardt made her first appearance in this city to-night at the Chestnut Street Theatre in "Paedre," and was warmly received by a large and fashionable audience. She was frequently interrupted by applause, and was called before the curtain several times. The play announced on the bills for to-night was "Adrienne Lecouvreur," but owing to the absence of Miles. Sidney and Colombier, who were detained by an accident on the Pennsylvania Railroad, the management were obliged at last to substitute "Paedre."

FREIGHT TRAINS IN COLLISION.

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 3.—A smash-up occurred on the Pennsylvania Railroad at Monmouth Junction, sixteen miles from this city, at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon, caused by two freight trains running into each other. Seventy-five loaded freight cars were thrown from the track and badly wrecked. At 8 o'clock this evening a hole was cut through the wreck, and trains were allowed to pass. All trains were delayed nearly five hours. No person was injured.

SHOT IN DEFENCE OF HIS HOME.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 3.—A special from Memphis to *The Times Star* says: This morning Henry Burton found a Mr. Tate, a barber, in his house. He shot Tate twice and Mrs. Burton once. Tate returned the fire, mortally wounding Burton. Mrs. Burton's wound is of a trifling character. The nature of Tate's wounds is not stated.

THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE MET.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Jan. 3.—The Legislature met at Sacramento to-day, and effected organization without delay, the Republicans organizing both Houses.

The Nevada Legislature met and organized, at Carson City, as did also the Territorial Legislature of Arizona, at Prescott.

RESTRAINED FROM PREACHING.

PITTSBURG, Penn. Jan. 3.—An injunction was issued to-day in the Common Pleas Court, restraining the Rev. Nevin Woodside from preaching in Oak Alley Church.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

A WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH.

MONTPELIER, Vt., Jan. 3.—In a drunken carousal at Moretown, Vt., Saturday night, engaged in by three old persons—two men and a woman—the latter, a Mrs. Roch, set her clothing on fire while smoking and was burned to death.

KILLED BY AN EXPLOSION.

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—A special to *The Tribune* from Davenport, Iowa, says a young man named Andrew Ellmke died to-day from injuries received by the explosion of a cannon, with which he was celebrating the incoming year Friday night.

HIS ARMS GROUND OFF.

WILKESBARRE, Penn., Jan. 3.—A boy named O'Halleran, age fifteen, was caught in the machinery at Waterman & Beaver's colliery at Kingston, and had both arms ground off to the elbows and his skull fractured. He will die.

CRUSHED BETWEEN CARS.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 3.—A collision of freight trains near Sweetwater, on the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railroad, on Saturday night, demolished three cars. Charles Gordon, an employe of the road, was crushed between the cars and killed.

THE FUNERAL OF A SUICIDE.

RONDOUT, N. Y., Jan. 3.—Mrs. Jemima Stillwell, of Nyack, who was married in this city a fortnight ago, and who committed suicide December 31, was buried here this afternoon. She was much respected here, and she is supposed to have become suddenly crazed.

PAYING OFF THEIR DEBTS.

BOSTON, Jan. 3.—The various municipal governments of the cities in this State were inaugurated to-day. The gross debt of Boston is $26,698,456, a reduction of $4,581,831 during the past year. Most of the cities of the State show a reduction of their indebtedness.

MURDER TRIAL IN NEW-JERSEY.

BORDENTOWN, N. J., Jan. 3.—The trial of Henry Williams, colored, for the murder of Charles Ross, also colored, in this city, on the night of November 20, 1880, began at Mount Holly to-day. The Court House was filled with spectators. The prisoner is defended by Messrs. Frederick Voorhees and Mark R. Sooy, of Mount Holly. A purse of $[illegible]0 was raised in this city to defray the expenses of the defence.

INTERESTS OF TWO CITIES.

AFFAIRS IN BROOKLYN AND NEW-YORK.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN IN EACH CITY—MR. SLEVIN MADE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW-YORK BODY—ALDERMAN BLACK CHOSEN PRESIDENT IN BROOKLYN—MAYOR HOWELL'S MESSAGE—WHY THE DEMOCRATIC FACTIONS IN THIS CITY CANNOT AGREE—MEETING OF TAMMANY.

The new Board of Aldermen of New-York met yesterday and organized temporarily by electing Alderman Slevin chairman, and then adjourned until Wednesday. Mayor Grace's message, therefore, was not received. The Democrats have not yet been able to agree who shall be President of the Board. In Brooklyn the new Board of Aldermen elected Alderman Black, Democrat, president. Mayor Howell sent in his message. One reason why the New-York Democrats fail to unite is said to be because no one faction has patronage enough to satisfy even the hungry leaders of the rival organizations.

THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

THE OLD MEMBERS RETIRE—ONLY A TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION EFFECTED BY THE NEW BOARD.

When the old Board of Aldermen met yesterday at 11:30 a. m., the chamber was filled by politicians of all grades and shades of opinion. There was no unusual stir, however, as it was generally understood that the old Board would do n