the meeting of the County Committee on Thursday night the banner will be awarded to the XVth District, that having made the best showing in the late election.

The first attempt of the VIIIth District organization to defend itself was made last evening in the form of a circular bearing at its head the classical motto: "Palmam qui meruit, ferat," (Let him wear the palm who merits it.) Underneath this was the Presidential vote of the district from 1876, as follows: Tilden's majority, 3,713; Hancock's, 168; Blaine's, 774; Harrison's, 876. Below this statistical exhibition was the declaration: "We neither bend nor break," a statement that "Tim" Campbell, with his empty pocketbook, feels disposed seriously to question.

HEWITT SEALED ITS FATE.

THE HARLEM DEMOCRATIC CLUB GOING TO PIECES.

A BIG TAMMANY CONTINGENT WILL LEAVE IT TO-MORROW NIGHT AND OTHER RESIGNATIONS WILL FOLLOW—THE CLUB'S ACTION PORT OF HEWITT AND TREA OF GRANT AND HIS FRI THE CAUSE—TO FORM A NEW ORGANIZATION.

The Harlem Democratic Club is about to undergo a real change, one that will affect it materially and will carry away a large number of its prominent members. It will take effect to-morrow evening, when the following paper will be handed in:

New-York, October 31, 1888.

We, the undersigned, hereby resign as members of the Harlem Democratic Club, such resignations to take effect on the 1st day of December, 1888.

All the members of the club whose affiliations are with Tammany Hall, or who voted for Hugh J. Grant for Mayor, have signed this paper. Among them are Judge Randolph B. Martine, Police Justice Charles Welde, Major John R. McNulty, ex-president of the club; Senator Jacob A. Cantor, Fire Commissioner Richard Croker, Police Justice Andrew J. White, Bernard H. Malone, ex-Sheriff Peter Bowe, Eugene Otterbourg, Dr. J. H. Demarest, Fire Commissioner Henry D. Purroy, ex-Street Commissioner Jacob Seabold, Mayor-elect Hugh J. Grant, Deputy County Clerk Thomas F. Gilroy, Eugene Durnin, Frank D. Hardy, City Court Judge Henry P. McGown, Congressman W. Bourke Cockran, John J. Ryan, George P. Webster, John C. Muninzer, John M. Coman, Dr. Felix Amiblie, George N. Webster, E. S. Webster, Philip W. Kopper, William H. Burke, Charles L. Guy, Elias G. Levy, Edward J. Atkinson, John F. Crotty, Samuel E. Duffy, Robert Bonyinge, Commissioner Thomas L. Feitner, William E. McDonald, F. J. Warburton, William P. Mulrey, Charles A. McGown, James W. Phelan, Joseph J. O'Donohue, Michael J. Scanlan, Luke F. Cozzans, M. Henschel, W. E. Stillings and about sixty other well-known Harlem Democrats.

Last evening was the meeting night of the executive committee of the club, but there was no quorum, an unusual circumstance for that heretofore flourishing body, and to those who were aware of the avalanche ahead, a forerunner of the troubles which lie in the club's path. None of the members of the committee or of the club who were present were disposed to be communicative. Those who were in the movement to leave the club wanted to keep it a secret until the time for discharging the shot which should shatter and disrupt the organization, while those who will remain, the County Democracy faction, which is in control of the management, refused to admit that the breach would be anything serious. A well-known member, who is among the seceders, affably gave some information regarding the wholesale withdrawal from the club, on the promise that his name should not be mentioned "before Friday evening."

"What," he was asked, "is the cause of these resignations?"

"The Hewitt indorsement is at the bottom of the whole thing," was the answer. "The treatment which the Grant men received at the hands of the majority—and it was the very meagre majority of four—was the cause of our present action. The Grant men were honestly in the majority on the night Mr. Hewitt received the club's indorsement. We were willing to let the affair rest without indorsing either candidate, but Mr. Dayton and Mr. Beers and others with them insisted on forcing the fighting. They had boasted that they would indorse Mayor Hewitt, regardless of the consequences, and they were determined to make their boast good. To do this they unfairly disfranchised sixty members of the club. They did this by declaring that number of members 'in arrears' and would give no opportunity for adjustment. They had the books and controlled the official management and could do as they pleased. Their action was naturally distasteful to every member who was favorable to Grant. The date of the paper of resignation—October 31—shows that the determination to sever social relations with these men began before the election. Those who are resigning now are only the first instalment. There will yet be large additions made to the list. There are about 350 members in good standing. More than half of them are with us."

"What is the financial condition of the club?" was asked.

"That may be judged by the present value of the stock. Before this trouble began it was easily at par. Within three weeks I have known of its selling at $75. Next week it will be much lower.

"Another cause of trouble which has aided in bringing about the present action is the way in which the stock of the club has been managed. Charles W. Dayton, Edwin P. Steers, J. J. Casey and others, all Hewitt men, hold as trustees an issue of $30,000 of the club stock. As trustees they have the power to control all the financial affairs of the club, and they are running them to suit themselves, regardless of what a majority of the membership may desire. The club furniture it has been discovered has not yet been settled for, and the Twelfth Ward Bank, of which Mr. Steers, who is the County Democracy leader of the XXIIId Assembly District, is president, holds a note for $3,000 for money advanced to purchase it. This note, I am told, is secured by a deposit of $4,000 worth of club stock. Besides, I am credibly informed that Mr. Steers's bank holds $30,000 of the stock issued to the trustees I have mentioned. There is a mortgage of $60,000 on the property. These things have had an unsettling effect upon the members, and taking everything together we have concluded to withdraw and take another start."

"What will be the course of the withdrawing members?"

"The plans are not all mapped out yet, but there is no doubt about our starting another club. The beautiful vacant lot at Madison-ave. and One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth st. will probably be purchased. I understand that it can be had for $50,000 or $60,000. On this, for $200,000, say, we can build a magnificent club-house which will eclipse anything in that line in Harlem. It will be constructed on the latest plans of edifices of this kind and will contain all the most modern improvements and appointments known to the civilization of the day. It will be started upon a solid basis and with a charter which will preclude the possibility of a few men getting control and using the assets for their personal aggrandizement. We think of naming it the New-York Democratic Club."

HARRISON'S PLURALITY IN IOWA 31,721.

Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 28.—The Executive Council completed to-day the official canvass of returns on the vote for President at the last election, as follows: Republican, 211,598; Democratic, 179,877; Union Labor, 9,105; Prohibition, 3,550. Harrison's plurality, 31,721.

OFFICIAL COUNT IN MICHIGAN AND ILLINOIS.

Lansing, Mich., Nov. 28.—The State Board of Canvassers finished their work on State officers last night. The plurality for Governor is 17,130. The pluralities for the rest of the State Republican ticket are from 21,500 to 23,190.

Chicago, Nov. 28.—The official canvass of the Illinois election returns was finished yesterday. Fifer (Rep.), for Governor, has 12,532 plurality over Palmer (Dem.). Harrison's plurality over Cleveland is 21,881.

DEATH OF JAMES MURRAN.

Newport, Nov. 28.—James Eddy Murran, well known in literary circles, died here to-night. He made a specialty of heraldry and its antiquity, French history in the time of Froissart, illustrated antiquity, archæology and French costumes, in all of which subjects he was a recognized authority. His collection of book plates is the second largest in this country, and he had a large library of Rhode Island and Newport history. He had many volumes handsomely illustrated by himself. He was formerly president of Redwood Library.

A MOTHER THOUGHT HER CHILD WAS LOST.

George Ferris, a messenger boy at No. 848 Broadway, caused a great commotion yesterday among the family and friends of Mrs. Jesus Blanco, who lives at the Hotel America, at Fifteenth-st. and Irving place, by a stupid blunder. Mrs. Blanco intended to dine last evening at the Hoffman House with some friends, and in the afternoon called a messenger boy to her home to carry her baby to the Hoffman House. The boy started away all right and when Mrs. Blanco followed shortly afterward and got to the hotel she was surprised to learn that her child had not been brought there. Hours passed and nothing was heard of the messenger or the baby, and Mrs. Blanco thought that her child had been kidnapped. The police were asked to aid in the search for the lost one, and she was finally found last evening safe and sound in Matron Webb's charge at Police Headquarters. The messenger boy had misunderstood the directions and taken the child to the Coleman instead of the Hoffman House, and after waiting there for about three hours without hearing from its mother, had turned his charge over to Matron Webb, in accordance with the directions of a policeman. Mrs. Blanco was rejoiced to find her child in such good hands, and wept over the little one as if it had been restored to her after many years' absence instead of a few hours.

Horsford's Acid Phosphate
RECOMMENDED BY PHYSICIANS
of all schools, for the brain, nerves and stomach.

STEALING AT A NAVY YARD.

Washington, Nov. 28.—Some months ago, in order to save expense, the civilian watchmen at the Navy Yard in this city were discharged and the duties of the watchmen devolved upon soldiers of the Marine Corps, who act as sentries at the entrance to the yard. This left the lower part of the yard unwatched, and five discharged employes took advantage of the fact to steal valuable castings and fittings that were being made for the new cruisers. These castings they would drop over the yard wall into a puddle of water and then walk out empty-handed past the sentries. At night they would fish out their stolen goods and sell them. This has been going on for some time, and to-day the police arrested the five men and recovered about $300 worth of valuable castings which had not yet been sold.

THE WADLEIGH MEMORIAL ALCOVE.

At a meeting of the committee appointed to devise and erect a suitable memorial to the late superintendent of the Normal College, Miss Lydia F. Wadleigh, it was decided that the memorial should take the form of an alcove, to be filled with books on the subject of ethics, philosophy and pedagogy. A sub-committee was appointed to ask the board of trustees of the Normal College to set aside for this purpose the southwestern portion of the chapel of the Normal College under the galleries. Subscribers for the "Wadleigh Alcove" may be sent to Mrs. Otto Neustadt, treasurer, at No. 234 East Sixtieth-st.

PARDONS FOR CONVICT DEMOCRATS.

Baltimore, Nov. 28.—Governor Jackson to-day pardoned Hezekiah S. Best, Martin J. Clark and John W. McMahon, who are serving a term in the Baltimore city jail for fraud at the election of 1886. Governor Jackson, referring to the petitions for the pardon of these election judges and clerks, said:

The petitions which have been laid before me contain the names of every member of the Legislature, nearly every leading business house in Baltimore, and thousands of other private citizens. Against their pardon there has been but one formal protest, that of the Reform League.

FOR THE YELLOW FEVER SUFFERERS.

An entertainment in aid of the yellow fever sufferers at Jacksonville was given yesterday afternoon at the home of Mrs. John Sherwood, No. 18 West Thirty-second-st. Beside Mrs. Sherwood, those who took part were Madame de Lanza, Mrs. Pemberton Hincks, Miss McClellan and Oscar Comstock. About 150 were present. The proceeds will be about $800.

SELLING JOHN P. LYNCH'S PROPERTY.

John P. Lynch, the well-known Home-Ruler and stanch Irish-American Republican, who died two weeks ago, left no will. He did a large wholesale business in knit goods at No. 885 Broadway, and as there was no next of kin in this city the Public Administrator took charge of the estate, and at his bidding Auctioneer Charles F. Walters sold the stock yesterday. Lord & Taylor, Hearn & Son, Bloomingdale Brothers and Fox & Kelly were among the principal buyers. Mr. Lynch's nearest relatives are in County Westmeath, Ireland, where his parents dwell.

MILITARY PRISONERS DULY PUNISHED.

Farragut Post, No. 75, of the Grand Army of the Republic, had a jollification last evening at Elser's Hall, in West One-hundred-and-sixteenth-st. The Post marched to the hall in a body, headed by a band. A. 9:15 Bugler Fitzgerald sounded the assembly, and the Post gathered in the hall. Martin Keefe, treasurer of the Walter M. Brophy Association, was brought to the bar to be tried for encroaching upon the ground of the Post by various acts of charity and friendship. General James R. O'Beirne acted as prosecuting attorney, and Mr. Keefe was found guilty and sentenced to be caned, which was done by General O'Beirne, who presented to him a handsome ebony cane, with a gold head in the form of a cannon. The prisoner was then released and General O'Beirne was arrested and brought before the bar. Police Commissioner John R. Voorhis presented to him, in behalf of the Post, an elegant diamond pin. It was in the form of a horseshoe, with a horse's head within it, and set with ten diamonds. General O'Beirne was taken completely by surprise, but managed to express his gratitude and thanks. After the presentations a dinner was served and dancing followed.

IS THIS A CASE OF YELLOW FEVER?

Rafael Velana, age thirty-four, of No. 76 Mulberry-st., was taken from his home to Riverside Hospital last evening, suffering from a peculiar malady, the symptoms of which strongly resembled those of yellow fever. The physician who attended Velena was not certain that he had yellow fever, but deemed the case one that required isolation until it could be definitely determined.

THE TRADE IN CHICAGO.

Chicago, Nov. 28 (Special).—The buying of wheat on the break from about $1 12 to $1 07 by the old-time local bull crowd has at last prevailed. All day long it was plain to everybody that the market was, in a speculative sense, tied up again. At night May was at $1 11 1-8, an advance from the morning of nearly 2 cents, and for the two days of over 4 cents a bushel. Outside markets were all strong, New-York showing an advance of 2 1-2 cents, Duluth of 1 1-4 over the figures of Tuesday night. The local buying was of the most influential sort. Those concerns supposed to be nearest to Fairbank, Lester & Co. and Lyon & Co. led. Cudahy was a large buyer and said he was taking on long wheat. Ream was declared to be covering, as quietly as he could, his line of shorts. Geddes & Co. and Robert Warren & Co. were purchasers in a moderate way. So were Jones, Kennett & Hopkins. The theory of the crowd was that Hutchinson had been caught short on a line of several millions of bushels and the idea appeared to give general satisfaction. A determined raid on May corn by an influential crowd of short sellers sent the price to 37 7-8, and closed it at 38 cents. Roche, Cudahy and the Trego-Smith crowd put out, it was estimated, about 1,000,000 bushels. November dropped from 36 5-8 cents to 36 and closed at 36 1-8. There were 32,000 hogs at the stock yards, a somewhat better showing than was expected. Prices there were 5 cents lower. In the pit the selling of pork by the believers in lower prices was partially suspended. They, however, addressed themselves to getting lard down. Armour & Co. alone were credited with selling upward of 10,000 tierces. There was some selling of pork of this same character, but whenever January was "shorted," May was taken on. January pork went as low as $13 90. On the curb May wheat was strong at $1 11 3-8.

ONE OF DE WOLF HOPPER'S JOKES.

From The Chicago Herald.

After the theatre closed the other night Digby Bell, of the McCaull Company, who has had an opportunity for a good rest because there is no part for him in "The Lady or the Tiger?" dropped in at his hotel, and there fell in with DeWolf Hopper, his brother comedian, and two other friends, one of whom was Herbert Cripps, stage manager for McCaull. All were devotees of the seductive game of poker, and of course a game was proposed. All were agreeable excepting Hopper, and he was repeatedly urged by Bell to take a hand, because he had won considerable money on the train coming to Chicago. Hopper was adamant, however, and after Digby had characterized him as a liar and a villain, the other three repaired to a convenient private room which had been facetiously called "Monte Carlo," and there Cripps was elected banker and proceeded to dole out the chips.

About the time the trio had become absorbed in the game, Hopper, who was sitting out in the hotel office, saw a big six-foot policeman, who had come in to get a drink of water. He went up to him and induced him to go in and "pull" his three friends. The officer rapped boldly at the door of "Monte Carlo" and responded with alacrity to the cheerful invitation to "come in." As he entered, Cripps was just about to open a men's size jack-pot with three trays. When the trio caught sight of the brass buttons and star their faces fell visibly. "Are you gentlemen aware," said the "copper" in ominous tones, "that no gambling is allowed in Chicago?" Cripps, who was almost speechless at this unexpected turn of affairs, said that they had been merely playing for bits of celluloid and not for money, yet at the same time he was wondering how he could get $40 in cash out of the "bank" in the cigar box underneath the table. Digby Bell's horizontal face was perpendicular in a moment, and the friend tried to sneak out unobserved. He was caught and pleaded that he had only intended to hunt up Stevens, of the McCaull Company, for bail. Just then Hopper and his friend set up a yell outside and the trio saw through the joke. When the officer left and they resumed their game, Digby said: "It was the first time this Bell was ever 'pulled.'"

NEW-ENGLAND IN THE CABINET.

Washington gossip in The Boston Herald.

Representative Lodge is at home in the residence of Judge John Davis on Connecticut-ave. In an interview published this evening, he is quoted as saying: "We would all like to see Governor Long in the Cabinet. He is a man eminently suited for such a position, but I think it very doubtful whether he would accept. I do not think he could be induced to enter public life again. It would be a great personal sacrifice for him to do so. He cannot afford to remain in Congress—he is not rich enough. A Cabinet position would be much more expensive to him. It is well known that a Congressman can live here better on $5,000 a year than a Cabinet officer on $8,000. A Cabinet officer must spend much more money than his salary would warrant."

POOR DEARS, THEY ARE NOT TO BLAME.

From The Pittsburg Press.

How about the unfortunate children who, born within the past four years, find themselves weighed down with "Grover Cleveland" as their baptismal name? How will they feel in after years, when the original Grover will be remembered only as a man who vetoed pension bills, squabbled with the G. A. R. and sent the British Minister home for talking about his (the President's) affairs? Won't they wish that their name was Marrow Bones Make Prayer, or Hezekiah or Abraham, or George Francis Train, or anything rather than Grover?

THE CLEARING HOUSE PLAN

CHAIRMAN MIDGELEY SAYS IT LACKS STRENGTH.

POSITIVE THAT IT WILL NOT BE ADOPTED—ONLY ONE AMONG SEVERAL PROPOSITIONS CONSIDERED AT THE RECENT CONFERENCE—SEVERE RESTRICTIONS AS TO RATE MAKING DEMANDED.

Chicago, Nov. 28.—It was ascertained here to-day that the plan, which has been made public, of forming a huge railroad combination to embrace all the territory west of Chicago and St. Louis, with a clearing house for competitive business and a commission of presidents to control rates, is after all only one of the plans that was considered at the New-York conference and is not the one that was formally adopted. The plan that received the most favor, in fact, was a much stronger form of agreement and more severe in its restrictions as to the use of the rate-making power. J. W. Midgeley, who was present at the conference in the capacity of an adviser, said to-day:

"This plan is one of several that were considered. I am positive that it will not be adopted, for the reason that it is not strong enough to answer the purpose for which it was intended. Aside from the arbitration feature, it is but little different from the agreement of the Western Freight Association. This talk about 'Trusts,' as applied to such an agreement, is the sheerest nonsense. The truth is that the railroads have become desperate at the condition of affairs. Something must be done, or they will be driven to the wall. The meeting at New-York represents the financial interests of these roads. It was composed of men who own the property, and who believe that it should yield some returns. They were determined, if possible, to save the railroads from bankruptcy. The Interstate law prohibits pooling arrangements, and of course it was necessary to devise some other means of checking the demoralization."

Mr. Midgeley said that if the present conditions, which were in the main attributable to the operation of the Interstate law, should continue two years longer, there would not be a solvent railroad west of Chicago. When asked if there was any movement on foot to petition Congress for a repeal of the act, he said:

"No such movement has taken shape as yet, and no appeal will be made to the present Congress. It is not regarded as the most favorable time to present such a measure between two Administrations."

The projectors of the new scheme for the maintenance of rates, Mr. Midgeley said, were agreed upon one point, and that was that the subordinate officers of the railroads must be deprived of the rate-making power, and that any assumption of this power must be punished by dismissal. Before the plan was completed, it was submitted to the presidents of some of the important Western lines. Favorable replies have been returned by the presidents, of the Union Pacific, the Stickney system and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, while President Cable, of the Rock Island, has gone to New-York to give his views in person on the subject. President Marvin Hughitt, of the Chicago and Northwestern, said:

"I know nothing about the plan, except what I have read in the newspapers. I am not prepared to say anything as to its merits or as to the probability of its being adopted. The Chicago and Northwestern has not been represented at any conference, nor has it been consulted on the question of a new agreement. We are at present parties to the agreement of the Western Freight Association and also to the passenger agreement, and have no present intention of going into any other. We shall certainly not accept any new plan until we have thoroughly considered it."

Vice-President Stone, of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, said he had paid little attention to the proposed scheme, and as he had not been consulted in regard to it there was nothing for him to say on the subject. It seems probable that if the framers of the plan fail to unite all the roads west, northwest and southwest of Chicago, the agreement will go into effect west of the Missouri River, since the Southern Pacific, the Union Pacific, the Missouri Pacific and the Atchison are all in accord with the movement, and they practically control the territory. Mr. Midgeley says he called no meeting to consider the matter, as the proposed plan is not completed.

The difficulties that seem sure to be encountered before the latest scheme for the pooling of railroad business west of the Mississippi River can be accomplished were quickly recognized in Wall Street and in railroad circles yesterday. While the plan might be adopted by companies occupying the same territory, its expansion could be successful only on the condition that every railroad in the country was included in the scheme for a central control. There are some reasons for thinking that the recent proposal is designed chiefly to prepare the way for a central management of all the railroad lines between the Atlantic and the Pacific Ocean. Whether such a unification is possible is a question which railroad managers are unable to answer. It is probable that the publication of the clearing-house scheme was meant as an experiment. Its authors may have known that important railroads in the West could not join in the agreement, and, while they protested that the agreement had been prepared with special regard to the Interstate Commerce law, they may be supposed to know that it was in direct violation of its provisions. If the railroads of the country are united in a wish to secure modifications of that law, they might help their cause by failing to carry out an apparent evasion like the proposed plan. Practical railroad men are agreed that if the proposed plan was accomplished any modifications of the law would be impossible.

It could not be learned yesterday that any one of the companies whose assent to the scheme is essential had become party to the agreement. A sharp decline of about 5 per cent in the price of Rock Island stock was explained in various ways. Friends of the new scheme urged that the company was being whipped into submission in about the same way in which the Atchison was forced to sue for peace. Friends of the Rock Island declared that the decline was due wholly to short sales and not to any action by the executive officers of the company. At the close of business at the Stock Exchange brokers were uncertain whether or not present negotiations were likely to result in a lasting and universal peace.

PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE.

AN AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT.

BRIGHT PROSPECTS, BUT NO DEFINITE ANNOUNCEMENT JUST AT HAND.

So many conflicting reports have been put in circulation regarding the trunk-line rate situation that it is desirable that a statement should be made which may be regarded as authoritative, and The Tribune is in a position to do so. Garbled interviews and unwarranted assumptions have beclouded Wall Street to such an extent that the real state of affairs is known but to few. It is a fact that on Tuesday night President George B. Roberts and Vice-President Frank Thomson, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, called at the home of President Depew, of the New-York Central, in East Forty-fifth-st., and the three had a prolonged conference, in which the various questions affecting the trunk line situation were discussed at length. Regarding the character of the conversation in detail nothing can be written at the moment, as undue publicity might tend to impede the progress being made toward an understanding which will result, if completed, in a substantial advance in rates.

It may be stated, however, that the conference was of a pleasant nature and was satisfactory to the representatives of both of the great trunk lines. Its results, while not definite, were of a character to increase the prospect of the establishment of more harmonious relations between all the trunk lines and their Western connections at an early day. To-morrow the managers of the roads represented in the Central Traffic Association will meet in Chicago to discuss the east-bound situation, and at present writing there is reason to believe that some advance in east-bound rates will be ordered.

The difficulties in the way of restoring the rate situation to a healthy basis are well comprehended by railway men, and they are of a character to forbid the expectation of any radical or sensational change for the present. An effort will be made at the coming session of Congress to secure moderate and well-considered alterations in the Interstate Commerce Law, without lessening the control of the Commission or impairing the protection thrown around the rights of the public to secure proper and equal service at reasonable tariffs. If these amendments can be obtained there is no doubt that a large amount of friction between the railroads will be removed and opportunity offered for engagements and agreements that will benefit the investors in this class of property.

The rate situation and the so-called South Pennsylvania question have been treated as entirely independent one of the other. The latter question, however, may be said to be assuming a position where its satisfactory solution is a matter of the comparatively near future.

Mr. Roberts and Mr. Thomson returned to Philadelphia yesterday. The absurd report of Mr. Depew's intention to go to Philadelphia to-morrow is contradicted by the painful condition of his foot, which was hurt in a recent accident.

EARNINGS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA.

Philadelphia, Nov. 28.—The statement of the business of all lines of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company east of Pittsburg and Erie for October, 1888, as compared with the same month in 1887, shows an increase in gross earnings of $156,636; an increase in expenses of $104,380; an increase in net earnings of $52,256. The ten months of 1888 as compared with the same period in 1887, shows an increase in gross earnings of $2,459,938; an increase in expenses of $2,135,302; an increase in net earnings of $324,636.

All lines west of Pittsburg and Erie for the ten months of 1888 show a surplus over all liabilities of $27,507, being a loss as compared with the same period of 1887 of $1,000,754.

MISCELLANEOUS RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

Philadelphia, Nov. 28 (Special).—In Third-st. to-day the chief topic of discussion among railroad men was the increased dividends just declared by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company and the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad Company. The former company declared a dividend of 2 1-2 per cent, against 2 per cent declared in May; and the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore declared a dividend of 4 per cent, while six months ago only 3 was paid. From 1868 to May, 1888, the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore paid 8 per cent dividends annually. The Interstate Commerce law materially affected the revenues of this company, as it has more water competition than almost any other railroad in the country.

A report was current to-day that both President Roberts and Vice-President Thomson, of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, had offered their resignations. At the main office of the road this afternoon the story was officially discussed as preposterous.

The proposed new scheme by which the Western railroads are to protect their business, by maintaining rates and adjusting traffic, is not looked upon with favor by railroad men here, who say it savors too much of the old pooling system, which has been void since the passage of the Interstate Commerce law.

Savannah, Nov. 28 (Special).—After inspecting the Central Railroad property, John H. Inman and his party of New-York capitalists were driven about the city and entertained at luncheon. Jay Gould, it is stated on authority of J. H. Hall, president of the Georgia Company, has promised to turn over to the consolidated roads of the Richmond Terminal Company the business of the Missouri Pacific road at Memphis and that of the Texas Pacific at Arkansas City.

A TEST OF WOMAN'S HONESTY.

PILFERING FROM BARGAIN-COUNTERS.

A RULE FOR TELLING A SHOPLIFTER FROM AN INNOCENT CUSTOMER.

"Do you never make mistakes in accusing people in your store of shoplifting?" asked a reporter of the manager of a big Sixth-ave. dry-goods house the other day.

"Never," was the reply. "You may think that sounds rather boastful, but it is not due to any superior detective genius; it is only the result of our determination to let a hundred thefts from us go unpunished rather than risk insulting a single innocent customer. Again and again our detective has felt morally certain that women were robbing us, but as neither he nor any of our clerks had actually seen the theft, he has let them go unmolested, well knowing that the loss to us would, ten chances to one, be less than would result from an illegal arrest, a public scandal, and the consequent frightening away of many customers who would not feel comfortable in a store where people are accused of theft on mere suspicion."

"You lose a good deal, then, don't you, by these light-fingered visitors?"

"Yes, a good deal. The great crowds which throng our counters and the lavish way in which we have to display our goods to attract custom and to compete with our rivals make our stores in the busy season an easy hunting-ground for professional shoplifters and puts temptation in the way of silly women, who steal, they don't really know why, and are the class most generally caught red-handed. It is a curious question how many respectable and moderately well-to-do women in this city are strictly honest from principle and how many from fear of the consequences of dishonesty. How many would shudder at the possibility of their stealing anything, and how many think it rare sport to steal where there is no danger, or they think there is none, of detection."

"Then are women the only shoplifters?"

"Practically, yes. What is taken from us by men or children in a year is of no consequence. Few children are bold enough, and men don't think it worth their while. There are some precocious little girls, however, who are trained and sent out to steal, and are unmercifully beaten if unsuccessful. These generally are not tall enough to steal easily from the counters, and they work principally upon our customers, stealing from their reticules, catching up parasols that are laid down for a moment, and sometimes picking pockets of people who are sitting. They find a poor field in the larger stores, however, for our detectives keep a sharp eye on children who come in alone, and generally turn them right out, and if they come accompanied, the face of the woman with them is generally known to the detective, who details a cash-girl to follow them. When they see they are watched our bargain-counters speedily lose their interest for that pair. But we do not suffer alone from the outside. Many of our own clerks rob us constantly. Not of much at a time, but a succession of trifling pilferings which in the aggregate is a serious consideration. Our detectives have to keep just as sharp a watch on those behind the counter as on those before. During the holiday season the big stores engage from 100 to 500 extra clerks, and many of them come to us fully determined to make all they can out of us before their engagement ends. They cannot take much out of the store themselves, but there are many ways, difficult to detect, of allowing an accomplice, in the guise of a customer, to carry off laces and other valuable goods in small parcels."

"What do you do with those you do catch?"

"That depends upon circumstances—a clerk or a professional shoplifter is prosecuted to the utmost—but many women, whose friends are respectable, are spared for the sake of their relatives. This class generally take little things of small value, and are overwhelmed with mortification when discovered. Many a really agonized appeal for mercy I have heard in this back office from the wives and daughters of men who would have been thunderstruck at the revelations I threatened with stony coldness but had really no intention of making. A good scare often knocks this silly vice out of their heads altogether, and they always want to pay twice over for what they have taken. I never allow this, however, but always insist on their going and putting the goods back just where they got them."

"How do they act when first accused?"

"In as many ways as there are women, I think. Our detective generally says: 'Madam, will you follow me to the manager's office, he wants to speak with you.' Now a professional knows what that means. Sometimes she refuses, knowing that we would suffer anything rather than have a row in the store. In such a case she is allowed to roam around at her will, and is not arrested till she steps out on the sidewalk. Often she drops her booty before leaving the store, and then sometimes we have difficulty in proving the theft. An amateur is generally overcome at once by her guilty conscience, and goes along, trembling and meekly. Sometimes she breaks down and confesses at once, more often she makes a poor attempt at feigning surprise, or makes a number of ridiculous excuses: She was just taking the article over to the light—It got caught in her dress—She thought it was her own parasol—She saw a friend at the other end of the store, and was going over to show the goods to her—She had picked it up in mistake for her purse, and had never looked at it or noticed the difference—She will pay for it very gladly—Some one who hated her must have slipped it in her pocket, etc., etc., generally ending in a good cry and a promise never to do so again. Some get very angry, and scold and threaten, and some assume such an air of respectable injured innocence that, if it were not for the positive evidence of our eyes, we would not dare search them. It requires nice tact and discrimination to deal with this class of people, and there is perfect safety only in our invariable rule, to suffer any amount of loss and never to make an arrest, except where we have actually seen the theft committed."

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WHICH ROAD IS IN DANGER?

CHIEFS OF LABOR ORDERS HERE.

PATCHING UP THREATENED TROUBLE WITH A RAILWAY IN THIS STATE.

The presence in this city of the chiefs of three of the most powerful organizations of railroad men in the country, when taken in consideration with the fact that there are now going on in the Western and Middle States strikes that the members of these organizations are concerned in, was considered of the utmost importance yesterday. It was also taken as an indication that there was trouble ahead for some of the principal railroads running into New-York. Grand Organizer George S. Bailey, of the Switchmen's Union of the United States, was the first of the trio to reach here. He registered at the Grand Union Hotel on Monday, and the same day, in company with representatives of the Brakemen's Union and the Yardmen's Association, he called on Chauncey M. Depew at his house and had a conference in reference to the pay of the men in these three branches of railroad work, and this fact gave rise to the impression that the New-York Central was the road that was involved. The announcement was made that the representatives of the road and the conference committee had come to a satisfactory settlement with the switchmen, brakemen and others, when Chief Arthur, of the Engineers' Brotherhood, and Grand Master Sargent, of the Brotherhood of Firemen, arrived at Mr. Bailey's hotel. The three principals had a conference and then the representatives of the switchmen, brakemen and others, reported for the West where the strike was in progress. It was expected that Chief Arthur and Grand Master Sargent would call on the managers of the New-York Central.

All day yesterday Chief Arthur and Grand Master Sargent were busy receiving callers and receiving and sending dispatches, but the real object of their presence in town was kept a secret. Mr. Arthur said: "We have promised those with whom we are negotiating that this matter shall not be made public, and therefore I cannot tell you the object of my visit to New-York. Until the thing is settled, I am not at liberty to talk. Which company it is I will not say, but you can take it for granted that it is not any road in this city. It is one of the roads up the State. I expected to hear of a settlement by this time, and I hoped I would be able to get away by the 6 o'clock train. When the proper time comes the public will know all there is of public interest."

Grand Master Sargent was also asked about the railroad on which trouble was threatened, but he was equally reticent. He said the New-York Central was not the road involved, and also intimated that it was one of the roads in the State.

Chauncey M. Depew said that he did not know what Chief Arthur was in town for, but he was sure it was not in connection with any threatened trouble on his road. The best of feeling existed between the management of the New-York Central and its men, and so far as Mr. Depew was aware, the conference with the representatives of the switchmen had nothing to do with the engineers.

Last night Mr. Arthur stated that the indications were that a satisfactory settlement would be made, and he expected to be able to return West at noon to-day. The principal roads up the State are the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg, and the New-York, Ontario and Western. Mr. Arthur declined to state whether or not it was either of these roads that were threatened with trouble with its men.

THE BEER MEN WEAKEN.

MOST OF THE WOULD-BE BOYCOTTERS "SHAKE" THEIR UNION, AND PLEDGE THEMSELVES TO THE BOSSES.

The threatened lockout of the ale and porter brewery employes occurred yesterday at noon, at which time over 1,000 men in this city, Brooklyn and Jersey City were called up by the superintendents of the various breweries and asked to pledge themselves not to contribute to the support of either the Ale and Porter Brewery Employes' Protective Association, or any other organization engaged in a boycott of a boss brewer; the penalty for not so pledging themselves was immediate discharge.

When the reports of what had been done at the various breweries reached the headquarters of the boss brewers, at No. 2 Irving place, where the latter had assembled to take any needful action on the boycott and lockout, it was found that in spite of their assertions to the contrary the majority of the men had pledged themselves to their employers, and renounced their union, at least those who still belonged to it, many asserting that they had already severed all connection with the Protective Association. A. E. J. Tovey, secretary of the boss brewers' association, claims that not more than two per cent of the men questioned were locked out, and their places will be filled to-day.

At an early hour yesterday morning Irving place and Fifteenth-st. presented an unwonted appearance. Over 1,500 men had congregated in the vicinity of the brewers' headquarters, No. 2 Irving place, in answer to an advertisement in the morning papers calling for brewery workmen. A large number of nationalities were represented, and all seemed anxious to secure the coveted positions of locked-out men. The feature of this gathering of men seeking work was the large number of ex-brewery employes, men who had been locked out last spring during the beer brewers' troubles, and who were now eager to take the places of their locked-out brother "Knights." The gathering was an orderly one, and the platoon of Eighteenth Precinct police had nothing more to do than keep the long line of men in position while they had their names registered, 1,300 of them giving their names and addresses; but, as it turns out, few will be needed.

Late in the afternoon a meeting of the boss brewers was called to order by President William A. Miles, and a resolution was passed stating that as their present employes had pledged themselves not to contribute to any organization enforcing a boycott, they would accept this pledge in good faith, but if proof that any man has broken his faith is shown, that man will be at once discharged by his employer.

Hardly a dozen men attended the meeting of the Protective Association in Ledwith's Hall, but these all spoke as though they held the fate of the boss brewers in the hollow of their right hands. Nothing was done except to supply the press with the names of the following bosses, who, they claim, did not ask questions or lock their men out: Fitzgerald Brothers, Ferris & Co., Howard & Childs, Tracey & Russell, Thomas Carvelle, David Jones & Co., P. Ballantine & Sons, Armsdale Brothers, Leavy & Britton, George Malcolm, Streeter & Dennison, Tay'or Brothers, Hinchliff & Co., Katz Brothers, Howard & Fuller, Wallace & Sons, Flannagan, Nay & Co. and Shook & Everard.

TO CLOSE THE MINE ON DECEMBER 1.

OVER 6,000 COAL MINERS IN THE MONONGAHELA VALLEY TO BE THROWN OUT OF WORK ON THE FIRST DAY OF WINTER.

Philadelphia, Nov. 28 (Special).—"The Bulletin" of the American Iron and Steel Association, says: "From December 1, all the coal mines in the Monongahela Valley will be closed for an indefinite period, and over 6,000 miners and hundreds of river men will be without employment, and they and their families, numbering altogether probably not less than 20,000 to 25,000 souls, will be without means of support.

"A resolution to close the mines was adopted last week at a meeting of coal operators and shippers of the Monongahela Valley. Low prices and a gorged market are assigned as the reasons for this action. The competition of West Virginia in the supply of coal to the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys is being felt by the coal operators in the Monongahela Valley."

TO DEAL WITH POLITICS AS AFFECTING LABOR.

Pittsburg, Nov. 28 (Special).—Charles H. Litchman, of Massachusetts; John Jannett and Eccles Robinson, of Pittsburg, and other labor leaders are arranging for an entirely new venture in the labor organization line. It is to be a non-partisan society to deal with political questions involving the interests of labor. "The movement is yet in its infancy," said Mr. Jannett to-day. "This organization will not be in opposition to the Knights of Labor, to the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers, the American Federation of Labor, or any other labor organization. The new order will have its special work to perform. It will be composed of intelligent workmen for the practical discussion of economic questions, and to take such action as will be for the best interests of American workmen." Eccles Robinson said that Mr. Litchman was drawing up the constitution and formulating a plan to be submitted to