MR. KER ON GEORGE BLISS.

AN ALLEGED SCHEME TO SAVE DORSEY.

THE PHILADELPHIA LAWYER SAYS THE STAR ROUTE DEFENDANTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONVICTED.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—W. W. Ker of counsel in the prosecution of the Star Route cases, was examined by Mr. Springer's committee to-day. He said he was employed January 21, 1882, by the Attorney-General to prepare indictments. "I told the Attorney-General," said Mr. Ker, "that I was a Democrat. The Attorney-General replied that it was not a question of politics, but of the administration of justice, and he asked me to undertake the work. About two days after I received my commission, I met Colonel Bliss. He told me that I must not converse with Mr. Cook and that I must not allow him to see the indictments. He also said that I should not converse with Mr. Gibson nor with Mr. Corkhill. Colonel Bliss gave me the abstracts of papers prepared by Mr. Woodward, and said the indictments must be prepared before March 4th or the parties would escape."

Referring to the indicting of two of the defendants by their initials, the witness said:—"I wanted the full names of Rerdell and Sanderson. Colonel Bliss said he did not know what they were and that it was impossible to get them. Mr. Woodward could not give them nor could other Post Office inspectors. I told Colonel Bliss that there might be trouble about it. He replied that the Christian names could not be found. On the books in the Post Office Department the initials alone appeared, and those were taken. When the indictments came up in court they were quashed for this reason. There were also indictments for perjury against one Charles H. Dickson, who is now holding a confidential position in the Department of the Interior. He swore falsely as to the value of property. The indictments for perjury are still standing."

"Could those against whom indictments have been filed be convicted?" asked Representative Stewart.

"They ought to be, and they undoubtedly would be on a fair trial. All of these indictments were prepared by March 4."

"Why were no other cases than those of Dorsey and Brady taken to trial?" asked a member of the committee.

"I couldn't tell without drawing on my imagination."

Mr. Ker entered into the history of the trial of the cases. He said the Attorney-General told him to go into the trial, that it would last a month or six weeks. He continued: "The Attorney-General wanted me to examine witnesses privately, and prepare a brief of their testimony to be given to Colonel Bliss. I went to Colonel Bliss and told him what the Attorney-General had said. He replied never mind; that he would look after them. It is his nature to shoulder more than he can carry. I had nothing to do then with the witnesses. After the Court quashed the indictments against Vatlee, Rerdell and Sanderson, because the Christian name of Vatle was wrong and because we did not have the Christian names of Rerdell and Sanderson, we determined to make new indictments. Colonel Bliss said Sanderson's name ought to be dropped out. The matter was left with me. Sanderson had previously said to Colonel Bliss that he did not care so much about the indictments as he did about being mixed up with such a crowd as that. I left his name out because the evidence was insufficient. He had only been connected with one route. I think it is right that his name should have been left out. It is charged that he paid money to have his name omitted; not one cent was paid. About this time Walsh and Moore were spoken of as witnesses. Colonel Bliss told me that Walsh was a man of bad character and not worth while having anything to do with. He also said the same thing of Moore. Merrick, who had previously been appointed one of the counsel, afterward found out that both of the men were valuable witnesses and was very angry that neither had been subpoenaed.

BLISS WANTED DORSEY TO ESCAPE.

"One day, about the middle of the first trial, the other counsel and myself were at the Post Office Department. I was waiting outside of one room for Merrick. He came and, as we walked toward the door, said in an excited manner, 'What do you suppose Bliss wants? He wants us to let Dorsey go.' I suggested that he might have thrown that out as an expedient. 'Oh, no,' he replied, 'he meant it; he wants to let Dorsey go. He also wanted me to go to the Attorney-General and say that three lawyers were too many in the case, and to advise the Attorney-General to dismiss you and let himself and me remain.' I told him to go and tell the Attorney-General; that I was anxious to get out of the cases. Merrick replied that he would go out if I left. He said he wanted me to stay and help him watch Bliss. The Attorney-General was not told of this interview until I told him myself.

"When I did tell him he got up, walked the floor, and accused me of dereliction. In closing the first trial the Attorney-General made an argument. There had been a desperate effort to save Dorsey by showing that he was not in as deep as the rest. The Attorney-General showed that Dorsey's name appeared ninety-six times in the cases. At the beginning of the second trial I was told to take charge of the witnesses and examine them before they appeared on the stand. Bliss acquiesced. I took them and found that Bliss, on the first trial, had not brought out half that they knew. Then we had new witnesses. The testimony of all was so strong against Dorsey that there was no doubt of conviction."

"Its strength does not appear in the result," interposed Mr. Stewart.

"I have nothing to do with the result. The first jury would have convicted, if it had not been for the foreman. On the second jury there were men who could not read or write. In the first trial we had 77 witnesses, 2,390 papers, 3,280 pages of printed testimony. In the second trial we had 150 witnesses, 2,761 papers, and 4,481 pages of testimony."

"No wonder the jury didn't convict," said Mr. Stewart.

"There was no disagreement among the counsel in the second trial," the witness continued. "Bliss made up his mind to go for Dorsey and he did go for him as vigorously and viciously as any of us."

THE OHIO CONTESTED ELECTION CASE.

THE HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE TRYING TO SEAT ANOTHER SEAT—DEMOCRATS OBJECTING.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, May 26.—The debate on the Wallace-McKinley contested election case in the House to-day excited little interest except among some of the lawyers of that body. The majority for Major McKinley, as officially reported by the Board of Canvassers, was only 8 votes, and when it became known that the House would have a Democratic majority eight times as large, Mr. Wallace at once set about an attempt to overthrow the slender majority against him. His full name is Jonathan H. Wallace. In order to count him in the Democratic majority of the Elections Committee has been compelled to admit, not only votes cast for "John H. Wallace," "W. H. Wallace" and "W. W. Wallace," seven in all, but also ballots cas for "Major Wallace," "Ma W—llace," "Wolac," "Mag Wolac," "Wollace," "Woler," "Mage Wolac" and "Woller."

If ballots had been found containing nothing except a plain "W" a majority of the erudite Democrats of the Elections Committee would have experienced no difficulty in reaching the conclusion that they were cast for Major McKinley's opponent and ought to be counted for him.

One Democratic member of the committee, Mr. Robertson, of Kentucky, refused to assent to the findings of his colleagues and he made a spirited speech to-day in favor of Major McKinley's title to the disputed seat. Mr. Robertson is a new member, from the district formerly represented by Proctor Knoll. On more than one occasion he has shown that he possesses sufficient courage to stand by his just convictions, irrespective of the claims of party, and to-day he made a keen exposure of the sophistries used by his colleagues in their efforts to reverse the will of a majority of the voters in the XVIIIth Congressional District of Ohio. After he had been speaking some time to-day Mr. Nicholls, of Georgia, who is rather noted for his intermittent attendance and spasmodic attention to the proceedings, "rose to a point of order" and with some impertinence demanded to know on which side of the case Mr. Robertson was speaking.

"If the gentleman from Georgia would stay in his seat and make fewer and shorter visits to a certain room in this Capitol, he would not be so often at a loss to understand the positions of members here," exclaimed the fiery Kentuckian. Mr. Nicholls had no answer to this ready and pungent retort, which was heartily enjoyed by members on both sides who thought the rebuke well deserved.

Chairman Turner and Representative Adams, of New-York, spoke in favor of Wallace or "Wolac." Mr. Turner's speech was an elaborate rehash of the report of the majority of the Elections Committee. Mr. Adams was several times interrupted by Messrs. Robertson and McKinley, who pressed him so closely that he was forced to seek refuge in excited shoutings. His attempt to make sound and fury do duty for facts and logic was a painful and miserable failure. Mr. Hepburn, of Iowa, spoke in favor of McKinley. His argument was clear, forcible and logical, and showed the most thorough familiarity with both the facts and the law of the case, but the Democrats refused to listen. Judge E. B. Taylor, of Ohio (Garfield's successor), made a capital speech for McKinley. He is regarded as one of the best equipped lawyers and most conscientious Representatives in Congress, and his speech to-day fully sustained his high reputation.

It is expected that a vote will be taken to-morrow. Among those who will speak in favor of McKinley, it is understood, are Mr. Hurd, of Ohio, and Mr. Mills, of Texas, both Democrats. Mr. Hurd has given the case a patient and thorough investigation, and much is expected from him. The result of the vote is generally regarded as extremely doubtful, with the chances rather against McKinley.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—The excess of the value of exports over imports or of imports over exports of merchandise was as follows: Month ended April 30, 1884, (excess of imports) $4,268,998; four months ended April 30, 1884, (excess of exports) $16,895,657; twelve months ended April 30, 1884, (excess of exports) $70,263,442. The total values of the imports of merchandise for the twelve months ended April 30, 1884, were $680,451,898, and during the twelve months ended April 30, 1883, $723,154,613. The values of the exports of merchandise for the twelve months ended April 30, 1884, were $750,715,340, and for the twelve months preceding $811,679,331.

TO PROTECT NEW-YORK HARBOR.

A HOUSE BILL TO PROHIBIT DEPOSITS WITHIN ITS NAVIGABLE WATERS.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—A bill was introduced in the House to-day by S. S. Cox, prohibiting deposits in the harbor of New-York. It provides:

First—That the depositing by any person of refuse, dirt, ashes or cinders, or any other matter of any kind (other than the flushing from street sewers, and carried therefrom in a liquid state into the waters) within the navigable waters of the harbor of New-York or its adjacent waters, whereby a deposit shall or may be created and the draught of water lessened, or of any other deleterious substance whereby fish useful for food are injured or driven away, is strictly forbidden, and every such act is made a misdemeanor, and all persons who authorize such an offence shall, on conviction, be punishable with fine or imprisonment, or both, the fine not to be less than $250 nor more than $2,500, and the imprisonment to be for not less than thirty days nor more than one year.

Second—That any captain and engineer of a tug-boat which shall engage in towing any scow or boat loaded with any forbidden matter, shall be deemed participant in the infringement of this act and on conviction shall be punishable as hereinbefore provided, and their licenses shall be revoked or suspended for a term commensurate with the offence.

Third—That in all cases of receiving on board of any scow of such forbidden matter, it shall be the duty of the owner or master to apply for and obtain from the local superintendent (hereafter provided for) a permit defining the limits within which the proposed discharge of the scow shall be made, and any deviation from such dumping or discharging places shall be a misdemeanor within the meaning of this act.

Fourth—That the President shall designate and appoint from the corps of engineers of the United States a suitable and efficient officer, who shall be known as the Superintendent of the Harbor of New-York, whose duty it shall be to grant permits and to establish a patrol to prevent and detect transgressions of this act.

The sum of $30,000 is appropriated to carry out the provisions of the bill.

MR. HOAR ON THE UTAH BILL.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—The Utah bill was placed before the Senate to-day and Mr. Hoar spoke in its support. The minds of the American people, he said, with regard to the controversy involved in the Utah question had, after patient forbearance and reflection on the relations of constitutional liberty and public order, been fully made up. They did not mean to have, in the heart of their continent and growing up under the Constitution of the United States, in a Territory subject to the exclusive legislation of Congress, an "American State founded upon a denial of purity and integrity of the family relation. That proposition was one that seemed to him to be past the debatable stage. The dominant party in the Senate had many times affirmed that proposition as part of its political creed. He had yet to learn that from anywhere, except from Utah itself, the leader of any party had come to a declaration in conflict with that proposition. He, therefore, only took the floor to say that in the framing of this bill, severe and stringent as some of the provisions might be conceived to be, it had not been the purpose of the committee which he represented to infringe in the least upon the great American fundamental doctrine of entire liberty of conscience. The American State rested upon the fundamental doctrine that the family, which was the result of the pure and chaste union of one man with one woman, constituted the unit of citizenship; that the protection of the purity of the family relation was the great object of human legislation; that without that no Christian State, no republican or democratic state, certainly, could long exist.

THE SENATE AND LAND GRANTS.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—In the Senate to-day Mr. Plumb, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported favorably the bill to forfeit the unearned land grants of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, and restore the same to settlement. Mr. Garland, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported favorably Mr. Slater's resolution offered some days ago, modified so as to request the President to communicate to the Senate any information possessed by him or by the executive departments concerning the appointment of commissioners under the act of March 4, 1877, in respect of examining sections of the Northern Pacific Railroad and the acceptance of such sections, with the dates of acceptance and whether patents for lands have been issued to said company in respect of any part of the road completed since July 4, 1877, and if so to what extent and whether any public lands are now reserved from sale or other disposal by reason of the building of said road or any part of it. The resolution was placed on the calendar.

A BILL AFFECTING BANK OFFICERS.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—In the House to-day a bill was introduced by Mr. Hewitt, of New-York, to amend the act authorizing the formation of National Banking Associations. It provides that no president, cashier, teller, director or other officer of any National Bank shall procure, for his own benefit, or for the benefit of any copartnership, association or company of which he is a member, any loan of money from the bank of which he is an officer. In case a loss shall occur to the bank on account of any loan made contrary to the terms hereof, such officer shall be deemed guilty of embezzlement of the sum of money so lost to the bank, and on conviction shall be imprisoned not less than one year or more than five years, and fined in a sum equal to the amount of money embezzled.

THE HOUSE AND THE TARIFF.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—*The Star* to-night quotes Representative Hurd as saying that an effort will be made at this session to extend the free list by the addition of lumber and coal. It is understood that Secretary Folger has written a letter to Representative Hewitt approving the administrative part of the latter's tariff bill. It is thought more than likely, therefore, that the changes in the present law provided for in that part of the bill will receive the sanction of the House.

CONDITION OF NEW-YORK BANKS.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—The Controller of the Currency said to-day that the statement of the condition of the New-York banks, published on Saturday, did not call for any action on his part, inasmuch as it was made up from the averages of State banks as well as National banks composing the Associated Banks. The examiner, he said, was keeping a watchful eye on the situation, and had reported to him that the National banks are all in good condition as far as he knew. He added that the Second National Bank was entirely solvent, according to the report of the examiner.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Monday, May 26, 1884.

THE NATIONAL SOLDIERS' HOME.—In the House to-day, a resolution was adopted authorizing the Committee on Military Affairs to examine into the working and management of the National Soldiers' Homes, to sit during the session of the House and to send for persons and papers.

ROBINSON AGAIN HEARD FROM.—In the House to-day, a resolution was presented by Mr. Robinson, of New-York, for the adoption of a standing rule of both Houses of Congress, prohibiting any member from receiving or giving any visit to any foreign agent or ambassador or other person who avows himself to be an agent or ambassador from any foreign country, without the permission of the House to which he belongs.

MR. BELFORD'S VAGARY.—In the House to-day Mr. Belford, of Colorado, introduced a bill appropriating $500,000 for the erection of a home for disabled soldiers of the Confederate Army at Fredericksburg, Va. Referred.

THE COURT OF ALABAMA CLAIMS.—In the Senate to-day Mr. Logan reported from the Judiciary Committee the bill heretofore passed by the Senate, extending until December 31, 1884, the duration of the Court of Alabama Claims, with a recommendation that the Senate non-concur in the House amendment extending the time one year longer. On motion of Mr. Hoar, after debate, the Senate voted to concur in the House amendment.

A LAND GRABBING SCHEME.—In the Senate to-day a bill was reported favorably by Mr. Vest, from the Committee on Territories, to authorize the appointment of a commission by the President, to run and mark the boundary line between a portion of the Indian Territory and the state of Texas, in connection with a similar commission to be appointed by the state of Texas.

THE AGRICULTURAL BILL.—In the House on motion of Mr. Dibrell, of Tennessee, Senate amendments to the Agricultural Appropriation bill were non-concurred in.

CREMATION IN VENEZUELA.—The Consul of the United States at Maracaibo has sent to the Department of State the copy of a decree issued by the late President of Venezuela, Guzman Blanco, by which the cremation of corpses of yellow fever victims is made obligatory in that Republic. It is claimed that there is danger of infection from buried bodies for months after burial, and that cremation will in a great degree prevent the spreading of the disease.

THE MEXICAN PENSIONS BILL.—The Senate to-day considered, without action, the Mexican Pensions bill. The principal changes made in the bill as it came from the House are in striking out the clause that limits widows' pensions to the cases of widows who were married before the soldier's discharge from the Army, and permitting the payment of the pension to all Mexican soldiers' widows who have not remarried, and in limiting the benefits of the act to persons who are dependent in whole or in part upon their own labor or assistance from others for support.

HEARING IN A VIRGINIA TAX SUIT.

BALTIMORE, May 26.—Judge Bond to-day heard argument in the case of Pleasants, a citizen of Richmond, against Greenhow, city treasurer. Pleasants having tendered coupons for taxes amounting to $36 25, and being refused and threatened with levy and sale of his property, files a bill for injunction, alleging that he is about to be deprived of a right secured to him by the Constitution. Judge Bond reserves his decision.

A STORY FROM PLUTARCH.

From The Rochester Post-Express.

The Persian Monarch, Darius, being about to invade Greece, sent an Embassy with rich gifts to the Oracle of Delphius, to question whether his Enterprise should be Fortunate. "Go tell your Master," said the Priest, "that if he crosses the Koupartes (the river dividing his Dominions from Greece) he will Destroy a great Empire." Animated by this Announcement, Darius, having munificently enriched the Shrine, set his vast Host in motion. Having been beaten out of his Sandals, he was accompanied by a few faithful Attendants, flying to Asia, closely pursued by the Grecian horsemen, when he passed the Shrine, and paused to reproach the Oracle. But the Priest haughtily replied, "You did destroy a great Empire, as I predicted—your own, to wit. I knew well all along that your Nomination was a Weak One, and only refrained from Mentioning the Fact for fear of Chilling the Enthusiasm of the Party." So saying he hoisted the Ticket of Alexander and Bucephalus at the head of the Columns of his Shrine, and reprinted his original Oracular Utterance under the heading, "A Prediction Fulfilled."

CONDITION OF THE WHEAT.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE MILLERS.

AN EXCELLENT OUTLOOK FOR THE CROP FROM NEW-YORK TO CALIFORNIA.

ROCHESTER, May 26.—The annual report of the National Millers' Association, issued here yesterday, is as follows:

In Minnesota the average spring crop for five years has been 35,809,700 bushels. In five counties sowing was from five to ten days later than a year ago; in ten from ten to fourteen days earlier, and in six about the same. In eighteen counties the acreage is about the same as a year ago; in four 5 to 10 per cent increase, and in two, 15 to 25 per cent increase. The present condition is either "very good" or "excellent." The amount of wheat in farmers' hands is from 10 to 15 per cent in six counties; 20 to 25 per cent in thirteen, and 30 to 33 per cent in four. The mills will require all of it. Prices are lower on the whole. The surplus is about the same. "Farmers are going more into stock and mixed crops and not sowing so much wheat," says one correspondent; while another says: "It is a dry spring; we must have rain soon or the crops will suffer." The weather throughout the State is now favorable.

IN OTHER NORTHWESTERN STATES.

Michigan's average winter wheat crop for five years has been 27,432,000 bushels. In eleven counties the present average is about the same as last year. In three 8 to 10 per cent increase; in three 15 to 20 per cent decrease, and in one 40 per cent decrease. The present condition is "good to very good" in sixteen counties; in four seventy-five to eighty per cent, and in two "poor." Eighteen counties report it as being better to much better; three 50 per cent better, and two ten per cent worse. The outlook for the crop is good in six counties average in six, "best in years" in one; 75 to 90 per cent of an average in five, and in one "half a crop." In fifteen counties none has been ploughed up and in eight from 1 to 3 per cent. Most of the reports show that the outlook for the crop is better than a year ago. The mills will require the wheat now in store and in the farmers' hands.

In Wisconsin the average crop for five years has been 18,941,400 bushels. As compared with 1883 the crop is reported as the same in seven counties, 5 per cent increase in two, 10 per cent increase in two, 20 per cent increase in six, 5 per cent less in two, 25 per cent less in one, and 50 per cent less in two. The spring wheat acreage is reported the same as last year in five counties, 20 to 35 per cent increase in five, 5 to 10 per cent decrease in three, and 25 per cent decrease in three. In seventeen counties none has been ploughed up; in two, 2 to 5 per cent, and in Manitowoc and Sheboygan counties 30 to 35 per cent. The present condition of the winter wheat in all but two counties is universally "good to excellent," and during the past month it has improved. The spring wheat was sown about the same time as last year, and its present condition is fair to good. Outside of Milwaukee the mills will require all or more than all the wheat. Prices are from a little less to 15 to 20 cents less than a year ago.

In Iowa the average crop of wheat has been for five years 26,828,000 bushels. The spring wheat acreage in seven counties is about the same as a year ago. In nine there is an increase of 10 per cent. In five there is an increase of from 20 to 30 per cent. The winter wheat acreage is about the same in five counties, 10 per cent more in one, 26 per cent more in one, and from 15 to 25 per cent less in two. In twelve counties the time of sowing was about the same as last year, in seven from a week to ten days later, and in five earlier. The present condition of both spring and winter wheat is invariably reported good. There is little old wheat in store and little in the farmers' hands. The mills will require all or more than all. The views of two correspondents are as follows: "The prospects for a large crop were never better;" "Spring wheat never looked better, but the acreage is small."

In Kansas the average wheat crop for five years has been 23,587,700 bushels. In nine counties the acreage now is about the same as a year ago; in two counties it is five per cent more; in four, 10 per cent more; in five, 20 per cent more, and in one 25 per cent less. None has been ploughed up, and the present condition is excellent, showing a general improvement since a month ago. The outlook for the crop is first-class in every respect. In fifteen counties it is much better than a year ago; in three, about the same as a year ago; in three, 50 per cent better; in one, fifteen days earlier; in one, a month later, and in one, fifteen days earlier. In four counties there is none in the farmers' hands; in five, 5 per cent; in nine, 10 per cent; in six, 15 to 20 per cent. There is little or none in store in twelve counties. The mills will require all, or all and more. One correspondent says: "We are shipping in wheat all the time. The plant is strong and healthy."

In Dakota the acreage in five counties is the same as last year, in four 20 to 25 per cent greater, in three 30 to 40 per cent greater, in one double that of last year and in one three times that of last year. Seeding on the average was about the same as last year. The present condition is invariably reported "good" to "extra good." In six counties there is no wheat in the farmer's hands, in seven 7 to 10 per cent and in seven 30 per cent. The mills require all of it. In some parts of the State the season is cold and backward, but in most sections the weather has been all that could be desired and the fields are as green as a lawn.

The spring wheat acreage in Nebraska is about the same as a year ago in five counties, 20 to 25 per cent more in six, and 10 per cent less in two. In three counties the winter wheat acreage is 15 to 20 per cent more than a year ago, and 4 to 50 per cent in three. The time of the sowing of the spring wheat averaged ten days later. The present condition of both spring and winter wheat is reported invariably "good" to "never better," and during the past month there has been an improvement. The outlook is "good" to "very good."

IN THE VALLEY STATES.

In Missouri the average winter wheat crop for five years has been 25,849,300 bushels. The acreage now as compared with that of 1883, is reported in 21 counties as about the same; in seven, 3 to 5 per cent more. Two report a decrease of 10 per cent, and three 25 to 30 per cent decrease. Thirty counties report none plowed up. In 25 counties the present condition is fair to good; in 14, "very good to excellent," and in 3 not good. Thirty-three counties report that the present condition is much improved over a month ago. Twenty counties report the outlook for the crop good, and 13 expect a large crop. As compared with 1883 the condition is about the same in 9 counties; in 25, better to much better; in 5, 5 per cent better, and in 4 not so good. In 10 counties there is little old wheat in the farmers' hands, and in 14 there is from 10 to 15 per cent. In 38 counties the mills want all or more. In 11 counties the surplus is about the same as last year, and in 17 less to very much less. One report says: "Last year we had plenty of old wheat, with poor prospects for the new crop. Now we are nearly out of old wheat, with good prospects for the new crop."

In Indiana the average crop of winter wheat for the past five years has been 37,463,000 bushels. The present acreage in 16 counties is about the same; in three 5 per cent less; in three 15 to 25 per cent less; and in four 5 to 10 per cent more. In thirteen counties none has been ploughed up. The present condition is, "good to very good" in twenty-four counties; "poor" in one, and 25 per cent killed in one. Compared with a month ago it is better to 25 to 50 per cent better. In eighteen counties the outlook for the crop is average to full average. In four 60 to 75 per cent of an average, and in two only half a crop is expected. In nine counties from 2 to 25 per cent of old wheat is in the farmers' hands, in fifteen 10 to 15 per cent, and in four 20 to 25 per cent. In fourteen counties the amount in stock is "nothing." The mills will require all, or all and more. The surplus compared with 1883 is the same in eighteen counties, 10 to 20 per cent in eighteen, and ½ in three. Most of the wheat on hands of the crop of 1882. In St. Joseph County winter wheat has suffered greatly by being winter killed.

In Ohio the average winter wheat crop for five years has been 36,000,000 bushels. The reports to the association show that in twenty-nine counties the acreage is about the same as last year; in six it is 10 per cent more; in three 10 per cent less, and in one, 15 per cent less. In twenty-eight counties none have been ploughed up; in two, 5 per cent, and in two, 10 per cent. In thirty-five counties the condition is "good" to "very promising;" in one it is 5 per cent below the average, and in one 15 per cent below. Compared with a month ago the condition is improved 50 per cent. In twenty-four counties the outlook for the crop is "good to very good," in five, 5 to 10 per cent of an average, in nine, 15 to 25 per cent below, and in one the prospects are for 50 per cent of the crop. Most of the counties report little wheat in the farmer's hands. Under the head of remarks the correspondents say: "There will be but little wheat shipped East until after the harvest, as millers apprehend a scarcity." "Prospects excellent." "Some injury by fly." "Some complaint of fly." "Weather remarkably fine for wheat." "Milling wheat very scarce."

The average crop in Illinois for five years has been 40,000,000 bushels. In thirty-nine counties the acreage now is about the same as a year ago; in six there is an increase of 5 per cent, in four of 10 per cent and one 25 per cent. One county shows a decrease of 25 per cent, three of 5 and four of 10. In thirty-four counties none has been ploughed up, in eight 1 to 2 per cent, in five 3 to 5 per cent, in eleven 10 to 12 per cent and in one 15 per cent. The present condition is "fair to good" in thirty-five counties, "excellent" in eleven and poor and thin in seven. Compared with a month ago four counties report about the same, fifty much improvement, two 25 per cent better and two not so good. Thirty-three counties will yield an average crop, nine one-half of an average, three one-quarter of an average, and twenty 65 to 75 per cent of an average. As compared with 1883 the prospects are better to much better in thirty-seven counties, 15 to 25 per cent better in five, 50 to 75 per cent better in nine, and not so good in two. In fourteen counties there is none in the farmers' hands, and in twenty-six, 2 to 5 per cent. There is none to be marketed in thirty-five counties, and 5 to 7 per cent in seventeen. In forty-five counties there is little or none in store. The mills will require all or more than all outside of Chicago.

In Kentucky the average crop for five years has been 9,703,000 bushels. The acreage is the same now as last year in seven counties; 5 per cent greater in two; 10 per cent greater in two; 20 to 25 per cent greater in three, and 10 per cent less in one. The present condition is good in seven counties, excellent in four, never better in two, and 80 per cent in one. In thirteen counties there has been an improvement during the past month. Little is in the farmers' hands, and the mills will require all of it. Harvest will be two weeks later than last year. More long berry and less soft wheat has been sown.

The present condition of the wheat in Tennessee is invariably good, and there is from 10 to 15 per cent increase in the acreage in five counties, and an increase of 50 per cent in two.

There has been a general improvement during the past month. The outlook for the crop is "good" in eleven counties; "splendid" in two, and "best in many years" in four. The millers will require all and more than is now the farmers' hands.

IN THE SOUTHWESTERN STATES.

In Texas the acreage in three counties is 10 to 15 per cent greater than a year ago; in three 20 to 30 per cent greater; in two 75 per cent greater, and in two double that of last year. The present condition is good in six counties, the "best ever known" in two, and "good, but some rust" in one. Compared with a month ago, it is "much better", and compared with a year ago, it is "better" to "50 per cent better." The outlook for this year's crop is favorable. There is no wheat in store, and the millers will require all the wheat in Texas. They are now buying in Kansas.

In Colorado the spring wheat acreage is about the same as last year. Sowing was a little later. The present condition is good. Prices, as compared with those of 1883, are 5 to 10 cents less. The spring was late, but favorable.

In California all the counties expect to show an acreage ranging from the same as last year to an increase of 20 per cent. The present condition is healthy and excellent, and is better than a month ago. Little wheat remains in the farmers' hands. The correspondent says: "From a very extended inquiry the indications are now that we shall have the largest crop ever raised in the State—estimated at 1,750,000 tons or 58,333,000 bushels—of which the home consumption will require 300,000 to 350,000 tons, leaving 1,400,000 tons—46,600,000 bushels—available for export, provided nothing happens to the crop before harvest to interfere with the present outlook.

IN THE ATLANTIC STATES.

In New-York the average wheat crop for five years has been 10,940,000 bushels. In twenty-two counties the present acreage is about the same as a year ago; in three, from 5 to 10 per cent less, and in one, 5 per cent more; none has been ploughed up. In twenty counties the present condition is good; in six, "very good" or "splendid," in two, "fair," and in one 50 per cent better than at the corresponding time last year. During the past month it has "improved very much." The outlook for the crop is "fair to good" in fifteen counties; "an average," in six, and "a big crop" in seven. As compared with 1883 it is "better" to "much better" in nineteen counties; 50 per cent better in three, and "double" in two. In seventeen counties there is little old wheat in the farmers' hands; in six, 10 per cent, and in four 20 to 25 per cent. In twenty counties there is none to be marketed. The mills will require all and more. Prices are 5@15 cents per bushel less than a year ago. Correspondents report the surplus from 5 to 25 per cent less than a year ago. The following are the views of some correspondents: "Wheat has been greatly benefited by the recent rains;" "Crop prospects were never better;" "wheat in this section, (Cayuga County) will be used up closer than ever before;" "The millers in this (Steuben) County have already bought more Western wheat than they had up to the same date last year."

In Pennsylvania the acreage is about the same as a year ago. The present condition is fine, and the outlook is generally good. The mills will require more than the amount in the farmers' hands. A quantity of spring wheat is being brought in from the Northeast.

In Maryland the acreage is about the same as that of a year ago. The condition is excellent. During the past month it has improved, and the prospects for a full crop are better than were a year ago. The mills will require all now in the farmers' hands.

In Delaware the acreage is about the same as last year. The condition is fine, and has improved greatly within the last month. The outlook is good for a large crop. From 5 to 10 per cent is still in farmers' hands, with prices the same as a year ago.

In Virginia the average crop for five years has been 8,400,000 bushels. The present condition is good. During the month, it has improved, and in all but one county the outlook for the crop is good. None is to be shipped.

MEETINGS OF RELIGIOUS BODIES.

THE METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

PHILADELPHIA, May 26.—The Methodist General Conference to-day increased the number of General Conference Districts from twelve to thirteen. A resolution was adopted providing for the appointment of a commission to consider the subject of consolidating the benevolent societies, to devise a plan for the purpose and to report at the next General Conference. The committee to nominate trustees of the church institutions recommended as members of the Board of Education, the Rev. L. R. Fiske (vice the Rev. Dr. Ninde, resigned), Bishop Harris, the Rev. William Fryfinger, Jacob Sleeper and Francis H. Root; as trustees of Drew Theological Seminary, (Bishop Foster, the Rev. John S. Porter, the Rev. Charles S. Colt, Bishop Hurst, the Rev. Dr. Buckley, the Rev. James Mongomery, the Rev. Thomas Hanlon, Samuel Eddy, John B. Cornell, William White, William Hoyt, Stephen Barker, James Boyd and George G. Reynolds; as trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Rev. Luke Hitchcock, the Rev. Charles W. Ketcham, the Rev. Earl Cranston, Judge M. B. Hagans, W. Cumback, and P. M. Bizney. The report was adopted. The report of the Committee on Episcopacy recommended that the Episcopal residences be Boston, New-York, Philadelphia, Washington, Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Atlanta or Chattanooga, New-Orleans or Austin, Des Moines, Denver and Buffalo. A motion was made to strike out Buffalo and insert Topeka and there the matter rested till to-morrow.

AGAINST THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

PITTSBURG, May 26.—In the General Synod of Reformed Presbyterians, to-day, the report of the Committee on Discipline gave rise to an animated discussion. The report condemned the pernicious liquor traffic licensed by the Government, and provided for the excommunication of such church-members as deal in spirituous liquors and rent property to tavern-keepers. The last clause encountered strong opposition, but after a heated debate the report was unanimously adopted.

THE METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH.

BALTIMORE, May 26.—The Methodist Protestant General Conference to-day selected Adrian, Michigan, as the place for holding the next General Conference. The subject of the publication of the Journal of the Conference was discussed at length, and it was stated that the assessments to defray the expenses of the last Journal were left unpaid by ten of the annual conferences. It was finally agreed to publish the Journal for sale to those who desired to have it, so as to do away with assessments.

THE AFRICAN METHODIST CHURCH.

BALTIMORE, May 26.—The African Methodist Episcopal General Conference assigned the bishops to-day to the nine conference districts: First, Bishop R. H. Cain; second, Bishop William F. Dickerson; third, Bishop J. P. Campbell; fourth, Bishop John M. Brown; fifth, Bishop H. M. Turner; sixth, Bishop J. A. Shorter; seventh, Bishop D. A. Payne; eighth, Bishop T. M. D. Ward; ninth, Bishop A. W. Wayman.

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

SARATOGA, May 26.—The Presbyterian General Assembly to-day resolved to continue the correspondence with the Southern General Assembly. The recommendation of the Committee on Reduced Representation was adopted. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Assembly should be held in Cincinnati.

PRESBYTERIAN UNITY AGAIN DELAYED.

NEW-ORLEANS, May 26.—The Presbyterian General Assembly adjourned sine die late on Saturday night. Among its last actions was the framing of a fraternal letter, to be sent to the Northern Assembly, expressing a firm determination to adhere to the position taken at the last Assembly with regard to the mode of correspondence. A letter of the same purport was also sent to the General Synod.

RELIGIOUS MEETINGS YESTERDAY.

The pavements around the Friends' Meeting House in Rutherford-place are covered with tanbark. The building is almost hidden by trees, and from the windows it has the appearance of being in a country grove. Several hundred members were in attendance yesterday at the sessions of the yearly meeting. The meetings of the men and women are separate, and they were occupied with questions relative to the welfare of the Society. A resolution was presented at the men's meeting suggesting several changes in the discipline of the Society, one of which is to substitute salaried ministers for what are now known as "man made" ministers. After some discussion it was referred to a committee.

"Religion and the State" was the subject of an essay by the Rev. Dr. Patton, Editor of *The Baptist Weekly*, before the conference of Baptist Preachers yesterday. He held that while there should be no organic connection between Church and State, Christianity is a part of the common law of the land; that the State is an ally of religion, and religion an ally of the State.

The New-York Classis met in the Reformed Church at Fifth-ave. and Twenty-ninth-st. William Schmitz was examined for licensure, and Gustavus A. T. Goebel, for ordination. The latter is to take charge of a German church, recently organized, in Eighty-fourth-st. He was received from the Classis of Bergen.

The discussion by the ministers of the Reformed Church, at No. 34 Vesey-st., was opened by the Rev. Dr. George S. Bishop, of Orange, N. J., on "The Constitution of the Local Church with Bishops and Deacons, and What Part the Deacons Should Take in Serving the Lord's Table." The drift of the discussion was in favor of the elevation of the deacon's spiritual character.

MORE ROOM FOR CHURCH BOARDS.

The Presbyterian Boards having offices in this city find their present quarters at No. 23 Centre-st. are becoming too small for their use and changes are being considered. The building and land are owned by the Board and it has been proposed to enlarge the building by adding another story to it. Other members think the better way would be to purchase or build a larger structure. The Presbytery of New-York would like permanent quarters in the city and it is believed it would cooperate with the Board. The Presbytery of Elizabeth, N. J. has also volunteed to contribute toward the project.

William Rankin, treasurer of the Board of Foreign Missions, recently said to a TRIBUNE reporter: "The matter is now in the hands of a committee of the Board, and as far as I know nothing more has been done. Our present quarters are located quite satisfactorily as far as the publishing, shipping and general business interests are concerned. We want more room, and the idea is to have some such house as the Methodists have, to accomodate our increased demands. It might not be so well to go further up town, but I cannot say that we would not, if some generous Presbyterian should offer favorable inducements."

AN ABSURD REPORT.

THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH SCHEME.

From The Indianapolis Journal.

Either there is misrepresentation, or the Senate Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads is ingenuous beyond belief. Its alleged conclusions relative to a postal telegraph, as prepared by Senator Hill, if the report made public yesterday can be believed, are erratic enough to provoke criticism from the veriest tyros in matters of public polity. A schoolboy who would not make haste to disclaim such a preposterous argument would deserve to be demerited. To seriously complain of the "censorship" exercised by a non-political and non-partisan organization, and then propose to remedy the matter by placing the whole system under party control, is simply self-stultification. To the Western Union Telegraph Company a Democrat's dollar is just as acceptable as that of a Republican, and the former will command just as much and just as good service as the latter. The relationship between the telegraph company and the Associated Press is one of business solely, in which newspapers of every conceivable political complexion combine to secure mutual advantages. That these are secured is testified to by the fact that no complaint has come from any of them. To interfere in this arrangement would simply be an impudent intermeddling for which no decent excuse could be offered. But the supreme absurdity of the report is reached when it is confidently asserted, with respect to market reports, that the Western Union "has only to give true