# New-York Tribune.

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## FOREIGN NEWS.

### TOPICS IN MANY CAPITALS.

LAND LEAGUE SCANDALS—A REPORTED SUICIDE—FRANCE AND MADAGASCAR—A BREACH OF PROMISE SUIT.

Fresh charges have been made against Messrs. Parnell and Biggar in relation to the Land League funds. In the House of Commons Mr. Gladstone declined to give a day for the discussion of the "Kilmainham treaty" negotiations. The suicide of a man named W. H. Josts, said to be from New-York, is reported. Arrests which the police regard as important have been made in Moscow. French gunboats have appeared off Madagascar and there is much excitement among the natives. A suit for breach of promise of marriage brought by Miss Fanny Hyland, of Paris, against Mr. Biggar, M. P., was decided yesterday in favor of the plaintiff. The trial of twenty-nine Socialists has begun in Vienna.

CHARGES AGAINST IRISH MEMBERS.

LONDON, March 8.—Lady Florence Dixie, in a letter to *The Times*, charges that Messrs. Biggar and Parnell, as trustees of the Land League Fund, have not accounted for £152,000 of the money with which they were intrusted. She claims, therefore, that while this money is unaccounted for, Mr. Parnell and his followers have no right to mock the sufferings of the distressed people in Ireland by their sham championship of the starving peasantry.

The correspondent of the Central News Agency at Dublin states positively that the authorities expect very soon to be able to implicate several Irish members of Parliament who have for a long time been suspected of connection with the murder conspiracies.

*The Times*, commenting on the letter of Captain O'Shea, M. P., printed in *The Daily News*, in which he seeks to defend Mr. Parnell against the attacks made in the House of Commons by Mr. Forster, says: "The letter of Captain O'Shea will not alter the deliberate judgment of the country. The efforts of the writer to fasten charges of inaccuracy on Mr. Forster will not serve his cause."

THE "KILMAINHAM TREATY" AFFAIR.

LONDON, March 8.—In the House of Commons this afternoon Mr. Gladstone declined to give a day for the decision in the "Kilmainham treaty" negotiations. Sir Stafford Northcote said that he would not proceed any further in the matter. The inferences to be drawn from the declination of the Government were quite obvious.

In Committee of Supply the item for the salary of Mr. Trevelyan, Chief Secretary for Ireland, was agreed on by a vote of 156 to 15. The Irish members raised the question of the relief of distress.

"FRANK" BYRNE RELEASED.

LONDON, March 9.—A Paris dispatch to *The Times* says that "Frank" Byrne was released at 8:15 o'clock last evening, the authorities not deeming his case one for extradition.

SUICIDE OF A SUPPOSED NEW-YORKER.

LONDON, March 8.—W. H. Josts, a wealthy New-Yorker, committed suicide to-day by shooting himself, at the residence of the American Consul at Dunfermline. [There is no such name as W. H. Josts in either the New-York or the Brooklyn directory.]

IMPORTANT ARRESTS IN MOSCOW.

LONDON, March 8.—*The Times's* correspondent at St. Petersburg says a number of important arrests have been made in Moscow during the last fortnight. The arrests were due to the extra vigilance of the police, owing to the near approach of the day fixed for the coronation of the Czar. There is no reason to believe that there is any special plotting to prevent the coronation.

SOCIALISTIC TROUBLES IN EUROPE.

MADRID, March 8.—The Mayor of Xeres has received a letter containing a threat to poison the drinking water of that place if the prosecution of the "Black Hand" Society is continued.

PARIS, March 8.—The Socialists are determined to hold their meeting on the Esplanade des Invalides to-morrow, notwithstanding that the Government have given notice of their intention to suppress it. A riot will probably result.

VIENNA, March 8.—The trial of twenty-nine Socialists on charges of high treason and complicity in murder was begun here to-day. The accused persons admit that they carried out a resolution passed at club meetings to murder and plunder Herr Merstallinger, proprietor of an extensive shoe manufactory.

DAMAGES IN A BREACH OF PROMISE SUIT.

LONDON, March 8.—The trial of the action brought by Miss Fanny Hyland against Mr. Biggar, M. P., for damages for breach of promise of marriage, was begun to-day. Counsel, in opening the case, said that the parties were introduced to each other in Paris by Patrick Egan. The plaintiff, on being questioned, said that Mr. Egan was mainly responsible for her action in bringing the suit against Mr. Biggar. The jury rendered a verdict against the defendant, the damages being fixed at £400.

It is stated that Mr. Egan left Ireland because he wished to avoid being called as a witness in this case.

Miss Fanny Hyland, the plaintiff in the foregoing case, is the keeper of a boarding-house in Paris which is a favorite resort of Irish members of Parliament and of members of and sympathizers with the Land League. The fact that Patrick Egan, the treasurer of the Land League, had his headquarters in Paris drew to that city many Irish sympathizers; and it was while on a visit to Egan that Mr. Biggar fell a victim to the charms of the plaintiff. Mr. Egan was staying at Miss Hyland's boarding-house, where he, having plenty of money, was a welcome addition to the household. What was apparently a warm attachment soon sprang up between the landlady and the Irish member; and the crisis, according to current rumor, arrived when Miss Hyland, with a fine appreciation of the weak side of her guest, sang with much patriotic ardor, "Old Ireland, You're My Darling." This was too much for Mr. Biggar. Neither carried away by the enthusiasm of the moment he allowed himself to imagine for the nonce that he represented "Old Ireland" in the singer's mind, or whether he was captivated then and there by the sweetness of her voice and the charm of her manner, is not known; but, whatever his motive, Mr. Biggar is alleged to have made a proposal of marriage at the conclusion of the song—a proposition that was accepted.

Mr. Biggar, it is asserted, made his betrothed many presents, but was obliged finally to leave her, and his return to London cooled somewhat his ardor for the Parisian landlady. He refused to marry her, and denied that he had ever promised so to do, although he admitted that, in his patriotic excitement, he kissed her after she had finished singing about "Old Ireland." The suit, he has maintained, was brought for blackmail purposes.

THE FRENCH IN MADAGASCAR.

LONDON, March 8.—Advices from Tamatave, Madagascar, under date of February 26, announce the arrival there of the French gunboat Vaudreuil. The town had not yet been occupied. Four French men-of-war had arrived on the northwest coast of the island. The natives were excited, and were preparing to resist the French. There was no British war vessel present.

PHASES OF THE IRISH QUESTION.

LIMERICK, March 8.—Two hundred girls started from here for New-Hampshire to-day. Almost the entire population assembled to bid them good-by. The scenes at parting were affecting.

DUBLIN, March 8.—Judge Johnstone, in opening the Sligo Assizes to-day, congratulated the jury on the diminution of agrarian crime.

BALLYDEHOB, March 8.—A man named Hodnett, a son of the recently sentenced Bantry agitator, has been arrested in connection with the mailing of a parcel containing dynamite, addressed to Earl Spencer, in the Post Office here.

FOREIGN NOTES.

LONDON, March 8.—A dispatch to *The Standard* from Berlin says the negotiations between Russia and the Vatican have so far advanced that twelve vacant Polish sees will be filled on the 15th instant.

LONDON, March 8.—The Danubian Conference has completed an arrangement for a treaty. The protocols will be signed to-morrow.

LONDON, March 8.—Windsor's Cotton Mill at Manchester has been destroyed by fire. The loss is £50,000.

LONDON, March 8.—A dispatch from Calcutta reports the prevalence of heavy rains in the Kaladgi district, in the presidency of Bombay. Two hundred and forty houses have been destroyed. Hundreds of persons are homeless.

LONDON, March 8.—The sinking of the British steamer Gloucester City was caused by collision with ice.

BERLIN, March 8.—The Prince of Wales has left here. A deputation of the Blucher Hussars, of which he was recently made colonel, was at the station to bid him adieu.

LONDON, March 8.—Wells & Co., owners of the Commercial Iron Works at Shoreditch, have failed. Their liabilities are £250,000.

LONDON, March 8.—The bullion—£340,000—withdrawn from the Bank of England to-day is for shipment to New-York.

ORAN, Algeria, March 8.—Two columns of the expedition which is being organized to crush the rebels in the southern part of the province of Oran have started for that section.

PARIS, March 8.—The Senate to-day rejected, by a vote of 169 to 122, the first clause of M. Simon's bill relative to the right of association, and allowing the existence of religious societies. M. Waldeck-Rousseau, Minister of the Interior, having stated that the Government would shortly present a bill on that subject.

## THE FIRE RECORD.

### A CANDLE FACTORY BURNED.

A fire broke out about 12 o'clock last night in a candle factory at Nos. 326 to 334 Front-st., extending to South-st., owned by R. G. Mitchell & Co. Flames were discovered on the northeast corner of the building and spread rapidly. Three alarms were sent out, and a great many engines answered the call. In the basement was a large quantity of fat and vitriol and other chemicals used in the manufacture of candles. On the north side of the factory was a cooperage belonging to B. Cosgrove, and this was soon wrapped in flames also. The flames shot high into the air, brilliantly illuminating all the lower part of the city and even lighting the Brooklyn shore. As a spectacle the fire was one of the finest that has occurred in the city for months.

About one o'clock the flames began to subside. Suddenly the north wall fell in and a mass of fire shot high up into the air, giving the appearance of an explosion. About twenty minutes later the south wall fell and another volume of flames shot up toward the sky. By 1 o'clock the firemen had the flames under control, many streams of water being poured on the burning building.

R. G. Mitchell & Company formerly had their works at First-ave. and Fourth-st. Three years ago their works were burned and they suffered a heavy loss. Last summer they were burned out again. There were many complaints by their neighbors in regard to the factory on account of the foul odors emanating from it, and the Board of Health refused to give the firm permission to build again at the old location. It then moved down to the four-story brick building which was burned last night.

A few moments after 1 o'clock a heavy explosion occurred. A vat of oil in the centre of the building took fire and in bursting hurled fragments of iron high in the air. A large piece of the boiler metal fell in a lumber yard just across the street in which several firemen were standing. There was great alarm, but no one was injured. The houses opposite the candle factory, occupied by Mrs. Caslear and Peter Miller, caught fire from the heat about a quarter past one. The firemen turned several streams upon them, however, and the flames were soon put out.

The light of the fire was so strong at Fulton Ferry, a mile away, that a newspaper could be read easily on the deck of the ferry-boats. The effect upon the Brooklyn Bridge was fine, the whole structure seeming to be gilded, and the lights and shadows in the arches of the towers making a striking contrast. The smoke rolled in a dense black volume over the Eastern District of Brooklyn, at times taking a spiral form and rotating as it moved.

The candle factory was utterly destroyed by the fire. The loss of Mitchell & Co. is estimated at $65,000. Mr. Cosgrove lost about $5,000. The fire also spread to a backyard on the south. Two hundred workmen will be thrown out of employment by the fire. The fireboat Havemeyer came up the East River and threw some streams of water on the flames. An old barge at the pier took fire, but was not much damaged.

### A FUEL WORKS DESTROYED.

PHILADELPHIA, March 8.—At 2:30 this afternoon the works of the Loiseau Patent Fuel Company at Linden and Bath sts. caught fire. The works are owned by the Reading Railway Company, and are devoted to manufacturing an artificial fuel made of coal dust and pitch pressed into lumps the size and shape of an egg. The pitch in one of the tanks took fire from some unknown cause and the whole factory was soon in flames. The frame part of the factory was used as a press-room and store-room, and contained machinery valued at $40,000, on which the loss is unknown. No estimate can be made either of loss or insurance. The building, however, is almost a complete wreck.

### THREE LIVES LOST IN A FIRE.

FREDERICK, Md., March 8.—The dwelling of Simon Cromise, a well-known farmer in the vicinity of Newmarket, in this county, was consumed by fire last night. His wife, the mother of eight children, together with a daughter and an old man residing with them, perished in the flames.

### TWO FACTORIES BURNED.

HARTFORD, Conn., March 8.—The bolt shop of Thompson, Steiger, & Co., at West Winsted, caught fire this evening, the flames afterward communicating to the works of the Henry Spring Company, and both buildings were destroyed. Thompson, Steiger & Co.'s loss is $10,000, insured in the London, and Liverpool and Globe, National of Hartford, London Assurance, American Exchange of New-York, Union, Northern and Imperial. The Henry Spring Company's loss is $10,000, insured in the Ætna and Connecticut for $3,200 each.

### IN VARIOUS PLACES.

NASHVILLE, March 8.—This morning a search for the bodies of the missing men in the debris of the Broad-st. fire of last night was begun. The remains of a man about thirty years of age were found, and have since been identified as those of Thomas Womack, a moulder. A few hours later the bodies of William Miller, a boiler-maker, and John Frith, formerly a policeman, were taken from the ruins. The three men were crushed to death by the falling of the wall of Litter's drug store while in the act of rescuing property from the adjoining building.

BOSTON, March 8.—The Town Hall at Hyde Park has been destroyed by fire. The loss on the building is $20,000; insured for $17,000. The Masonic Lodge loses $7,000; insurance, $6,000. The other losses amount to about $2,500.

AKRON, Ohio, March 8.—Hoffman & Moss's clothing house was damaged by fire last night to the extent of $20,000.

LOGANSPORT, Ind., March 8.—The German Lutheran Church was burned yesterday, together with the parsonage. Loss, $32,000; no insurance.

## UNHARMONIOUS ANTI-MONOPOLISTS.

The Executive Committee of the New-York County Anti-Monopoly League met in the Knickerbocker Cottage last night. W. S. Manning presented the report of the committee which had been appointed to appear before the Senate Committee on Insurance in relation to a resolution calling for an investigation of the life insurance and trust companies. The report reflected severely on the conduct of L. E. Chittenden, president of the National Anti-Monopoly League, in working against the resolution before the Senate Committee. This brought Mr. Chittenden to his feet. He said that as much of the report as related to him was totally false and without any foundation whatever. Then a spicy dialogue ensued in which Mr. Thurber called Mr. Manning a spy, and a go-between. Mr. Chittenden was denounced as a railroad lawyer. Mr. Thurber at last succeeded in pouring oil on the troubled waters by offering a resolution to refer the whole subject to a special committee.

A resolution was passed condemning the action of the Governor in vetoing the Five Cent Fare bill, and Messrs. Roosevelt, Spinola, Howe and Miller, the only New-York City members who voted to sustain his veto.

## REPORT OF THE WATER COMMISSION.

The Mayor's Water Commission sent its report to the Legislature yesterday. The report is signed by the Mayor, William Dowd, O. B. Potter, John T. Agnew, Hugh N. Camp and John C. Eno. It recommends a new aqueduct to the Croton basin, to be built by a commission. The report is not favorable to the Quaker Bridge Dam project.

## FEATURES OF THE NEW PENAL CODE.

The Society of Medical Jurisprudence and State Medicine met at No. 12 West Thirty-first-st. last night, George B. Avery presiding. A paper was read by Max. F. Eller on the "Medico-Legal Features of the new Penal Code."

## COLONEL HYATT ACQUITTED.

CHESTER, Penn., March 8.—The jury in the case of Colonel Theodore Hyatt, president of the Pennsylvania Military Academy, charged with aggravated assault and battery on Thaddeus Lowe, a cadet, returned a verdict of acquittal this morning, the defendant to pay the costs. The jury was out fifteen hours.

## AN OLD MINE CAVING IN.

MOUNT CARMEL, March 8.—This afternoon the old breasts at the Reliance Colliery caved in, cracking a large area of surface under and about nine houses, leaving only a thin shell of frozen earth between the houses and the mine. The families occupying the houses hurriedly moved out. Twenty other houses, the public road and the Reading Depot and Railroad tracks are in danger. The houses belong to the Reading Company. Some of them are being pulled down and carried away.

## MARRIAGE OF EX-GOVERNOR SPRAGUE.

RICHMOND, Va., March 8.—Ex-Governor William Sprague, of Rhode Island, was married to-night in Staunton, to Mrs. Dora Inez Calvert, of Greenbrier County, West Virginia. There was some difficulty in obtaining a license, neither of the persons being an actual resident of Staunton, and the Governor was considerably perplexed for some time before the necessary papers were procured. The bride is a native of Connecticut, but has been living in West Virginia for fourteen years. The couple went northward at 1 o'clock.

## THE FLOODS IN THE SOUTH.

MISSISSIPPI LEVEES BREAKING—ARKANSAS CITY UNDER WATER—DISTRESS AMONG THE PEOPLE

HELENA, Ark., March 8.—The river has risen a scant half inch during the past twelve hours. It is thought that the levees can now be held against probable emergencies, as they were maintained last night against a terrific eastern gale that sent the water dashing over in many places. The situation is still critical, and there will be no relaxation of vigilance and labor to make everything compact and thoroughly secure. Below Helena the country is all under water from five to fifteen feet. The back water from the Hubbard break is appearing in the lower end of the city, but will do no damage. Unless other breaks occur there will be no overflow in Helena. The L'Anguille River rose two inches last night. This indicates that the rise here will continue for some days.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 8.—Two breaks in the levee on the east bank of the river occurred on Monday night—one at McCloud's, fifteen miles below Friar's Point, Miss., and the other at Howard's, thirty-five miles below Friar's Point. The latter break is the most serious. The crevasse is about 200 yards wide, and the water is rushing through it with great velocity. These are the first breaks reported from the Second Mississippi Levee District. The farms of Colonel Edward Richardson, near Robard's, will be overflowed, and the water will find its way through the break into the Yazoo River.

HELENA, Ark., March 8.—The situation is little changed from yesterday. There are 46 feet 11 inches of water on the gauge at St. Francis. It has been stationary at Madison since 10 o'clock last night, but at Langville the river is reported as having risen three inches. Work on the levee continues vigorously.

MEMPHIS, March 8.—*The Appeal's* Skipwith, Miss., dispatch says that during a storm heavy waves washed against the main levee at Ellesiles and it gave way yesterday evening in three places. Efforts have been made to close the breaks, but without success. The water is running over at Ellesiles and the plantations will be overflowed. If the river does not rise more the front places may escape being submerged. Reports from Bolivar and Washington counties are favorable. The levee here is still intact and no fears are entertained of its breaking. A large force of men has been at work for several days. If the weather does not change the country will be safe.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., March 8.—The water in the Mississippi River continues to rise at Arkansas City, and, like last spring, the citizens have no other means of communication than by boats. There is four feet of water in the Parker House and back water covers the Little Rock, Mississippi River and Texas Railroad for eleven miles, though communication is still maintained. The only ground visible in town is near the elevator. There is considerable suffering among the poorer classes, and no provisions have been made to relieve the destitute.

## CLARENCE HITE PARDONED.

A NOTED MEMBER OF THE JAMES GANG RELEASED TO GO HOME TO DIE.

ST. LOUIS, March 8.—Governor Crittenden has pardoned Clarence Hite, a noted member of the James gang, who pleaded guilty to the charge of train robbery in February, 1882, and was sentenced to twenty-five years' imprisonment. The pardon was issued on the recommendation of the penitentiary physician and the Board of Inspectors. Hite is in the last stages of consumption, and since his incarceration has been in the hospital two-thirds of the time. Accompanied by his brother-in-law, he has started for his father's home in Logan County, Kentucky.

## TAXATION IN BOSTON.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

BOSTON, March 8.—The City Auditor's annual report was presented to the Common Council to-night. It threatens to make necessary the heaviest rate of taxation ever known in Boston. *The Journal* says that should there be no decrease in the amounts asked for, and should the state tax remain the same, the total tax will be about $11,701,496. To raise this amount on a valuation of $660,000,000, which is estimating the gain on the total valuation at $7,000,000, would require a rate of $17 20 per $1,000, the highest known since Boston became a city.

## THE AUGUSTINIAN SOCIETY.

LAWRENCE, Mass., March 8.—At meetings of the various Catholic congregations here to-night action was taken in furtherance of the recently adopted plans of the relief committee in the interest of the Augustinian Society. The parish priest, two depositors in the savings institution and two disinterested persons were named as receivers by each church. The receivers will have full control of the church revenues and will make monthly collections, which will be invested in the interest of the depositors.

## CONTESTING A MILLIONAIRE'S WILL.

PHILADELPHIA, March 8.—The will of the late Henry Seybert, which bequeathed over a million dollars for public charities, has not not yet been filed in the office of the Register of Wills. Meanwhile a caveat protesting against the admission of the will to probate has been presented to the Register by counsel for some of the heirs of the dead millionaire.

## METHODISTS IN CONFERENCE.

WESTCHESTER, Va., March 8.—The Methodist Conference to-day discussed and adopted the report of the committee submitted yesterday relating to a proper celebration of the centennial of the conference. The Rev. L. F. Morgan, for fifty years a minister, was selected to preach the centennial sermon. Dr. Hunt, of New-York, addressed the convention.

## TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE.

TOPEKA, Kan., March 8.—The Kansas Legislature finished its business and adjourned sine die at 11:30 o'clock this morning.

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN.

WILKESBARRE, Penn., March 8.—Anthony Desire Lacoe, of Newton Township, died last night, aged one hundred and two years and six months.

A NEW ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY FORMED.

ALBANY, March 8.—The Schuyler Electric Light Company, of New-York, capital $1,000,000, was incorporated to-day.

MEETING OF LUMBER MILL OWNERS.

CHICAGO, March 8.—A secret meeting of about 150 owners of lumber mills in the Northwest, was held here to-day, the object being to form an association to limit production, fix rates, etc. It is understood that the only action taken was the appointment of committees on organization and production.

MOULDERS' WAGES INCREASED.

READING, Penn., March 8.—The Reading Hardware Company to-day conceded the 10 per cent increase in wages asked for by the ninety moulders in the employ of the company. Sixty-five moulders employed by the Penn Hardware Company have asked for the same increase.

PRODUCE SHIPMENTS FROM ST. LOUIS.

ST. LOUIS, March 8.—Since the resumption of navigation two weeks ago, the St. Louis and Mississippi Valley Barge Line has sent from this port 1,109,870 bushels of corn in bulk, and 316,253 bushels of wheat to New Orleans for export. In addition to this, over 5,800 tons of package freight, consisting of flour, pork, meats, etc., have been handled by the company, making a total of 46,625 tons.

THE CHICAGO BILLIARD TOURNAMENT.

CHICAGO, March 8.—In the afternoon game in the balk-line billiard tournament to-day, Gallagher defeated Maggioli by a score of 500 points to 295. Forty-six innings were played. Gallagher's best run was 76 and Maggioli's 40.

A RECEPTION TO WHITTIER.

BOSTON, March 8.—Ex-Governor Claflin gave a reception this afternoon to the poet Whittier. Among the guests were the Rev. Samuel Longfellow, the Rev. Samuel May, the widow of Governor Andrew, the widow of Ole Bull, Miss Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Lucy Larcom, Colonel T. W. Higginson, Anne Whitney and Miss Lucy Stone.

VIOLATIONS OF THE ELECTION LAWS.

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 8.—The preliminary examination of Democratic citizens of Fairfield County, charged with sundry violations of the Federal laws at the last general election, was resumed before the United States Commissioner this morning. Several witnesses for the Government were examined. The hearing was adjourned until Tuesday, March 20.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE.

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio, March 8.—Martin Luther Helps, last night, fifteen minutes after returning from church with his wife, fired three times at her, each ball taking effect, and then shot himself dead. His wife will probably recover.

A FARM LABORER'S SUICIDE.

BORDENTOWN, N. J., March 8.—John Dennis, a laborer employed on the farm of Samuel Lippincott, a few miles from Columbus, committed suicide yesterday by shooting himself. He placed the muzzle of a gun in his mouth and discharged it. The top of his head was blown off.

THE NEW-HAVEN MALPRACTICE CASE.

NEW-HAVEN, Conn., March 8.—It is stated that Coroner Bolman has ordered a postponement of the burial of Julia Jackson, who was to have been a witness in the case of Dr. E. L. R. Thomson, accused of having produced an abortion on Mary Canavan in the house of Mrs. Ellen Clemente, in this city, where Julia Jackson was employed as nurse.

## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

### SHOOTING AT MR. BLAINE.

REPORTED ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE EX-SECRETARY.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—A report is current that a short time before the adjournment of Congress an attempt was made by some person unknown to assassinate ex-Secretary Blaine by shooting into a carriage in which he was seated while returning from one of the night sessions at the Capitol. Mr. Blaine treats the matter lightly, and says that the hole through the windows of the landau in which he rode was probably made by a pebble thrown by some boy with a "devil's sling." His family, however, are said to take a more serious view of the occurrence.

### RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

MATTERS WHICH ARE TO BE INQUIRED INTO AND ADJUSTED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, March 8.—The provision in the Post Office Appropriation bill authorizing the Postmaster-General to appoint a commission to take into consideration and report upon the condition and needs of the Railway Mail Service, was in accordance with recommendations made by Assistant Postmaster-General Elmer in his report for 1881, and repeated in his last report. The Commission, consisting of Mr. Elmer, Superintendent Thompson and J. S. Slater, chief of the division having charge of the adjustment of the pay of railroads for carrying the mails, have not yet had a meeting. It will not be a roving commission, like that known as the Gardner G. Hubbard Commission of several years ago, but will send out notices of its purposes to the managers of the railroads, and invite an expression of opinion from all sources.

"We want," said Mr. Elmer to a TRIBUNE correspondent to-day, "to formulate a law that will do away with all special privileges and with a number of vexed questions. We want to do it with the approval of the railroads as a rule."

"What are the vexed questions to which you refer?"

"The just distribution of pay for services rendered and the question of side supplies are among them. There are roads that in our opinion are over-paid and others perhaps that do not get a fair equivalent for their work. The questions of weight, speed and space ought all to be taken into consideration in adjusting the pay of railroads, and they are hard questions to deal with. We send a pair of boots to San Francisco upon the fastest trains at the same price we send the same weight in letters. Why not send them on a slower train?"

Senator Plumb, who was instrumental in shaping the provision under which this Commission is raised, approves the views of Mr. Elmer. He is in favor of the establishment of a unit of measurement—a rate of pay for transporting a given weight in one square yard of space at a certain minimum rate of speed, and paying an additional proportional sum for increase of speed. This would enable the Department to enlarge the fast mail system whenever business demanded it without doing injustice to any one.

### THE YELLOWSTONE PARK COMPANY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, March 8.—The Secretary of the Interior was engaged late this afternoon in considering a proposition made by Rufus Hatch's Yellowstone Park Company for the lease of a ten-acre tract of ground in the park under the provisions of the Sundry Civil act, approved March 3. The act permits the Secretary of the Interior to lease small portions of ground, not exceeding ten acres in extent, for hotel purposes, for a period not exceeding ten years.

No such lease is to include "any of the geysers or other objects of curiosity or interest," or exclude the public therefrom. No ground within a quarter of a mile of any of the geysers or the Yellowstone Falls shall be leased, and no more than ten acres shall be leased to any one person or corporation.

Secretary Teller will insist that each lease shall contain a clause debarring the lessees and their agents and employes from killing any deer, elk or buffalo in the park.

Officers of the Interior Department assert that the wanton slaughter of game in the park was committed by the Army, and that the troops are also responsible for the equally wanton destruction of hundreds of acres of fine timber there.

It is expected that the lease will be executed to-morrow, the parties being extremely anxious to get hotels ready for the tide of summer travel. If the reports are true that the company have been quietly at work for some time past cutting down timber, etc., and making other preparations to build the hotel, the Department ought to look into it. The Sundry Civil act forbids the erection of any buildings within the park until a lease has been executed by the Secretary.

### AN OLD MAN ASSAULTED BY DORSEY.

JUDGE LILLEY SEVERELY INJURED—A SERIOUS RESULT APPREHENDED.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—Judge Lilley, an old man, was assaulted by S. W. Dorsey on Tuesday morning and severely injured. A gentleman who visited Mr. Lilley this morning found him in bed suffering from the injuries inflicted by Dorsey. Owing to Mr. Lilley's advanced age and the nature of his injuries his physician apprehends a serious result, but he reserves a decided expression of opinion until to-morrow. *The Star* gives the following account of the affair:

To-day it leaked out that on Tuesday morning an attack was made by Stephen W. Dorsey on Judge Lilley, father of ex-Deputy Auditor Lilley, at the residence of the former, No. 1,403 K-st. N. W. Mr. Lilley called at Mr. Dorsey's residence, accompanied by a friend, George F. Brodt, and they were admitted at once by Mr. Dorsey, who invited them to his parlor. They began a conversation, during which Mr. Dorsey accused Lilley of obtaining Rerdell as a Government witness. Mr. Dorsey became excited and dealt Mr. Lilley a blow in the face. The latter, throwing himself back to avoid the blow, his chair was upset and he fell to the floor, when, it is alleged, Dorsey kicked him in the lower part of the abdomen.

Mr. Brodt interfered and prevented Dorsey from administering other blows or kicks. Mr. Lilley is now about seventy years of age and is confined to his room by his injuries, Dr. Bulkley being his physician.

Ex-Senator Dorsey's friends in conversation tonight admit the fact of the assault upon Judge Lilley as stated in *The Star*, but assert that it took place under circumstances of great provocation, and after Mr. Dorsey had been grossly insulted.

### THE STAR ROUTE TRIAL.

TESTIMONY GIVEN YESTERDAY—STATEMENT AND COUNTER STATEMENT BY RERDELL AND DORSEY.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—General Nelson A. Miles was called to the witness stand this morning by the defence in the Star Route trial and testified that in the summer of 1876 he went into the Tongue River country. It was just after the Custer massacre, and there were few white settlers there except the army attachés, who established a mail service. From twenty to sixty days were consumed in communicating with Washington. The witness had called upon the Postmaster-General and one of his assistants, and had written letters through official channels recommending the establishment and increase of the Tongue River route. At times the route had been of the greatest service, often advising him of the movements of the Indians and enabling him to anticipate them.

Hannibal D. Norton testified that he had been for six years Chief of the Finance Division, Third Assistant Postmaster-General's office. He detailed the method pursued in that office in paying remitted fines. George M. Sweeny, of the Contract Office, next appeared with a huge pile of papers, being accounts of the deductions, fines and remissions made upon the nineteen routes set out in the indictment, and after the usual conflict between counsel, the examination into the papers was begun, and was continued until adjournment.

THE BELFORD CHECK.

*The Star* says: "Rerdell has made a statement to the Government counsel, and also statements to a *Star* reporter concerning the Belford check matter, which explain the relations of Dorsey and Rerdell. These statements are to the following effect: In the latter part of August, or beginning of September, 1879, Rerdell was sent for by a banker. He went to the bank and there was shown a check dated, he thinks, some day in July, 1879. The check was for $2,000, payable to J. B. B., or James B. Belford, or (as he thinks) 'bearer,' and was signed by S. W. Dorsey. The check had a number of indorsements, showing that it had passed through some banks. The writing and signature were so irregular and bad that the bank had a doubt about its being genuine and therefore desired Rerdell to give his opinion about it. Rerdell examined the check and said: 'It had undoubtedly been written and signed by S. W. Dorsey, but he must have been drunk when he wrote it.'

"The check was paid.

"S. W. Dorsey returned to Washington about October 1, 1879. Rerdell informed him of the doubt about the check and what he (Rerdell) had said to the bank. Dorsey's reply was: 'No, I was not drunk. I wrote that check in the car on my way out to Denver and that is why it was so badly written.' A few days afterward Dorsey gave the check book to Rerdell to make up his mail account. The stub of the $2,000 check was there marked 'J. B. B., $2,000, mail,' and Rerdell charged that to the mail account as directed by Dorsey. Afterward, from conversations between Dorsey and others, overheard by Rerdell, he came to understand that Dorsey, Belford and a crowd of friends were on the train, going West. It was proposed to play a game with cards. Dorsey was one of the players. Belford was the stakeholder and cashier for the crowd. Dorsey lost nearly all the money he had, and in settlement with Belford gave him this $2,000 check, which was put in bank for collection by either Belford or one of the winners to whom Belford transferred the check in settlement. Dorsey was shrewd, and charged his loss to 'mail,' and thus generously permitted Bosler, Brady, Vaile & Co. to share his loss."

The above statement of Rerdell has thrown some light upon the transaction, and the interested parties are having a lively time among themselves.

A REPLY BY S. W. DORSEY.

Ex-Senator Dorsey furnishes for publication the following statement:

I never saw Belford on the cars; I never played a game of cards with him or in his presence anywhere or at any time; I never gave him a check of any kind whatsoever for any purpose in the world. I never met him in my life except in Washington or in Denver, and then only socially. Rerdell says I was here in October, 1879, and that he spoke to me about the check. I was not here any day after the 11th day of July, 1879, until about August, 1880, and in the meantime I had not seen Rerdell. This story is one that flows from the mouth of a self-admitted perjurer and thief.

Rerdell never kept a book for me; never wrote a line in a book for me; never made a charge in a book for me; never had a check-book of mine, unless he stole it. No check, no stub of check, no entry of any name or character, ever existed upon which to base this infamous libel. Rerdell's statement is the natural outgrowth of the usual infamy of transmitted power and fairly represents it.

### REBATE OF BANK TAXES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, March 8.—It appears to be the general impression among officers of the Treasury Department that it will be held by the Attorney-General that the banks are entitled to rebate or remission of the taxes on capital and deposits for the current half year. The amount of taxes paid by the banks on capital and deposits last year was as follows: National banks, $5,959,702 37; private banks, $5,146,042 85; savings banks, $103,129 85; total, $11,208,875 07.

These taxes have been assessed semi-annually—in June and December in the case of private banks and savings banks, and in January and July in the case of National banks. On the basis of last year's receipts the taxes which had accrued between the date of last payment and the date of repeal, but which, in the language of the repealing act, were not "due and payable," amounted to about $1,061,553.

While taxes to this amount, more or less, had accrued prior to the enactment of the new law, they would not have been "due and payable"—to use the language of that act—until July next.

### NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—Lists are being prepared in the Fourth Auditor's Office for the distribution of the awards to the officers and crew of the United States ship Wyoming, or their representatives, for valuable and perilous services in the destruction of hostile vessels in the Straits of Simonoseki, on the 6th of July, 1863, and to the officers and crew of the steamer Takiang, who were detached from the United States steamer Jamestown, or their legal representatives, for similar services. The money will be paid to the claimants upon application forwarded to that office. Claimants will not require the services of claim agents and attorneys to secure their awards.

The United States steamer Alliance arrived at Key West, Fla., this morning, three days from Baracoa; all well.

Commodore James E. Jonett has been appointed president of a board to visit the principal naval and mercantile vessels arriving at New-York for the purpose of examining and reporting upon their dimensions, etc.; Passed Assistant Engineer A. J. Kenyon to duty in superintending the construction of machinery of the Alarm under the direction of Chief Engineer Isherwood.

### WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 8, 1883.

APPOINTMENT IN THE TREASURY.—S. S. Gardner has been appointed superintendent of the paper room of the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, vice J. N. Burket, deceased.

CARPET CONTRACTS AWARDED.—The contracts for furnishing the carpets for the new wing of the War, State and Navy Department building have been awarded to W. & J. Sloane, of New-York, the lowest bidders.

BUILDING SITES ACCEPTED.—Secretary Folger to-day accepted the property at the corner of Church and Fitzhugh sts., Rochester, N. Y., as the site of the new public building for that city. He also accepted block No. 96 as the site for the new public building at Dallas, Texas.

A MARSHAL APPOINTED.—The President to-day appointed Thomas B. Keogh United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina, vice Robert M. Douglass, whose term expired on February 27. Keogh was nominated to the Senate, but the nomination was not acted upon.

THE MALAGASY ENVOYS.—The Malagasy Envoys, accompanied by Secretary Frelinghuysen, Assistant Secretary Davis, General Sherman and a large party of Congressmen and others left here this morning on the United States steamer Dispatch for a visit to Mount Vernon. The party returned after an absence of about five hours.

THE CASE OF GENERAL HAZEN.—It was said at the Executive Mansion to-day, in response to inquiries, that the President had not ordered a court martial to investigate the conduct of General Hazen, Chief Signal Officer, and that no representations on the subject had been made to the President by the War Department.

SUGAR INVESTIGATION.—Secretary Folger has directed N. W. Bingham and S. E. Chamberlin, special agents of the Treasury Department, to proceed to San Francisco and Portland, Oregon, for the purpose of making a thorough investigation of the whole subject of the importation at those ports of sugars free of duty under the Hawaiian Treaty.

ALABAMA CLAIMS.—The Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims has assigned Thursday, March 22, as a time for hearing arguments of any counsel who may desire to be heard in regard to the question of reducing gold to United States currency, where the payments were made or are to be made in gold; also in regard to the question of the character of the alleged Confederate cruiser Calhoun.

THE VACANT TREASURYSHIP.—A prominent Republican representative who visited the White House to-day came away with the impression that ex-Representative Neal, of Ohio, who also visited the President this morning, is to be appointed United States Treasurer. It is understood that another applicant for the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Gilfillan is Sergeant-at-Arms Hooker, of the House of Representatives.

NEW LIFE SAVING STATIONS.—It is estimated that the appropriation of $50,000 made at the last session of Congress for additional life saving stations will suffice for the establishment of twelve new stations. General Superintendent Kimball says that one of the new stations will be at Lewes, Delaware, and five on the coast between Cape Henlopen and Cape Charles. Two will probably be located on the coast of Maine. The remaining four will be established on the lakes.

POSTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.—The receipts of the Post Office Department for the third quarter of 1882 were $10,545,932 95, being $356,963 12 in excess of its expenditures. For the corresponding quarter of last year there was a deficit of $196,104 01. The Third Assistant Postm