DEPENDENT PENSION BILL.

ITS TEMPORARY DEFEAT IN THE HOUSE.

A RALLY OF THE SOLID SOUTH—SIX NORTHERN DEMOCRATS VOTE IN THE NEGATIVE—A VOTE WHICH WILL INTEREST UNION VETERANS—DEMOCRATS NEARLY THREE TO ONE AGAINST THEM.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Vashington, April 7.—An effort to suspend the rules and pass the Dependent Pension bill in the House to-day was defeated by a vote of 169 yeas to 87 nays. A change of only two votes from the negative to the affirmative would have given the two-thirds necessary and carried the bill. The affirmative votes were cast by 135 Republicans and thirty-four Democrats, the negative vote by one Republican and eighty-six Democrats. The thirty-four Democrats who kicked out of the party traces and voted for the bill were: Barwig and Brickner, of Wisconsin; Brookshire, Brown and Bynum, of Indiana; Campbell, Clancy and Covert, of New-York; Chipman, of Michigan; Cooper, of Indiana; Cummings, Dunphy and Flower, of New-York; Fowler, of New-Jersey; Haynes, of Iowa; Holman, of Indiana; Kerr, of Pennsylvania; Lane, of Illinois; Magner, of New-York; Malsh, of Pennsylvania; Martin and McClellan, of Indiana; Owens, of Ohio; Parrett, of Indiana; Paynter, of Kentucky; Price, of Louisiana; Seney, of Ohio; Shiveley, of Indiana; Stahlnecker, of New-York; Stump, of Maryland; Wiley, of New-York; Willcox, of Connecticut; Williams, of Illinois, and Yoder, of Ohio.

It will be observed that the only Southern Democrats who voted for the bill were Messrs. Paynter, of Kentucky; Price, of Louisiana, and Stump, of Maryland. All the rest who were present, from Abbott, of Texas, and Allen and Anderson, of Mississippi, down through the entire alphabet to Wise, of Virginia—including both the Breckinridges, Carlisle and Mills—voted in the negative. The Northern Democrats who did the bidding of their Southern masters were Lawler, Springer and Wike, of Illinois; Biggs, of California, and Buckalew and Mutchler, of Pennsylvania. The lonesome Republican who voted with the Democrats in the negative was Mr. Moore, of New-Hampshire. The attitude of the Southern Democrats in general toward this bill and all other measures for the relief of disabled and dependent veterans of the Union was clearly defined by Mr. Stone, of Missouri, in his speech in the House on last Friday, when he described the Grand Army of the Republic as "a great military semi-political organization, whose chief object now seems to be to extort pensions from the Government," and also as "pretarian cohorts." Mr. Stone's defiance of the "pretarian cohorts" was extremely thrilling—almost blood curdling, indeed—and was greeted with most tumultuous applause by his brother Democrats, who, after the conclusion of his speech, rushed to his desk and fairly overwhelmed him with handshakings and words of praise and congratulations. Among other things which the gallant Stone had to say about the "pretarian cohorts" were these:

They dictate the nomination of candidates and dominate the policy of parties. Weak men are intimidated, timid men are overawed, and demagogues crook the pregnant hinges of the knee that the tariff of office may follow personal fawning.

I think the time has come when the truth should be known, or rather when the truth already known should be proclaimed from these halls. I think the time has come when the visionary theories of impractical sentimentalists, when the artful dogmatism of demagogues and the pathetic appeals of political trimmers, when the insatiable greed of selfish monopoly, and the aggressive arrogance of the Treasury looter should cease to dominate the Congress of the United States, or longer to suppress the independent and self-respecting members of this body.

I give it as my deliberate judgment, I state it as a fact, that no people on earth, since governments were instituted among men, have been so despoiled and plundered in the name of patriotism and under the guise of pension laws as have been the people of the United States.

Now, Mr. Stone, who did not have the honor to serve either in the Union or Rebel Army, is a man of no great amount of ability, or force, or consequence and his speech would not deserve notice but for the fact that his views and sentiments are shared by nearly every Democratic Representative from the South, as was shown by the applause and praise they bestowed upon him and his speech, as well as by their votes to-day.

In explanation of the bill, which is a substitute for one already passed by the Senate, Chairman Morrill, of the Committee on Invalid Pensions, said that it granted a service pension of $8 per month to soldiers who have reached the age of sixty-two years, or who are dependent, and that the estimated actual cost of the bill would be $39,000,000, while the estimated yearly cost of the bill passed by the Senate would be $36,000,000. He thought that the same principle which had been applied to the veterans of the War of 1812 and of the War with Mexico, it was proper to apply to the veterans of the War of the Rebellion.

Mr. Boothman, of Ohio, a Republican, said that he would not oppose the bill, but he thought that the right to offer amendments should not be denied; he thought it unjust to the advocates of other measures, and was opposed to an age limitation in a service pension bill.

That devoted friend of the soldier, William M. Springer, of Illinois, then rose and said that he should vote against the bill. He declared that the Republicans were guilty of evasion, "of a dodging of the issue and a betrayal of the soldiers to whom they had promised a service pension bill." When and where this promise was made Mr. Springer did not state, nor did he stop to read this declaration from the Republican National platform of 1888:

The gratitude of the Nation to the defenders of the Union cannot be measured by laws. The legislation of Congress should conform to the pledges made by a loyal people and be so enlarged and extended as to provide against the possibility that any man who honorably wore the Federal uniform shall become an inmate of an almshouse or dependent upon private charity. In the presence of an overflowing Treasury it would be a public scandal to do less for those whose valorous service preserved the Government. We denounce the hostile spirit shown by President Cleveland in his numerous vetoes of measures for pension relief and the action of the Democratic House of Representatives in refusing even a consideration of general pension legislation.

Mr. Tarsney, of Missouri, another Democrat, was opposed to indiscriminate pension legislation, and to any measure which placed the brave soldier on an equality with the skulking coward. Every time the bounty of the Government was given to the unmeritorious man it was taken from the brave veteran. The soldiers of the country were tired of this indiscriminate pension legislation.

Mr. Craig, of Pennsylvania, Republican, would vote for the bill, although it did not go as far as he desired.

Mr. Martin, of Indiana, Democrat, objected to the age limitation. He would vote for the bill, but with great reluctance, because in his opinion it did not go far enough.

Mr. Yoder, an Ohio Democrat, became considerably excited, because of this application of the "gag law." A considerable portion of Yoder's excitement seemed to be due to the fact that the speaker had not yet granted his request, made two or three days ago, to be recognized to call up a general service pension bill, and put it upon its passage. Dr. Yoder declared that the soldiers knew who are their friends. If the soldiers do not know who are their friends they earnest cost his chances of studying the political complexion of to-day's vote in the House.

Judge Sawyer, of New-York, thought that the bill offered was the best that could be passed at this time.

General Catchcon, of Michigan, ridiculed the idea of Democrats posing as the friends of the soldier, chided them with opposing general pension laws during the six years they had controlled the House, and declared that every such law which had been enacted had been enacted by Republican votes and against the opposition of the Democrats.

Mr. Cannon, of Illinois, said that the pending bill would place 500,000 names of soldiers on the pension rolls, and he submitted that no friend of the soldier could refuse to vote for it, even though it did not go as far as he would like to see it go.

There is no doubt of the passage of the bill at an early day, despite the opposition of Democratic "friends of the soldier," most of whom vote as they shoot.

The Service Pension bill introduced to-day in the House by Mr. Boothman, of Ohio, provides substantially as follows: It grants a service pension of 1 cent per month for each day of service to every man who served in the Union Army during the late war, without regard to age; it provides that these soldiers who now receive a disability pension may, if they choose, relinquish their disability pension and accept the service pension. Widows of those drawing the service pension will be placed on the rolls at $8 per month during widowhood, but the bill reserves the right to widows to prosecute and obtain a pension under the present law by showing that the husband died from disability contracted in service and line of duty. The bill also grants a pension of $3 a month to minor children under sixteen years of age, of soldiers who die while drawing a pension, and if any of the children are so helpless as to require the care of another person, the pension is to continue during this helplessness. If the widow dies, or remarries, before the children attain the age of sixteen, her pension is to be paid to them until they attain that age.

THE LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION BILL.

Washington, April 7.—The House Committee on Appropriations to-day completed the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill. It carries an aggregate appropriation of $20,864,326, which is $10,600 more than the last bill and $762,924 less than the estimates. The number of salaries provided for is 9,970, which is 224 less than the estimated number and 141 more than those provided for in the last bill. No new legislation is proposed. Some of the changes in the Governmental service provided for are as follows: Salaries of eight senators and five Representatives from the new States. The salary of the President's assistant secretary is increased from $2,250 to $2,500. A salary of $4,500 is provided for an assistant Secretary of War.

ILLEGAL ISSUE OF A LAND PATENT.

SECRETARY NOBLE PUNISHES THOSE CONNECTED WITH THE FRAUD.

Washington, April 7.—Secretary Noble has rendered an opinion upon the report of a board appointed by Commissioner Groff, of the General Land Office, to examine into the facts concerning the illegal issue on November 20, 1889, to Thomas Reed, of a patent to 112 acres of land, said to contain valuable mineral deposits in the Duluth, Minn., land district. The investigation was based upon the fact that at the time the patent was issued the question of title to the land was pending before the Department. The Secretary severely condemns the action of the parties who, to anticipate, it is intimated, the adverse action of the Department, procured the record of the patent at the Duluth Land Office at 3:15 o'clock in the afternoon of the day on which the Commissioner had at 4 o'clock telegraphed for its return to the Department. "I therefore conclude," adds the Secretary, "that W. B. Douglas the General Land Office clerk who approved the entry (or patent) has neglected his duty and must be dismissed from the service of the United States; that the recorder of the General Land Office, James M. Townsend, violated the strict rules that should have controlled him; that the attorneys in the case, Messrs. Harrison, Herring & Seymour, who were acting for Hartman and Mallet, Reed's grantees, one and all, by their methods of practice have rendered it proper and necessary that their professional conduct be inquired into under the rules of the Department which entitle them to a further hearing on due notice."

The Secretary further states that Mr. Reed, the Germania Iron Company, Mr. Mallet, Mr. Hartman and others, in interest, can unite in a release of all their right and title under the patent and that if this is done the parties cannot be prejudiced in any further proceedings upon the cases now before the Secretary. He further says there can be no doubt that the patent must and will be cancelled, and he therefore orders that the patent be impounded as the property of the United States.

ASKING FOR CHANGES IN THE TARIFF BILL.

Washington, April 7.—A delegation of glove manufacturers was before the Ways and Means Committee to-day, in reference to the proposition of the importers (who were also represented by their committee) to substitute a specific duty based upon gloves for the compound duty proposed in the Tariff bill. The domestic manufacturers were represented by Messrs. Clarke and Representative Sanford, of New-York, and Messrs. Northrupp and Orsinger, of Gloversville, N. Y. They objected to the proposed change on the ground that kid gloves can be so stretched and manipulated as to defraud the revenues. A sixteen-inch glove could be imported at fourteen inches, and afterward stretched out to its full length. They insisted that it would be an unstable, dangerous system of imposing duty, and held that the compound duty, as proposed in the pending bill, should be retained. The manufacturers also desired an increase of the duty on ladies' kid gloves, which they assert are not now made in this country because of an insufficient amount of protection. The importers vigorously contended for their standard, and defied the manufacturers to prove to the committee by an actual demonstration that it would be practicable and profitable to stretch gloves after they came into the market.

About twenty-five firms, representing wholesale druggists and manufacturers of brushes, have signed a memorial to Congress (which was presented by H. B. James, of New-York, to-day), asking that the present duty of 30 per cent ad valorem on imported brushes be retained, or not increased, as proposed, and that bristles be placed on the free list.

The Ways and Means Committee is in receipt of remonstrances against the proposition to tax Mexican lead ore. Representative Lawler to-day received a copy of a telegram sent to the committee by one of the largest Chicago firms, reciting that our trade with Mexico depends largely on the exchange of mining products for mining machinery; that if the tax is laid Mexico will retaliate by prohibitory duties on American goods, and thereby American manufacturers, workmen and railways will suffer.

FOURTH-CLASS POSTMASTERS APPOINTED.

Washington, April 7.—Fourth-class postmasters were appointed to-day as follows: J. Couse, Halsey, N. J.; W. A. Struble, Pleasant Valley, N. J., and J. P. Mills, Ampersand, N. Y.

OPPOSING THE CHINESE ENUMERATION BILL.

Washington, April 7 (Special).—The Chinese Enumeration bill, which has stirred up a good deal of opposition in various quarters, will not go through the Senate without a formal discussion. Senator Hale tried to have it taken up to-day in the morning hour and passed, but gave that up when told that Senator Evarts wanted to make a speech of some length on the measure. Other Senators will take part in the debate, and the protest of the missionary societies and the Chinese trade against the oppressive features of the proposed enumeration scheme will, no doubt, receive due consideration. Senator Evarts today offered the memorial against the passage of the bill sent by the New-York Chamber of Commerce, and Senator Dawes handed in a similar one from the American Board of Foreign Missions.

MR. SPOONER ON THE MONTANA CASE.

Washington, April 7 (Special).—The Montana contest was taken up again in the senate this afternoon and a good deal of progress was made in the debate. Senator Vance spoke in behalf of the Democratic claimants, Messrs. Maginnis and Clark, and interlarded his argument so liberally with anecdotes that when he got through nothing but the fun remained in the minds of the listeners. Senator Spooner, one of the majority members of the committee, followed the North Carolina humorist with an exceedingly able and convincing statement of the issues of law and fact involved in the case, establishing with great clearness the rightful title of Messrs. Sanders and Power to seats now in dispute. Mr. Spooner was vigorous and forcible, as usual, and had many auditors both on the floor of the Senate and in the galleries. He had not finished when the Senate adjourned and will go on with his speech to-morrow. A vote on the case is expected on Wednesday, but the debate may stretch through the rest of this week.

BONDS OFFERED AND ACCEPTED.

Washington, April 7.—To-day's bond offers aggregated $132,100, as follows: Coupon fours $200, registered fours $20,000, $50,000, $11,700 at 122. Registered 4 1-2s $50,000, coupon 4 1-2s $100, $100 at 103 1-2. These offers were accepted.

TO ENLARGE THE COMMISSION.

Washington, April 7.—Senator Pettigrew to-day introduced a bill authorizing the President to enlarge the Missouri River Commission by the appointment of three additional members—one from Montana and one each from North and south Dakota.

A SHIP CANAL AROUND NIAGARA FALLS.

Washington, April 7.—The House Committee on Railways and Canals has ordered a favorable report on Mr. Payne's bill providing for the construction by the United States of a ship canal around Niagara Falls. The route is to be along one of the lines already surveyed, and a definite location is to be made by a board of five men to be appointed by the President, composed of two Army engineers, two civil engineers and one well-known citizen. One million dollars is appropriated to begin the construction of the canal under the direction of the Secretary of War. The committee has listened to arguments upon the subject by representatives of lake shipping interests and others, and the report will make a strong point upon the military necessity for the canal. It will be urged that the Welland Canal, which now affords the only route around the Falls, is an English property and would be closed against us in the event of a war. The depth of that canal, thirteen feet, would also be insufficient to permit of the passage of our war vessels. Another reason in support of the passage of the bill, it will be recited that the Welland Canal has been used as a means of discrimination against the ports of the United States and in favor of the Canadian export trade. According to the plans submitted, the canal is to cost $23,000,000, which will be nearly less than the cost of the Welland Canal. The new canal is to have a depth of twenty and one-half feet. The route is about twenty-three miles in length, and the locks are to be 400 feet long by eighty feet in breadth. Otherwise the canal is to be sufficiently large to permit of the passage of vessels which can pass through the St. Mary's Canal when the new locks are completed.

FISHING INTERESTS IN ALASKA.

Washington, April 7.—The Secretary of the Treasury to-day appointed Henry W. Elliott a special agent of the Treasury with compensation at the rate of $10 per diem to obtain full and authentic information in regard to the Alaska fishing interests, under the provisions of a special act of Congress approved April 5.

RANK OF VICE-ADMIRAL NOT TO BE REVIVED.

Washington, April 7.—The bill to promote Rear-Admiral Jouett to the rank of vice-admiral, reviving that rank for the purpose, was reported adversely to-day from the senate Committee on Naval Affairs, and indefinitely postponed.

BROOKLYN REPUBLICANS IN COUNCIL.

Fourteen of the thirty ward and town presidents of Republican associations in Kings County met last evening at No. 143 Lawrence-st., Brooklyn, and discussed measures of interest in regard to the future of the party. Walter Thorn presided and James R. Allaben was secretary. They refused to divulge the results of their deliberations, but it is probable that resolutions will be presented to the April meeting of the Republican General Committee this evening in the Washington Street Assembly Rooms.

THE PENDING SILVER BILL.

HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES AT ODDS.

WHAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE PROPOSES—HOUSE AMENDMENTS OF THE WINDOM BILL—SYNOPSIS OF BOTH BILLS—A LIVELY DEBATE IN PROSPECT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, April 7.—Chairman Conger, of the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures, expects to bring up for debate and action in the House next week the silver bullion Certificate bill, which was favorably reported with several amendments on March 26. There is some difference of opinion among Republicans in regard to the measure, some of them being inclined to prefer the bill favorably reported to the Senate by the Finance Committee as a substitute for the Windom bill, and commonly known as the Jones bill. Messrs. Bland and Williams, of the minority of the House Committee on Coinage, are strongly opposed to both bills, and will offer as a substitute for the amended Windom bill one providing for unlimited coinage of silver. Their views are shared by a large number of Democratic Representatives from the South and West, and the debate, which will be lively, may become a triangular one. The prospect, however, is that the House will sustain its committee.

The House bill, as reported, differs in three respects from the bill drafted by Secretary Windom as subsequently modified by him, when he appeared before the committee to discuss it, on February 24. The first and most important difference is caused by the elimination of Section 6 of the original bill, which authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, with the approval of the President, to suspend temporarily the receipt of silver bullion whenever he should be satisfied that speculators had succeeded in fixing an "arbitrary, nominal or fictitious" price thereon.

In his statement before the Senate Committee, Secretary Windom fully answered the objections to that section by showing that under existing law the Secretary of the Treasury possesses the power to put up the price of silver or put it down; and that, if so disposed, he might use that power for speculative purposes, whereas, under the proposed section he would have only the power—which could not be used except with the approval of the President of the United States—to protect the Government by stopping the operations of speculators in silver bullion who might starve the market, put up the price and then dump their holdings on the market at a fictitious price. Mr. Windom expressed the opinion that a natural result of the bill, if it shall become a law, will be to advance the price of silver bullion, "because the people will believe that the absorption by the Government of the entire product of this country of its mines and smelters will consume the surplus and leave a scant market in the rest of the world, and, believing that an investment in silver will be profitable, they will compete for it and advance the price."

Mr. Windom also said:

I have felt that it was important to retain this section, and I still think it would be imperative to retain it, if we were taking all the silver offered instead of limiting it to the product of this country. I should be sorry to have to administer this bill if it opened to the Treasury the entire product of the world, without some such provise in it as this. The bill, however, as prepared, limits it to the products of this country, and while I believe it is better to retain it, I do not believe it is as essential as in the other case. Nor do I believe that under this section the Secretary would ever be compelled to suspend the operation of the law. Its deterrent effect upon speculation is, in my judgment, its great value. It was in reference to its preventive effect, rather than any expectation that it would have to be used, that it was inserted in the bill.

The committee, however, decided to strike out the section.

The second variation from the Windom bill is the proviso added to section 5, which makes it lawful for the owner of any silver bullion, the deposit of which for notes is herein provided for, if the market price thereof be $1 for 371.25 grains of pure silver, to have the same coined for his benefit, as provided in the act of January 18, 1837.

Another modification of the bill by the committee was to insert a provision which it deemed necessary to prevent any ambiguity, that nothing in the act shall be construed to affect the legal tender quality of the standard silver dollar.

A synopsis of the House and Senate bills respectively, will enable readers to compare the provisions of the two measures and note the points of difference.

Section 1 of the former provides that any owner of silver bullion, the product of domestic mines or of ores smelted or refined in the United States, may deposit the same at any coinage mint or assay office designated by the secretary of the Treasury and receive therefor Treasury notes equal at the date of deposit to the net value of such bullion at the market price, which is to be fixed by the secretary and based upon the price current in the leading silver markets of the world; but no deposit consisting wholly or in part of imported silver bullion or foreign silver coins or bars resulting from melted or refined foreign silver coins shall be received.

Section 2 authorizes the preparation of Treasury notes for the purposes of the act.

Section 3 provides that such notes shall be receivable for customs, taxes and all public dues; that they may be reissued when received into the Treasury, and, when held by any National bank, shall be counted as part of its lawful reserve.

Section 4 provides that the notes shall be redeemed upon demand at the Treasury or at the office of an Assistant Treasurer of the United States by the issue of a certificate of deposit for the sum of the notes presented, payable at one of the mints, in an amount of silver bullion equal in value on the date of said certificate to the number of dollars stated therein at the market price of silver; or such notes may be redeemed in gold at the option of the Government, or if the option of the holder shall be redeemed in standard silver dollars.

Section 5 requires the secretary to receive deposits of bullion whenever the market price thereof shall exceed one dollar for 371.25 grains of pure silver, and provides that the owner of any silver bullion, the deposit of which for notes is herein provided for, if the market price thereof be $1 for 371.25 grains of pure silver, to have the same coined for his benefit, as provided in the act of January 18, 1837.

Section 6 provides that silver bullion represented by Treasury notes which have been redeemed in gold coin or silver dollars may be coined to replace the coin used in the redemption of the notes.

Section 7 repeals the provision of existing law which requires the monthly purchase and coinage of silver bullion to the value of not less than $2,000,000 nor more than $4,000,000.

Section 8 gives the Treasury the benefit of any gain or seigniorage arising from coinage under the act.

Section 9 provides that all silver bullion received under the act shall be subject to the requirements of existing law and regulations governing the methods of refining, determining the amount of pure silver contained, and the amount of charges or deductions, if any, to be made.

Section 10 provides that collectors of customs shall stamp the word "foreign" on every bar of silver bullion imported, that every assayer or refiner or any other person or firm who may receive such stamped foreign bars for assay or refined, shall stamp the word on the refining bars; that if foreign bars are remelted or refined with other silver products of the United States in such a way that it is not possible to separate the former from the domestic silver, an amount of silver bars equal to the amount of foreign silver smelted or refined shall be stamped "foreign"; that the same conditions shall be observed in the case of foreign silver coins; that every person who fails to observe said conditions, or who falsely removes the stamp, or by any means facilitates it for the purpose of preventing identification of the bars, shall be punished by a fine of not less than $100 nor more than $1,000 for each bar; that nothing in this section shall apply to silver products extracted by any metallurgic process in the United States from ores imported from foreign countries.

Section 11 provides that the act shall not be construed to prevent the purchase of silver bullion necessary for the subsidiary silver coinage, nor to affect the legal quality of the standard silver dollar.

Section 12 appropriates a sufficient sum to execute the foregoing provisions.

Section 13 repeals acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this one.

Section 14 provides that the act shall take effect thirty days after its passage.

The senate substitute is radically different from the Windom bill as amended by the House Committee on Coinage. It consists of six sections, the last two of which are identical with sections 7 and 14 of the House bill.

Section 1 directs the secretary of the Treasury to buy in each month silver bullion to the amount of $4,500,000 worth, at the market price thereof, not exceeding $1 for 371.25 grains of pure silver, and also to purchase such gold bullion as may be offered, at a price not exceeding $18 for 23.22 grains of pure gold, and to pay for said gold and silver bullion with Treasury notes, the issue of which is hereby authorized.

Section 2 provides that the Treasury notes issued under this act shall be redeemable on demand in lawful money of the United States at the Treasury or the office of any Assistant Treasurer of the United States, and when so redeemed shall be cancelled; that such notes shall be receivable for customs, taxes and all public dues, and when so received may be reissued, and that such notes when held by any National bank may be counted as part of its lawful reserve.

Section 3 provides that the secretary of the Treasury shall coin such portion of the gold and silver bullion purchased under this act as may be necessary to redeem the treasury notes herein provided for, and that the Treasury shall receive the benefit of any gain or seigniorage arising from such coinage.

Section 4 provides that the gold and silver bullion purchased under this act shall be subject to the requirements of existing law and regulations governing the methods of determining the amount of pure gold or pure silver contained, and the amount of charges or deductions, if any, to be made.

The smelters and refiners of New-Jersey, Missouri and other States, who are represented as being so bitterly opposed to the proposition of the Committee on Ways and Means to impose a duty on the lead contained in silver ore imported into the United States may, perhaps, derive some comfort from the study of the House bill, which places silver produced from foreign ores imported into the United States on the same footing, so far as the provisions of that bill are concerned, with silver mined in the United States. In conjunction with the study of section 19 of the Revenue bill which provides for the free importation of ores into the United States provided that the metal or metals produced therefrom by the process of smelting or refining shall be exported.

SELLING RARE OLD BOOKS.

GOOD PRICES OBTAINED FOR HAMILTON COLE'S LIBRARY.

The beginning of the sale of the late Hamilton Cole's library at Bangs & Co.'s, No. 739 Broadway, yesterday afternoon, showed that the market for rare old books is still strong. John W. Sterling was the largest buyer. Among the books sold to him were the valuable collection of bibliographical works by Dibdin in fifty-six volumes, uniformly bound by Matthews in crimson crushed levant morocco, for which $1,630 was paid; a breviary in two small volumes, beautifully printed on vellum, in Gothic type, in two colors, illuminated by hand and bearing the date 1482, which cost $340; Brandt's "Ship of Fooles," $60; and Bullart's "Academie des Sciences et des Arts," containing portraits of many celebrities, $64.

Other important sales were Aristotle's "Logic," on vellum of the fifteenth century, $40, to William E. Benjamin; St. Augustine's "De sancta Virginitate," $31, to General Rush C. Hawkins; Bayle's Dictionary, $35, to Yale University; the illuminated manuscript Bible (No. 31 of the catalogue), $210, to Mr. Graham; Byron's "Childe Harold," large paper, in four quarto volumes, with over 300 inserted portraits and plates, $230, to Peter Marie; Campbell's "Lives of the Lord Chancellors," $35.75, to Henry Miller; Dibdin's "Bibliomania," privately printed for the Club of odd sticks, one of twelve copies on Whatman paper, $120, to William E. Benjamin; and Henry Harrisse's "Bibliotheca Americana Vetustissima," $18, to Dodd, Mead & Co.

The day's sales amounted to about $5,500.

MR. DARLING STILL MISSING.

MR. PLUMMER'S FRIENDS RALLYING ROUND HIM—RUMORS DENIED.

The disappearance and continued absence of Mr. Darling, John T. Plummer & Co.'s financial partner, was an absorbing theme of discussion in the dry-goods district yesterday. No word had been received from or about him up to last evening, either by his family or any one else, so far as could be ascertained. The prevailing opinion is divided as to whether Mr. Darling is in Mexico or Canada. But he still has friends who declare that he will return in a few days.

Mr. Plummer's friends continue to rally around him in a loyal manner. They meet the criticisms that have been made upon him, particularly the one declaring that he should have kept posted as to the details of his partner's financial operations. On this point the head of one of the leading woollen firms remarked: "This is simply absurd, and does a gross injustice to Mr. Plummer. There are but few men in any line of business who could go in and inspect a set of books, so as to find out just how things are. They must depend upon someone else to do it for them."

It was stated that Mr. Plummer had lived at the rate of $10,000 a year. This statement was most emphatically denied last night by those in a position to know. Half that sum, it was said, would be nearer the truth.

SPRING OPENING OF A BIG CLOTHING HOUSE.

The clothing establishment of A. H. King & Co., at Nos. 627 and 629 Broadway, presented a lively appearance yesterday afternoon and evening, the occasion being the annual spring opening of the house. The immense store, which runs from Broadway to Mercer-st., a distance of about 200 feet, one of the largest rooms in the city devoted exclusively to the sale of ready-made clothing, was tastefully trimmed with large American flags, while many beautiful floral pieces, banks of roses and other flowers added color to the scene, relieving the possible monotony of rows of tables stacked high with their wealth of clothing for spring wear. Cappa's 7th Regiment Band filled the air with joyful sounds from 5 to 9 o'clock, attracting large throngs to the interior of the store, where fifty salesmen acted as ushers and presented to every woman on the floor a handkerchief or an album as a souvenir.

Early in the day a good business was done, but promptly at 5 o'clock all sales were discontinued, and the time until late in the evening was occupied simply in extending the courtesies of the house to its visitors, who saw a seasonable and superb stock of clothing for men and boys of all sizes and builds, hats, shoes and haberdashery of every kind.

The house began business nearly thirty years ago as wholesale dealers in clothing, but about eight years ago established their present line, and now occupy an important place among the retail ready-made clothing dealers in the country. They believe that the day has passed when people thought that a good suit must necessarily be made to order, and to bear out their idea they buy the best materials and have them made up into garments of good workmanship and in conformity with the latest styles.

WHEAT IN NORTHWESTERN ELEVATORS.

Minneapolis, Minn., April 7.—Figures collected to-day by "The Northwestern Miller" show the stock of wheat held in private elevators here, not included in the visible supply statement, to be 1,057,000 bushels, a decrease of 77,000 bushels for the week. This leaves stocks as follows at three points: Minneapolis—Public, 7,540,961 bushels; private, 1,037,000; St. Paul, 295,000; Duluth, 5,824,140; total, 15,696,200 bushels; increase for the week, 250,487 bushels. "The Market Record" estimates the stock of wheat in the country elevators of Minnesota and the Dakotas at 5,296,000 bushels, a decrease of 436,000 bushels. Last May the country stocks amounted to 3,700,000 bushels.

THE FIGHT ENDS IN A CHARGE OF ARSON.

Fire broke out about 3 o'clock yesterday morning in the large three-story and basement frame dwelling on the old town road in Smithfield, S. I. The building, which had been unoccupied for several months, was totally destroyed, involving a loss of about $8,000. It is not known whether there was any insurance. The building had been in litigation for several months and was to have been sold under the hammer yesterday to satisfy a mortgage held by William Gregory, of New-York. The building was owned in the name of Professor S. R. Hopkins, of Packard's Business College, New-York, but was formerly owned by Edwin H. Morris, a young Englishman, who lives in Waverley Place, New-York. A quarrel exists between the men and both claimed the building. Mr. Hopkins yesterday afternoon swore out a warrant for the arrest of Morris, charging him with setting fire to the building. Morris was arrested and Judge Vaughn set his bail at $2,000. In default of the bail he was locked up in the Richmond County Jail for a hearing on Wednesday. After the fire the land on which the building stood was sold at the Village Hall in Edgewater for $4,400.

THE WHEEL CRUSHED INTO THE CABIN.

An accident occurred last night to the Erie ferryboat Susquehanna. She left Jersey City on the 5:45 trip to New-York having on board a big crowd of men returning from the Clifton races. The throng in the men's cabin caused the boat to list considerable to starboard. She was within three hundred yards of her Chambers-st. slip when the shaft suddenly snapped and the top of the wheel crashed inward to the cabin, shattering the woodwork and blocking up the gangway that leads from the fore to the after part of the boat. There was a momentary panic and a rush to the ends of the boat, but after the boat had been pushed into her slip by a couple of tugs every one was safely landed.

THE CITY OF ELIZABETH WINS A BIG SUIT.

Information was received in Elizabeth, N. J., yesterday that a decision had been given in favor of that city in the United States Supreme Court at Washington in a suit brought against it by the Central Railroad Company of New-Jersey, which wanted to recover the amount of taxes paid by it for some years past and also to secure immunity from future payment of tax. Elizabeth will not be the only city affected by the decision, Newark, Jersey City, Plainfield and Trenton also being involved. It is said that fully $1,000,000 depended on the result.

ITALIANS ELECT DELEGATES.

Italians gathered in large numbers last night at No. 114 Bleecker-st. to elect delegates for the Institute Italiano, to aid Italians when they first land in this country. The following were elected delegates to select the final twenty-four who will elect the members and officers of the organization: Consul-General G. P. Riva, Salvini Cantoni, Carlo Barsotti, M. Lemmi, Dr. O. Abrazza, Dr. R. Assetta, C. A. Astarita, D. Bonanno, G. Bocanno, Professor V. Calabrese, Professor P. Ciancilli, L. Contencin, Professor G. Ferrari, Davide Fiero, Matteo Landi, Giovanni Lorli, Emilio Marchi, Edoardo Mondani, M. Angelo Pettinato, Giovanni Starace, Felice Tocci, Avv. L. Ullo, Dr. A. Zucchi, Nicola Grilli.

The election of officers will take place at No. 114 Bleecker-st. on April 22.

THE EASTER ELECTIONS

CHOOSING WARDENS AND VESTRYMEN.

RESULTS IN DIFFERENT PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCHES.

Easter elections of wardens and vestrymen were held yesterday in Protestant Episcopal churches in this city and its vicinity. The results were as follows:

St. Luke's—Wardens: Alexander L. McDonald, Julius Boltz. Vestrymen: John Pulis, Dr. Charles S. Ward, James Stone, Millard Van Blaricom, Charles Emmons, John E. Davis, Henry R. Malin, Jonathan Sprague Bard.

All Angels'—Wardens: William C. Wunnenberg, David M. Holmes. Vestrymen: Charles J. Hoffman, jr., John Van Voorhes Olcott, Thomas Dumond, E. Reuel Smith, L. Ludlu Kellogg, W. W. Flannagan, George C. Clara, W. W. Perrine.

St. Philip's—Wardens: Philip A. White, William H. Anthony. Vestrymen: Charles G. Bowser, William H. Smith, James W. Mays, J. B. Duplessis, Joseph T. Lee, Jerome B. Peterson, James B. Buxton, Isaiah Bryan.

Zion—Wardens: David Clarkson, George L. Jewett. Vestrymen: Benjamin F. Watson, George N. Byrd, Frederick W. DeVoe, Delano C. Calvin, William S. Hawk, William B. Beekman, M. Taylor Pyne, Robert L. Harrison.

Church of the Holy Apostles—Wardens: Robert H. Goff, Edmund L. Baylies. Vestrymen: John P. Collard, James T. Wright, Clement S. Parsons, jr., Charles P. Champion, George W. Ferguson, Charles F. Richards, Augustus W. Colwell, Robert S. Fowler.

St. Andrew's—Wardens: Edward H. Jacot, Donald McLean. Vestrymen: Vernon M. Davis, John L. Reid, John B. Simpson, William B. Ogden, Edward H. Colman, Arthur T. Simpson, Ralph M. Hyde, Gideon B. Smith.

St. Matthew's—Wardens: Michael W. Larendon, Charles F. Mills. Vestrymen: William H. Chapman, Clarence L. Wescott, Edwin W. Orvis, J. Harsen Halstead, Pierre J. Smith, Charles N. Lee, G. G. Stillwell, Timothy Hogan.

St. Paul's—Wardens: Dr. J. E. Comfort, J. C. Cunningham. Vestrymen: A. R. Scarles, F. E. Saward, J. S. Brinckerhoff, O. W. Borden, B. R. Guion, S. S. Randall, W. L. Hendy, W. R. Hilbert.

Church of the Epiphany—Wardens: Edward G. Black, Robert Betty. Vestrymen: H. R. McCann, James Bloecker, A. C. Todd, Andrew J. Todd, Frederic Davis, W. J. McCann, Samuel Smith, C. J. Dodd.

Church of the Ascension—Wardens: James M. Brown, D. F. Appleton. Vestrymen: William K. Lothrop, Edward Schell, George Bliss, Robert S. Holt, Edward N. Fuller, John B. Ireland, Henry E. Rowland, Peter B. Olney.

St. Ignatius—Wardens: Charles F. Zabriskie, John W. Emerson. Vestrymen: Nelson Millard, J. Fisher Rose, Dr. Charles L. Browne, Richard W. Withington, Benjamin Lillard, Edward Marcus, George Stanton Floyd-Jones, Colonel N. S. Brinton.

Church of the Beloved Disciple—Wardens: Richard C. Greene, William Arnold. Vestrymen: Winfield Peallon, James W. Ravnor, Edward C. Atwood, William T. R. Kendrick, C. Victor Twiss, Rellin M. Morgan, John A. Hance, Thomas M. Fanning.

Church of the Holy Faith—Wardens: Joseph F. Hanford, George G. Dudley. Vestrymen: James S. Turner, Hiram G. Ely, William S. Bispham, Daniel Ramsold, Gustav Huerstel, Arthur C. Butts, James G. Patton.

St. Timothy's—Wardens: John Jewell Smith, George Montague. Vestrymen: William C. Hitchcock, Hubbard G. Stone, Archibald Turner, Horace Manson, A. Hoyt Hopping, Dr. Robert Milligan, Charles Harvey Lane, William P. Wallace.

Trinity Church, Morrisania—Wardens: James O. Taylor, E. H. Holden. Vestrymen: W. Sherwood, W. S. Beckler, A. G. Rodell, H. W. Hatch, W. Hargreaves, Albert Bell, J. Rainford, G. H. Dyer.

Nativity, Harlem—Wardens: Ambrose T. Adams, David C. Townsend. Vestrymen: Andrew W. Styles, Charles Foster, John Henry Rape, Samuel P. Fitzel, Dr. William H. Haynes, Dr. R. A. Official, Alonzo F. Carman, E. Tappan Allen.

Church, Harlem—Wardens: Thomas Thedford, George Hussey. Vestrymen: Charles Hall, F. W. John Hussey, Walkins, W. B. Nichols, C. D. Watkins, J. C. Burns, R. T. Tout, Joseph Hurd, R. C. Burns.

Church of the Redeemer—Wardens: Richard P. Williams, Thomas H. Hoyt. Vestrymen: Jarvis S. Bishop, Charles S. L. French, Dr. J. Duane White, Charles A. Hammond, John E. Atkins, A. Sidney Tomlinson, Edward Lawson Purdy, Charles S. H. Small.

BROOKLYN.

St. Ann's—Wardens: Henry P. Morgan, Andrew H. Dewitt. Vestrymen: R. Fulton Cutting, Roland Hart, Seth Low, William Wallace, George Grey