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THE NEWS IN LONDON.

SEQUENCE OF IRISH MEASURES.

MR. GLADSTONE'S MANIFESTO—LAND REFORM TO PRECEDE HOME RULE.

[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

LONDON, Feb. 6.—The new Cabinet is popularly known as the Gladstone-Morley Cabinet. The two decisive facts about it are that Mr. Morley is in as Chief Secretary for Ireland, and that Lord Hartington is out. Mr. Morley's was the first appointment publicly known. It was universally understood to signify that Mr. Gladstone had resolved to favor Home Rule. Mr. Gladstone's sole chance of a majority in the present House lies in securing Mr. Parnell's support. Mr. Morley is his first bid. Mr. Parnell nods approval. Mr. Morley's brilliant abilities, singularly rapid rise in public life and extreme radicalism on the Irish question explain Mr. Gladstone's departure from all precedent in offering the most important of all the Cabinet offices to a man wholly without official experience. Lord Aberdeen's Viceroyalty brings another new man to the front, whom his friends know to be able, devoted, conscientious, and likely to win the good will of the Irish people.

Energetic efforts to induce Lord Hartington to join the Ministry failed. Mr. Gladstone's partial surrender to Mr. Chamberlain on agrarian policy partly explains Lord Hartington's refusal. Home Rule is the chief reason. Lord Spencer's acceptance of office provokes some surprise; Mr. Trevelyan's much more. Mr. Trevelyan's recent declaration that there is no half-way house between separation and absolute imperial control remains uncancelled; so does his advice to keep the care of law and order in all departments in the hands of the central Government. Both declarations are irreconcilable with any Irish Parliament scheme. There is an interesting puzzle in a situation that compels Lord Hartington to decline office in a Cabinet which Mr. Trevelyan finds himself able to enter. The solution probably is that Mr. Gladstone when offering office to his colleagues abstained from all exposition of his Irish policy. Lord Hartington's position in the party entitled him to ask for explanations, which proved insufficient to satisfy his scruples.

Mr. Chamberlain's friends say that his connection with this Ministry binds him to nothing new, but gives him a free hand in local questions he cares most for. He has issued an address to his constituents appealing to his recent speeches as evidence of his firm intention to consent to no plan which fails to guarantee the continued supremacy of the Crown and the integrity of the Empire.

SEQUENCE OF IRISH MEASURES.

Mr. Gladstone's address to Midlothian throws little light on all this obscurity and apparently was meant to throw none. It is a masterpiece of ingenious unintelligibility. A single point stands out. There is to be an inquiry into the condition of Ireland before any proposal for legislation is made. Moreover, the succession in which the topics are named is thought to be significant: social order, land, and self-government. The first cannot in any case mean coercion, of which Mr. Morley would never be the instrument. If an attempt be made to settle the land question before Home Rule, trouble may be expected. Mr. Parnell stands pledged to insist on precedence for Home Rule. Every Parnellite organ protests against postponement on any pretext. Unless Mr. Parnell gives way this is the rock on which the coalition will split or the Cabinet go to pieces. This, too, helps to explain Mr. Chamberlain's presence in the Cabinet. He does not want Home Rule, but he does want to deal with the land. *The Daily News*, now under Mr. Chamberlain's influence, speaks out frankly. It tells Mr. Parnell that the Liberal party will not allow him to dictate the sequence of measures. It warns him that if Mr. Gladstone tried to carry Home Rule regardless of social order and unmindful of the claims of the land question he would find imself in a minority in the Commons. On the other hand he could carry the first two branches of the scheme without Mr. Parnell's help. Mr. Morley, though far more advanced on other Irish questions than Mr. Chamberlain, agrees with him that the land must come first. "The tenants," said Mr. Morley, "must be prevented from confiscating the property of the landlords." Finally *The Birmingham Post*, Mr. Chamberlain's organ, publishes a conspicuous editorial denying the possibility of granting a Parliament to Ireland.

COMPOSITION OF THE CABINET.

The other Cabinet appointments have little or no bearing on Irish questions. Though the abstentions signify much, it is the Irish question which keeps out besides Lord Hartington, Mr. Bright, Mr. Goschen, Mr. Forster, Lord Selborne, the Duke of Argyll, Lord Derby and Sir Henry James. Not one of these former colleagues of Mr. Gladstone would enter a Cabinet in which Home Rule was an open question. The two most popular appointments are Sir Farrer Herschell (Lord High Chancellor) and Lord Rosebery (Foreign Secretary). Sir Farrer Herschell is regarded as among the first lawyers and has a high reputation also in the House. Lord Rosebery is welcomed as Lord Granville's successor in the Foreign Office by both parties. The German press dwells on his friendship with Prince Bismarck. The French papers respond with their usual growl. Lord Rosebery's experience in office is slight, but the public believes that his abilities are equal to any post.

The distribution of the other offices is almost eccentric. Sir William Harcourt has his apprenticeship to finance to serve, while framing a stupendous budget. Lord Ripon is without experience in the Admiralty. Lord Granville as Colonial Secretary revives the traditions of neglect and alienation of the colonies. Lord Kimberley is not more than a respectable Secretary for India, though familiar with the office. Mr. Childers it is hoped may make a passable Home Secretary. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman owes his promotion to the War Office to the dearth of Ministers of the first rank, but gave evidence of sterling qualities while Irish Secretary. Mr. Mundella has earned the Presidency of the Board of Trade by hard and good work.

Altogether the Cabinet, though able, is a makeshift. It could not be otherwise when so many Liberal leaders hold aloof. They will form neither a cave nor a cabal. Lord Hartington and his friends will support the Government where it is possible to do so, but nobody ventures to predict the result of a test vote in the present House on Home Rule. The Parnellites express hope rather than confidence. In the meantime they will do what they can to strengthen the Ministry by discouraging outrages in Ireland, and by moderate courses in Parliament. The Liberal press in England discusses the whole subject with extreme caution. Mr. Gladstone himself is in the highest spirits and full of confidence. G. W. S.

LORD SALISBURY HOOTED.

EXCHANGING THE SEALS OF OFFICE.

RE-ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT APPOINTED TO OFFICE.

LONDON, Feb. 6.—Lord Salisbury and the other members of the retiring Ministry were hooted at Portsmouth while returning from Osborne, whither they had gone to deliver the seals of office to the Queen.

Mr. Gladstone is rusticating at Tentmore, the seat of the Earl of Rosebery.

LONDON, Feb. 6.—The members of the late Ministry left London for Osborne at 9:30 o'clock this morning to deliver the seals of office to the Queen, and the members of Mr. Gladstone's Government proceeded to Osborne at 11:30 o'clock to receive the seals.

T. P. O'Connor, Home Rule Member of Parliament, having been returned from two constituencies—Liverpool and Galway City—and having elected to sit for the former place, William Henry O'Shea, former member for Clare County, has agreed to contest Galway City as the Home Rule candidate, and Mr. Parnell will support him.

The House of Commons to-day ordered writs to be issued for the re-election of those members who have been appointed to office since the House was last in session. The House has adjourned until February 18.

The Freeman's Journal says that the Earl of Aberdeen, who was yesterday appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, will be an "ornamental figure-head," and that John Morley, the Chief Secretary, will do all the work connected with the government of the country.

GREECE READY TO ASSIST SERVIA.

VIENNA, Feb. 6.—The cool and evasive reply of Servia to the joint note of the Powers requesting her to disarm, in which she simply acknowledges the receipt of the note and said she would think about it, is to-day explained by the statement that just before sending the reply Servia had received from Greece a confidential telegram of an important character. It is surmised that Greece offered to join Servia in resisting the demand to disarm, as it is known that previous to the receipt of the dispatch from Athens Servia had drafted a reply very different from the curt note subsequently sent.

BUDGET OF THE TURKISH COMMISSION.

CAIRO, Feb. 6.—Moukhtar Pacha, the Turkish Commissioner to Egypt, has submitted the Egyptian budget. It calls for £84,000 on account of Egypt's share of the expense of maintaining the army of occupation, and for £33,500 on account of the gendarmerie and police. Moukhtar Pacha, in submitting the budget, expresses the hope that England will relieve Egypt of the expense of the army of occupation.

OPERATIONS OF PARISIAN STRIKERS.

PARIS, Feb. 6.—The striking factory operatives at St. Quentin are erecting barricades in the streets of that city, and a conflict between the military and the strikers is believed to be imminent.

SIGNS OF REVOLUTION IN ARMENIA.

ODESSA, Feb. 6.—A revolution is fomenting in Turkish Armenia. The jails in the city of Van are filled with political prisoners, and an extraordinary number of arrests are made every day.

FAILURE OF A TOBACCO COMPANY.

MONTREAL, Feb. 6 (*Special*).—Adams's Tobacco Company has made an assignment with liabilities of $150,000. The failure is said to be due to too close competition between the various tobacco manufacturers. F. E. Owens, of New-York, seized to-day a quantity of tobacco recently shipped to the company.

FRAGMENTS OF CABLE NEWS.

LONDON, Feb. 6.—Information has been received here from St. Petersburg that the recent discovery of a Nihilist rendezvous in that city has stirred the authorities to the keenest activity and arrests of persons charged with implication in Nihilist plots continue to be made there.

PARIS, Feb. 6.—The supposed murderer of M. Barrême, the Prefect of the Department of Eure, who was killed in a railway carriage compartment while returning to Evreux from Paris with $4,000 in his pockets on January 14, has been arrested. When the train started from Paris a man asked the guard if M. Barrême was aboard, and when answered in the affirmative purchased a ticket and went on the same train. A man answering this person's description left the train at Mantes-sur-Seine before the murder was discovered. The person taken into custody has been identified by employes of the railway as the man who alighted at Mantes. His name is Dubois.

PARIS, Feb. 6.—The Chamber of Deputies has rejected the proposition of the Radicals to extend amnesty to political offenders.

PARIS, Feb. 6.—The report that aeronauts M. M. Girod and Renaud had been rescued turns out to be untrue. They are still missing.

THE INVESTIGATION IN OHIO.

SENATOR FORD MAKES HIMSELF A MEMBER OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

COLUMBUS, Feb. 6 (*Special*).—The Senate ghost is still stalking about. Until last Thursday the differences were between the two political parties. Since that time the Republicans have been quarreling over the appointments of the investigating committee, the dispute being between Mr. Gregg and Mr. Ford for the third place in the Republican branch of the sub-committee of conference. Mr. Gregg proposed that both himself and Senator Ford resign from the Committee on Privileges and Elections. Mr. Ford exhibited to the reporters a copy of his resignation and according to the statements of several gentlemen announced that it had been forwarded to General Kennedy and that he was going to his home in Geauga County. But Mr. Ford was the first Republican to go to Cincinnati, leaving on the same train with the Democratic members of the committee. Another peculiar thing is that Mr. Ford's resignation failed to reach General Kennedy, as the following telegram from that gentleman to Senator Gregg will show:

"I do not understand that I have anything to do with your resignation. If Ford notifies me of his declination, I will appoint Rannells in his stead. Otherwise I will not act further. The committee must settle it themselves."

This was in answer to the telegram from Mr. Gregg tendering his resignation, from which it will be seen that Mr. Ford's resignation had not reached the Lieutenant-Governor. Messrs. Pringle, Coulter and Ford are now in Cincinnati. The two former are members of the non-partisan committee, while the latter according to his own written declaration is out of the contest. There is a suspicion, that, inasmuch as he is in Cincinnati, Messrs. Pringle and Coulter will select him as the third member. Senator Rannells went to Bellaire last night and Senator Gregg to Xaverly at noon to-day, leaving not a single Republican Senator in the city, and so the matter rests.

THE PAYNE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

TOLEDO, Feb. 6 (*Special*).—There is a general feeling in the State that the Payne Investigation Committee is by no means so anxious to proceed as when it was first raised. It is said that if the object is attained which at first was designed—the unseating of Senator Payne—certain things will come to pass that will defeat the object of the prime movers. There is a decided sentiment among Republicans in favor of Governor Foraker for Senator in case a vacancy is made. His election will defeat the plans of ex-Governor Foster, whose great desire is to be Senator. Cowgill is a strong Foster man as is also another of the three Republican members of the committee. In fact it is a Foster Committee. Cowgill was defeated by the Foraker men for Speaker. He has a chance to get his revenge by defeating the scheme to turn out Payne in the interest of Foraker. Therefore, it is alleged that Cowgill is managing the investigation purposely to bring about a failure. The indisposition to have Colonel Donovin heard by the committee before some other witnesses are heard, their sudden lack of interest in the disclosures that the principal witnesses would make, are all pointed to as evidences that Cowgill does not want the investigation to go on as originally intended.

DISPUTING OVER THE POLICE IN CINCINNATI.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 6.—Mayor Smith has sent a communication to Edwin Hudson, Superintendent of Police, saying that for insurbordination in refusing to report yesterday for orders, as directed, he is suspended from office. The Mayor has appointed Arthur G. Moore Superintendent of Police.

When the Police Commissioners were informed of the suspension of the Superintendent of Police and the appointment of another they had a long consultation with their attorneys, and then sent a letter to Mayor Smith, deprecating violent measures, but firmly maintaining their right to control the police and announcing that they would stoutly maintain their rights until a competent court passes upon the question. They suggested that the Mayor at once make application to the Supreme court for a writ of quo warranto, promising to do all in their power to hasten the hearing.

The Mayor replied to the note from the commissioners by stating that he shares their desire to have the differences speedily adjusted, and that after consultation with the City Solicitor he has decided to request the State Attorney-General on Monday to apply to the Supreme Court for a writ of quo warranto, as a means of deciding the legality of present police commission. It is expected that prompt action will be had.

A MINISTER WHOSE CHURCH CANNOT BE FOUND.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 6 (*Special*).—For three days the Circuit Court at Muncie, Ind., has been engaged in the trial of a suit wherein the Rev. George Reber asked $10,000 damages of Samuel Huggins for malicious prosecution and imprisonment. Reber celebrated the marriage of Huggins's son, Abraham, and Miss Minnie Smith. It was currently reported and believed that Reber was not a regularly authorized minister, nor a member of any church. He was arrested and imprisoned, but when the case was called for trial it was dismissed upon motion of the prosecuting attorney. Then Reber brought suit for damages. It was found that the so-called "Church of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ," of which he claimed to be a member, had no visible existence. After twenty-four hours' deliberation the jury brought in a verdict in favor of the defendant.

FLAMES IN A SYNAGOGUE.

GREAT ANXIETY ABOUT THE SCROLLS.

DAMAGE SUSTAINED BY THE CONGREGATION B'NAI JESHURUN.

The Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, comprising many wealthy Hebrews who live in the upper part of the city, had begun to gather at the synagogue in Madison-ave., at Sixty-fifth-st., at 9 a. m. yesterday, when flames were discovered in the building. Rabbi Henry S. Jacobs, minister of the congregation, was at the rear of the synagogue putting on his robes in preparation for religious services, and Janitor Franke was assisting him. M. R. DeLeeuw, Shames of the synagogue, had opened the doors, to let in the few members who had already assembled, when smoke was noticed rising out of a register to the left of the entrance. Some person called to Janitor Franke, who ran down stairs to investigate. When the janitor got down to the trustees' room in the basement he found it full of smoke. He quickly discovered that there were flames in the cellar under the trustees' room. Rabbi Jacobs unlocked the ark in order that the sacred scrolls might be saved from destruction if the flames invaded the upper part of the building, but without waiting to move them he hastened to send an alarm to the Fire Department. The alarm was sent from the box at Fourth-ave. and Sixty-fifth-st., and Rabbi Jacobs hardly had time to get back to the synagogue before the firemen arrived. Extra companies were summoned promptly and the work of drowning the flames in the cellar was pushed with vigor. Smoke had filled the building so quickly that it was not possible to remove the scrolls from the Ark, and the Rabbi and other members of the congregation were much concerned about them. The firemen dragged lines of hose into the basement and cut holes through the floor of the trustees' room in order to get at the flames. After working for an hour they succeeded in extinguishing the fire, before it had extended beyond the cellar. It had been necessary to flood a part of the basement, and some furniture there was broken by the firemen. No damage had been done above the basement except by smoke. Most of the members of the congregation had arrived before the fire was out, and they expressed joy that the sacred scrolls and the main portion of the synagogue had escaped harm. In the trustees' room had been kept some valuable records of the congregation, and some of them had been damaged or destroyed by the firemen. It was said that the entire loss would be less than $5,000.

The synagogue is an imposing building, with a front of modified Moorish architecture. It was dedicated on March 25, 1885, when the congregation removed from the synagogue in West Thirty-fourth-st. The cost of the new edifice was $80,000, and it is insured for $50,000. There are there furnaces in the cellar of the building and one of them probably became overheated yesterday, thus causing the fire. A watch-dog in the cellar perished in the flames. It was fortunate that the fire started before the services began in the synagogue. The building filled with smoke so rapidly that if the congregation had been seated some members might not have been able to escape.

LOSSES IN A SEVENTH AVENUE BUILDING.

Three alarms were sounded at 2:30 a. m. yesterday for a fire in the four-story brick building No. 332 Seventh-ave. The flames had started on the first floor, but had extended to the upper floors when the firemen reached the building. After the fire was extinguished the following estimate of losses were furnished to the police: Herman Schlay, leather findings, $1,500; William Weihl, machinist, $1,000; Benjamin Fitch, brass goods, $1,000; Francis D. Jackson, electro-plating, $500; damage to building, $1,500.

NO INSURANCE ON OFFICE PROPERTY.

The building burned in Front-st. early yesterday was insured for $9,000 in the Royal Fire Insurance Company. There were no warehouse rooms in the building and the occupants of the offices had as far as could be learned no insurance upon their property. The police estimated the losses as follows: G. H. Reckhagel, spices, $1,500; Union Line Telegraph Company, $1,500; Haas Bros., teas, $1,000; J. Newman & Co., coffee, $1,000, and damage to building $10,000.

LOSSES IN VARIOUS PLACES.

GALVESTON, Feb. 6.—A dispatch to *The News* from McKinney says: "At a late hour on Thursday night fire destroyed the building occupied by the Collin County National Bank and the adjoining premises. The loss is about $30,000 and the insurance $10,000, of which the bank carried $5,000. T. P. Dowall, hardware, and Hill & Webster, groceries, suffered to the extent of from $3,000 to $5,000 each. The bank resumed business yesterday."

BOWLING GREEN, Mo., Feb. 6.—This town was visited on Thursday night by a fire which caused a loss upon ten buildings and their contents of $25,000, on which there was an insurance of about $14,000. This is the third destructive fire which has occurred here since August.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Feb. 6.—A fire originating in the paint shops of the car works about midnight destroyed the shops, several passenger coaches and a large quantity of valuable lumber. The loss will reach $60,000, partially insured.

THE PILLORY IN DELAWARE.

FIVE PRISONERS WHIPPED ON THEIR BARE BACKS—THE MERCURY NEAR ZERO.

NEW-CASTLE, Del., Feb. 6.—Harrison and William Rotnwell, John Peacham and George Norris, all colored, and Frank Playford, convicted of larceny at the present term of court, were publicly whipped on their bare backs in the New-Castle jail yard to-day, receiving from five to twenty lashes each. Edwin J. Hollingsworth was confined one hour in the pillory for forging checks on the First National Bank of Wilmington. The thermometer was near zero, adding naturally to the legal punishment, and greatly aggravating the process of torture. The first man whipped, although but twenty-two years of age, has been an inmate of the jail twenty times for terms varying from three to twelve months, and has been whipped nearly every time. His brother William is younger, but is treading the same path.

STIRRED UP BY A WOMAN REVIVALIST.

WHEELING, W. V., Feb. 6 (*Special*).—The revivalist Miss Jennie Sherman appeared at Cameron, Marshall County, twenty-five miles from here, a few days ago and opened revival meetings. Cameron has never been a moral place and this proceeding seemed to astonish the inhabitants for a time, but they attended the meetings more out of curiosity than anything else. Miss Sherman is noted for her persuasive powers, and several nights after the meetings began she had several well known residents at the mourners' bench and they left the building converted. From that time, which was three days ago, to the present nearly 200 conversions have been made and the whole town is stirred up with religious excitement. Some of the wealthiest men in the town have become converts and are working hard to induce their friends to be saved. Large contributions are being taken up and devoted to purchasing the stock of the liquor stores in the town, of which there are five or six. The largest one, owned by Charles Wingett, has been purchased and the contents of all the barrels, bottles, etc., poured in the streets. If the feeling keeps up at the present rate all the residents of the place will become converts.

GARFIELD'S BODY PUT IN A SARCOPHAGUS.

CLEVELAND, Feb. 6.—The coffin containing the body of James A. Garfield was to-day placed in a bronze sarcophagus. James R. Garfield, Lieutenant Edwards and the soldiers of Garfield Post were the only persons present with the exception of the undertakers and newspaper men. The outer covering of the sarcophagus was hermetically sealed, and the sarcophagus was placed in the vault, where it will remain until the monument to the dead President is completed.

HOLDING A COUNCIL WITH GABRIEL DUMONT.

FORT KEOGH, Mon., Feb. 6.—The following dispatch has been received from Lewiston, Mon.: "On January 30, at Gabriel Dumont's ranch, five miles from here, six Cree Indians arrived from the Northwest to hold a council with Gabriel Dumont, one of Riel's lieutenants. They report about thirty lodges of their tribe near Fort Assiniboine. There is trouble ahead, and another rebellion in the early spring is looked for. They claim to be starved out. Stockmen are on the lookout, fearing that the Crees will run off their horses."

TRIAL OF AN ABSCONDING JEWELLER.

CHICAGO, Feb. 6 (*Special*).—Joseph S. Gratz, the jeweller who is charged by New-York and Providence jewellers with disposing of his large stock of jewelry for the purpose of defrauding his creditors, had a preliminary hearing before Justice Lyon here today. William Glykoff, who kept Gratz's books averred that he believed Gratz's accounts on January 1 to be worth fifty cents on the dollar. Gratz had sold goods at a discount, he said, and his liabilities were about $25,000.

LUXURY IN A PRISONER'S CELL.

CLEVELAND, Feb. 6 (*Special*).—Edward Crowl, the forger, was arraigned to-day. The principal witness was his mother, Mrs. Harriet Crowl, who testified that the indorsement of her name on one of the notes negotiated by her son was a forgery. At the conclusion of the hearing the justice held Crowl in $6,000. Crowl was returned to his cell, which has been fitted up in luxurious style. He lives like a prince, receiving such visitors as he chooses, and dines sumptuously at the expense of his friends.

LEAPING FROM HIGH BRIDGE.

A DESPERATE WOMAN COMMITS SUICIDE.

GOING FROM A PAWNSHOP TO TAKE THE FATAL JUMP—CAUSE OF HER DESPONDENCY

A poor woman, whose life has long been full of trouble, brought it to a sad end yesterday by jumping from High Bridge. Her body fell from the frightful height upon the ice which covered the river, and although it was soon recovered from the water, the back was broken and life was extinct. She was Mrs. Maria Branchu, who, over thirty years ago, came from France with her husband. She was then a young bride, not over twenty years old, and her husband was a man of some means. In the ensuing years his fortune dwindled away. Unlucky speculations, investments and inventions which promised fairly but proved delusive, ate up his money and left him almost penniless. Five children were born, and must be provided for. They were two girls and three boys. Two of the sons are now in Boston. The mother was of a morbid, nervous disposition. She brooded over the business reverses of her husband and saw with despair her inability to provide for her children.

Mr. Branchu, after the loss of his fortune, earned a livelihood as a journeyman painter, but times were hard, work was often scanty, and there was no help for it. The few jewels and trinkets which the wife had worn in her more prosperous days had to be taken to the pawnbrokers. Three times she attempted to commit suicide. The last attempt was made a year ago, when she tried to swallow Paris green. The family were at this time living in their present home, at No. 40 West One-Hundred-and-twenty-fifth-st., where they occupy the second floor. At about the time of her last attempt at suicide Mrs. Branchu carried a pair of earrings and a ring to the pawnshop of Morris Davis, at No. 165½ East One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth-st. She received $7 for them. They were evidently objects connected in her mind with precious memories, for in spite of the fact that her husband had been out of work since Christmas, she went yesterday with $5 to renew the ticket. After paying the amount of interest due on the little loan of $7 (the interest amounted to over $2) the old desire to escape from her trouble seems to have come upon her again.

Just what road she took to reach the scene of her fatal leap cannot be learned, but a postman who was delivering letters at noon along the road which leads from the Northern Railroad bridge northward along the Harlem River saw a woman with a pale, pinched face trudging along in the snow and glancing from time to time at the thread of black water that flowed between the ice in the river. She stopped as she passed him and asked in accents which betrayed her French birth the road to High Bridge. He directed her to continue in the road which she was following. A little later the same woman inquired of a woman in the street of High Bridge village how she could reach the top of the great pile of masonry which towered 120 feet above their heads. Once more directed she climbed wearily the steep hill and gained the roadway on top of the bridge. None of the passers noticed her as she walked to the point directly above the middle of the river. Only a low iron railing separates the footway from the awful depth below.

The desperate woman did not hesitate. Laying aside her muff and a well-worn cloak, she made a single spring without attempting to climb over the railing. Her body crashed through the ice, and her troubles were over as the icy water closed over her. Those who saw her fall say that the body struck one of the abutments in its descent. She was dead before assistance could reach her. The Second Precinct Police Station is within a hundred yards of the spot where Mrs. Branchu fell. It was only a few moments before Captain Saunders and his men were at the river's edge. The ice was thick enough to bear them and several of the policemen walked over the ice to the spot where the body had disappeared, pushing a rowboat in front of them. The body was easily recovered and placed in the boat. It was limp as if it had been broken on the wheel. Blood was flowing from a wound in the back and it was evident that the backbone had been broken. An incident occurred which made the spectators laugh even in the presence of the dead woman. Policeman Shaw, who was one of the rescuing party, slipped on the ice and plunged head over heels into the hole from which his companions were trying to lift Mrs. Branchu's body. He came to the surface again, sputtering and blowing, altogether astonished at his unexpected bath.

The dead woman was taken to the station and her clothes searched. In her pockets were found the pawn ticket which she had just received, and which bore the number 27,588; a $2 bill, 75 cents in silver, and a portion of an envelope. The envelope bore the address, Mrs. Maria Branchu, No. 40 West One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth-st. The stamp was one of the French Republic for 25 centimes, and was cancelled with the words "St. Servans, Decembre, 1885." Officer Bingham was at once dispatched to Mrs. Branchu's address. The door was opened by a girl of about twenty years. No sooner did she see the policeman than she exclaimed, "Mother is dead!"

"Where did your mother go?" asked the officer.

"Oh, she went to the pawnshop, but now she is in the river," and the poor motherless girl burst into sobs. The officer soothed her as best he could, and asked to see her father. Mr. Branchu received the news with comparative calmness. Although he had no doubt that the woman was his wife, he went with the officer back to High Bridge and there formally identified the body. In the afternoon it was still lying on a stretcher on the porch of the police station, and the face still wore an expression of suffering and determination.

A TRIBUNE reporter called at Mr. Branchu's rooms. They were neatly kept and sunny, but there was little in them beyond what was absolutely necessary. The husband himself is a small man with iron-gray hair and beard, and a face stamped with refinement. He told his story quietly, while a bright-eyed little fellow of ten years stood beside him, and listened without seeming to understand.

This is the first suicide which has been attempted from High Bridge. Some years ago a man named Donnelly, who was a bartender in the village, jumped from the bridge while intoxicated. He was fished out of the river and found to have escaped without injury. Encouraged by this success he attempted the leap again while sober. This time he broke several ribs and suffered severe internal injuries, which, however, did not prove fatal. His last jump was made four years ago, and Mrs. Branchu is the first one who has leaped from the Bridge since that time.

NEW-YORK LIQUOR IN VERMONT.

THE FAMOUS CASE AGAINST O'NEIL.

BOSTON, Feb. 6 (*Special*).—Chief Justice Royce, of the Vermont Supreme Court, read his decision to-day in the case of the State against John O'Neil, of Whitehall, N. Y., declaring forfeited about 150 jugs of choice liquors, which were shipped into Vermont by express, collect on delivery, from New-York in December, 1882, and affirming the decision of the County Court, which found O'Neil guilty of selling under the Vermont statutes. O'Neil formerly lived in Rutland, but was convicted of liquor-selling, and driven out by prosecution. He threatened to sell just as much as ever to Vermont people, and moved to Whitehall, N. Y., where he received orders for liquors, which he sent by express in sealed jugs, and did a thriving business in Rutland.

The case excited great interest and many were present to hear the decision which makes the sending of liquor from New-York by common carrier to customers in Vermont in legal effect a sale by the sender, although living out of the State. O'Neil was ordered to furnish $10,000 bail, and the case will be taken before the United States Supreme bench on a Federal question. The decision will check the common practice of sending liquor from New-York to Vermont.

LAWS OF HEREDITY.

NEW-HAVEN, Feb. 6 (*Special*).—In his lecture on evolution to-day, Professor Dana, of Yale, devoted his attention to the laws of heredity. He said that heredity is the overpowering conservative action which amid the turmoil of the times within certain limits for all fixed time preserves and transmits old family peculiarities. Permanence in a variation is a prolonged inheritance. The prominent varieties are produced by crossing the prominent varieties of races, and the offspring have all degrees of difference from each parent. Destruction of a single plant may work great changes for good or bad by depriving other existing plants or animals of their usual sustenance. Variations are made prominent by selective breeding. Man, by selecting the breeds which he wishes to cross, can bring about a change in a comparatively short time which it would take nature centuries to produce, but a reversion to its former state takes place from man's neglect to continue what he has begun, while the new breed formed by nature rarely reverts to its former state.

A STEAMSHIP'S DESTRUCTIVE WORK.

NEW-ORLEANS, Feb. 6 (*Special*).—The British steamship Castle Craig, bound for Bremen with cotton, ran into a sailing vessel Erin's Gem, in a fog this morning on the Mississippi River, damaging her badly. The steamer next struck the British ship, Equator, for Liverpool, demolishing her stern and port bow. The Asinian, a Norwegian bark lying below the Equator was next struck and badly smashed. The Norwegian bark Oppir was in the line and was damaged. The Italian bark Italia also suffered and the Castle Craig was finally cleared of the shipping and swung out in the stream where she is said to have run at the rate of twenty knots. At the Point she was anchored. Her stern is badly damaged; her chains and the greater part of her forward gear is all adrift. It will take at least $7,000 to prepare her for sea. The wharves also were damaged, and in all $100,000 will not cover the Castle Craig's destructive work.

THE WHIG PRIZE MEDAL AT PRINCETON.

PRINCETON, Feb. 6 (*Special*).—In the Whig Hall competitive debate the first prize medal was awarded to J. D. Baucus, '86, of New-York, with honorable mention to Messrs. G. B. Roddy, '86, of Pennsylvania, and F. S. Spaulding, '87, of Colorado.

THE PROPOSED READING "DEAL."

DETAILS OF THE SYNDICATE'S PLANS.

WHAT THE BANKERS AND RAILROAD INTERESTS HOPE TO CARRY OUT.

THE TRIBUNE announced last week in its news columns the movement for the reorganization of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad in the interest of harmonious relations with the trunk lines, and its financial column has given the substantial outline of the project. The New-York bankers and railroad officers interested in the success of the scheme are reticent on the subject. The syndicate that proposes to attempt to carry the movement out has not yet been completed, but there is little doubt that it will include, not only the Drexel firms of this city and Philadelphia, but firms or bankers connected with the coal interests of prominent New-York railroads, while its operations will be backed by the reorganized pool system in so far as that system can lend its influence to further harmony among the transportation lines. The success of the scheme depends upon the response which may be made by general mortgage bondholders to a proposition that will guarantee their ownership rights and at the same time secure to them the sum of the interest on their holdings during the time required to determine whether or not the syndicate's plans can be carried out.

That interest, as is well-known, is in default. Additional details of the project are furnished in the following article from "The Philadelphia Record":

The syndicate of bankers that is to assist the foreclosure of the Reading property under the general mortgage bonds has nearly completed its plans, and will issue a circular probably to-day, but not later than next week, announcing that all necessary arrangements have been made for the foreclosure. In this circular it will be stated that, for the protection of the property and the safety of the securities involved, it has been deemed necessary to effect foreclosure in an amicable way. It will recommend the plan of reorganization after foreclosure that has been formulated by the Reorganization Trustees. The circular will further state that the syndicate will place at the disposal of competent persons, to assist in the foreclosure, the sum of $10,000,000, if this amount shall be required.

A prominent bank official of this city, who has been cognizant of the action of the syndicate since it began the purchase of Reading generals with this object in view, states that the circular will be signed by Drexel & Co., Drexel, Morgan & Co., John Lowber Welsh and Cassatt & Townsend. Besides these there are a number of other leading capitalists and bankers in the movement who did not deem it necessary to have their names published. All of the persons interested in the movement assert most positively that they are not acting in the interests of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, but solely for the purpose of securing peace among the railways of the country. Prominent officers of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company declare that that corporation was invited to take part in the scheme, but that it declined to participate because it would be in violation of the State Constitution to acquire a parallel line. Those forming the syndicate it was also stated, had the most positive assurances from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, in the form of a resolution by its Board of Directors, that if the Reading Railroad Company should be reorganized upon a basis of permanent improvement to that corporation, and placed under a management known to be friendly to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, the line of the latter up the Schuylkill Valley would be operated in the most friendly way toward the Reading, and that there would be interchanges of traffic with the Reading which would be of decided benefit to it.

The plan of foreclosure, as stated by a gentleman interested in the syndicate, will be under the income mortgage, subject to all the mortgages prior to it, amounting altogether to about $60,000,000. It is proposed after foreclosure by this means to put a mortgage upon the property amounting to $80,000,000, which shall bear interest at the rate of 4 per cent per annum. To the present general mortgage bondholders these new bonds will be given for their present holdings, and 500 shares of new stock will be given as a bonus. There will be no distinction made between the holders of the 7 and 6 per cent general mortgage bonds in the amount of interest and stock, and the owners of the other securities will be treated in the way indicated by the old reorganization scheme, being shorn according to position. The general mortgage bondholders will surrender two of the overdue coupons in consideration of the bonus, and receive 2 per cent for the coupons falling due January 1. The syndicate further guarantees to pay all coupons falling due while foreclosure proceedings are pending, at the rate of 2 per cent, semi-annually until the plan of reorganization is put into practical operation. The plan further proposes to place the preferred stock with a trust company for a period of five years, the same as was done in the reorganization of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Company, subject to the call of the owner. This is to be done, it is stated, in order that the stock may be more thoroughly under central for election purposes. It was stated yesterday that the assessments upon the stock would probably not be responded to by more than about one-half of the present holders, and that the place of the delinquent holders will be supplied by the syndicate, which will pay the assessment and acquire the stock. This stock and that which will by acquired by the general mortgages owned by the syndicate and its friends will be held in trust and used for election purposes, thus preventing the election of any one to the presidency who is not friendly to the syndicate.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 6 (*Special*).—J. Pierpont Morgan appeared before the reorganization trustees of the Reading road to-day. He was accompanied by John Lowber Welsh, a prominent capitalist of this city, and John C. Bullitt. The conference lasted about one hour. Mr. Morgan stated that the syndicate was prepared to go on with the reorganization as soon as foreclosure had been effected, but that it must be expressly understood that the reorganization of the property should be placed under a Board of Control consisting of five persons, three of whom should be chosen by the syndicate. This Board of Control was to be in full charge of the property for five years, naming the president and the Board of Managers. Mr. Morgan also stated that the syndicate would ask the sum of $500,000 for its services in securing the capital with which to perfect the organization.

A card was issued this afternoon by President Gowen, cautioning stockholders against parting with their shares on account of damaging reports of assessments and foreclosure. After the card had been given out, a dispatch was received from New-York, stating that rumors were current that Mr. Gowen had sold out to the enemy, and was secretly a member of the syndicate which has recently been buying up Reading general mortgage bonds with a view to foreclosure. Mr. Gowen said:

"If I am a member of the syndicate, I don't know it, and I think I should be most likely to have some knowledge of such membership. It is the first time, I think, I have ever been accused of being in such company. That would, indeed, be the lamb and the lion lying down together."

RAILROAD DEBTS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—On Wednesday morning counsel for the Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railroads will have a hearing before Assistant Secretary Jenks, of the Interior Department, with reference to the payment to the Government of the percentage fixed by the Thurman act. Contracts on file with the Commissioner of Railroads are said to show that certain contracts are in force between the Union Pacific Railway Company, the Central Pacific Railway and the Pacific Steamship Company during the currency of which the railroad companies have paid to the steamship company something over $3,200,000 as a consideration for the diversion of freight and passenger business over their roads. Under the acts of 1862 and 1864 the Government is entitled to 25 per cent of the "net earnings" of these roads. The question which the Government seeks to settle is whether the railroads should not have included the $1,200,000 in their statement of "net receipts." If this be so the railroad companies owe the Government on this account about $828,000.

CUTTING RATES IN THE NORTHWEST.

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul road announced to-day that passenger rates to St. Paul would be reduced to $7 in order to meet rates alleged to have been made by the Rock Island road. E. St. John, General Passenger Agent of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, said this morning, that his road would not meet the $7 rate announced by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul road, from Chicago to St. Paul and from Chicago to Council Bluffs. He said that the Rock Island road had not made a cut rate, but was allowing a $2 commission to agents, which he claims, is allowable. The St. Paul road is doing a large business at the cut figures to-day.

THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO NEW LINE.

PHILADELP