Isaac

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THE UNTUTORED ARKANSAN.

WITH A SPELLING PECULIARLY HIS OWN HE MAKES DIRE THREATS.

OUTRAGED BY THE APPEARANCE OF CONGRESSMEN IN HIS NATIVE WILDS—CLOSING TESTIMONY BEFORE THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE AT LITTLE ROCK—GENERAL POWELL CLAYTON ONE OF THE WITNESSES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Little Rock, May 8.—The last day of the Congressional Investigation, as far, at least, as the work of the sub-committee of the House Committee on Elections is concerned, was marked by no sensational features, though much of the evidence presented to the committee was of a highly interesting and significant character. It served in most instances to fill up the gaps in the testimony of witnesses already heard, and was intended merely to complete the recital of the frauds and outrages committed at the election of November, 1888, in the IId Congressional District of Arkansas, which frauds and outrages finally culminated in the foul and cowardly murder of J. M. Clayton.

Among the more important witnesses called was Dr. Greene, the family physician of Judge Benjamin, who died from injuries received at the hands of a Democratic mob in Morrillton on the evening of the election. The testimony of the widow of Judge Benjamin was given yesterday. Counsel for Mr. Breckinridge, with that characteristic readiness to offer any assistance they can in bringing the ballot-box thieves and other malefactors in Conway County to justice, promptly objected to the introduction of Mrs. Benjamin's testimony yesterday. To-day, when Dr. Greene was called to the stand, they raised difficulties not less calculated to show the hypocrisy underlying their offer, and the real spirit by which they are animated. Notwithstanding their objections and misleading interrogatories, however, Dr. Greene's testimony substantially corroborated the statement of Mrs. Benjamin, that her husband's death was due to the injuries he received in Morrillton. Mr. Breckinridge, in his suavest and most Pecksniffian manner, inquired of the witness if he had not been approached by leading Republicans in Little Rock, with the view of obtaining a certificate to the effect that the treatment received by Judge Benjamin, in Morrillton led to his death shortly afterward. Dr. Greece promptly answered, "No," no doubt greatly to the discomforture of Mr. Breckinridge and his friends.

General Powell Clayton was on the stand for a short time. He gave a straightforward and manly explanation of the motives which led him to call out the militia in 1868, to suppress the Ku-Klux organizations in Conway County. The main line of his argument was given in these dispatches yesterday, as far as it has any bearing upon the theory which seems to assume that the members of the Hooper family must of necessity have a personal grudge against Powell Clayton. General Clayton's testimony did not throw any new light upon the investigation, but it seemed timely, and was, perhaps, necessary to expose the despicable attempt of the Democrats of the State to arraign the Claytons for presuming to find fault with the State Administration for not having done its duty in ferreting out the murderers of their brother. In fact, for over a year the leading Democrats of Arkansas have endeavored in every way possible to make it appear that the Claytons were slandering the State and blackening its fair name by exposing the rottenness of these elections, as a result of which such men as C. R. Breckinridge find their way into the House of Representatives. To do this they have not scrupled to fan the dying embers of political feuds and to invoke the memory of events which twenty-two years ago arrayed the two parties against each other in a contest which, upon a large scale, would have been dignified by the name of civil war. As to the merits of that almost forgotten controversary, they care little, less even for the consequence the revival of these memories must leave upon the development of the Arkansas of to-day. In their blind party hatred, in their wild assaults upon the official record and personal character of Powell Clayton, they stop at nothing. A policy more shortsighted, more suicidal, cannot be well imagined. It is bound to react upon its originators. It cannot survive long—this attempt to shield murderers and midnight assassins behind the cloak of political prejudices.

Another interesting witness to-day was M. Middlebrook, a negro of unusual intelligence, who accompanied J. M. Clayton on his trip to Plummerville and remained with him for one day. He said that he had warned Clayton of the danger he was running in going down into that nest of desperadoes, having had previous acquaintance with the people of Plummerville. Clayton disregarded the warning, asserting that he understood Mr. Breckinridge had sent word to the Plummerville people that they must not molest him; but, on the contrary, permit him to take the depositions of the voters in peace. A significant statement made by this witness was that he had engaged a room at Sims & Pate's Hotel for Clayton without, however, mentioning a name. He deposited Clayton's baggage in the room and went out to inform the Republican voters of Clayton's presence and his purpose. Next morning he met Clayton, who said to him that he wasn't able to get the room engaged for him, and that he had taken a room at Mrs. McCraven's.

"What," said Middlebrook, "at that house in the woods? Don't go there. It isn't safe. At any rate, if you go there during the daytime, don't remain over night, but go back to Little Rock and return in the morning."

Once more Clayton refused to heed the friendly warning, and then Middlebrook left him. Two days afterward he was assassinated.

C. R. Breckinridge took the witness stand in his own behalf, and admitted with alarming frankness that shortly after the September election in 1888 he met his friends "Bob Pate" and Carroll Armstrong on the train coming to Little Rock. In the conversation which ensued reference was had to the "little irregularities" which had occurred at the then recent State election. The trio seem to have regarded the whole thing as a good joke, as "horse play" merely (Mr. Breckinridge's own expression). He told his friends, however, that he hoped it wouldn't extend to the approaching Congressional elections, that he considered a much more ticklish matter, and he hoped it would not be resorted to. As to his duty, sternly to forbid such practices in his behalf, to say plainly that he would become neither a party to nor a beneficiary of frauds and crime, that does not seem to have occurred to Mr. Breckinridge at all. Indeed, how could it, when it was only "horse-play"? At State elections it was all right, but he evidently feared a Congressional investigation. He closed his eyes in the one case and in the other he did not keep them open. Incidentally he was made to admit that he had heard reports of irregularities in Arkansas County, in Pulaski County and in Union County. This seems to have been the reason why he cautioned his friends "Bob" Pate and Carroll Armstrong. That he had heard reports only of the ballot-box theft and stuffing practices in those counties is rather strange, in view of the fact that those crimes were known and talked about in every part of the State.

The committee will leave Little Rock at 2 o'clock in the morning. It has in the thirteen days of its investigation heard the testimony of over 1,100 witnesses. It has succeeded in ascertaining that Clayton was elected beyond the shadow of a doubt and afterward counted out, and it has punctured the Hooper fraud. It has had no success, however, in the task of collecting evidence which would establish to the satisfaction of an Arkansas jury the guilt of the Plummerville ballot-box thieves and the assassins of Colonel Clayton, though the evidence would probably be convincing enough to a jury outside of Arkansas. Still, it is perhaps too early to say what the committee will accomplish on its return to Washington. Several important witnesses are yet to be heard, but they live no longer in Arkansas, not finding its murderous surroundings conducive to health, and they will, therefore, be summoned to Washington. As an Arkansas valedictory to the committee, a letter received by its chairman yesterday is given here with the original spelling, punctuation and all:

Lacey & Co.: You want ther man what killed Clayton but you never git him we know who he is but if he squeels he'll be put where Clayton is now and you and yoen pack had better watch er you'll be thar too. I know we wont 'low no dam rediejs to catch him nohow and Breckenridge shant be throwed out, if we have to kill all the dammed Yankees — — — — in ther State so you'd better him alone that's my advice. DIMICRAT.

This is you coffin.

TAXATION OF FOREIGNERS IN FRANCE.

TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER ANY TREATIES STAND IN THE WAY OF THE PLAN.

Paris, May 8.—The Cabinet has adjourned the discussion on the question of taxing foreigners residing in France in order to ascertain whether the existing treaties between France and the various nations provide against such a tax.

This question has been kept in abeyance in France for nearly one year, probably as the result of some diplomatic efforts to that end. The final abandonment by the French Government of such a taxation scheme would please especially the many American tourists or permanent residents to be found in Paris, Nice, Pau, and in all the French sanitariums in the southern part of France. The American colony in France suffered enough two years ago from an edict which, however, was mainly aimed at the hordes of European workmen and Continental tramps, against whose harmful invasion France had the right and duty to protect herself. It had been noticed, for instance, that in Paris alone and its suburbs there were some 300,000 Germans, Italians, Belgians, etc., and also that the percentage of foreigners supported by the French Governmental "public assistance" was larger than the percentage of the natives. It was decreed that all foreigners, momentarily or permanently residing in France, should appear within a certain time before the public authorities in order to be registered. That was a cause of a good deal of trouble and annoyance to American tourists and residents. A good deal of complaints was uttered at that time, but none has been heard since then, either because Americans understood the necessities which had compelled the French Government to take some precautions, or because it allowed the decree to be mildly executed in regard to the citizens of the United States. The payment of a small taxation would not much trouble Americans, but it would compel them again to call at the registering offices. The French Government has been driven to that project of taxation by the clamors of the laboring classes, which have to compete with the cheap labor offered in the market by foreigners unable to make a living in their own countries. At Paris, especially, the laborers of the street-cleaning department are nearly all of German or Belgian origin, and in the southern departments, notably at Marseilles, most of the unskilled labor is performed by Italians.

MR. CROKER'S CONDITION IMPROVED.

Wiesbaden, May 8.—Richard Croker has recovered from his late relapse, and is now able to leave his house and take out-door exercise.

The condition of ex-Chamberlain Croker's health was the subject of much comment about the City Hall yesterday, and various opinions were expressed, many asserting that there was really no evidence that he is in a state to alarm his friends. Commissioner Gilroy said that he did not believe that Mr. Croker was so much worse, and when the report came that he was able to be out yesterday Mr. Gilroy said that he was greatly pleased and that the news corroborated his belief that Mr. Croker was recovering.

The following is an extract from a letter received in this city from a New-Yorker who is at Nassau Hof, in Wiesbaden. "I have been in the custom of bathing with your fellow-townsman, Richard Croker, who is now too weak to bathe and is rapidly failing. His doctor is my doctor, and we have been wondering why his family do not come out, instead of leaving him in the care of the boys."

The letter was received on Wednesday, and is dated about ten days ago."

MINISTER SMITH OFF TO HIS POST.

Berlin, May 8.—Charles Emory Smith, the United States Minister to Russia, has started for St. Petersburg. During his stay here he was introduced at the Russian Embassy by Mr. Phelps, the American Minister, and was cordially received by Count Schouvaloff, the Russian Ambassador. Mr. Smith dined at the United States Legation on Tuesday, and addressed the American League on Wednesday evening. A hearty farewell was given him by a number of German officials and American residents.

DISCUSSING MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S PROPOSAL.

London, May 8.—Mr. Chamberlain's proposal that Mr. Gladstone and Lord Salisbury have a conference on the Irish land question was much discussed in the lobbies of Parliament to-night. The Gladstonians were strongly against the proposal, while the Conservatives seemed to be convinced that it would have no good result.

ENGLAND'S PROTECTORATE OF EGYPT.

London, May 8.—In the House of Commons this evening, Sir James Fergusson, Under Foreign Secretary, denied that the Government had proposed a convention with the Porte, making Great Britain permanent protector of Egypt.

RUSSIA DOESN'T LIKE THE EMPEROR'S SPEECH.

St. Petersburg, May 8.—Emperor William's speech has produced a bad impression here. It is regarded as having a warlike significance beneath the pacific protests. The fact that increased military credits are asked is considered contradictory to the Emperor's peaceful phrases.

IN SYMPATHY WITH NEWFOUNDLAND.

St. John, N. B., May 8.—The Legislature of Prince Edward Island unanimously passed a resolution sympathizing with Newfoundland in its protest against the modus vivendi with reference to lobster fishing between England and France.

EMPEROR WILLIAM PRAISED BY THE POPE.

Rome, May 8.—The Pope, in receiving German pilgrims to-day, praised the Catholic spirit of Germany, and eulogized Emperor William's efforts to ameliorate the condition of the working classes.

CONFLICT BETWEEN MARONITES AND DRUSES.

Constantinople, May 8.—There has been severe fighting between the Maronites and Druses in the Mount Lebanon district of Syria. The Porte has sent troops to suppress the outbreak.

DISALLOWING CANADA'S COPYRIGHT ACT.

Ottawa, May 8.—News has reached Ottawa that the Imperial Government has disallowed, or is about to disallow, the Canadian Copyright act of last session.

WISSMANN TO TAKE A VACATION.

Zanzibar, May 8.—Major Wissmann, Imperial German Commissioner to East Africa, is about to return to Germany on leave of absence.

MEXICO'S CAPITAL WITHOUT DRINKING WATER.

City of Mexico, May 8, via Galveston.—A heavy windstorm has blown down five arches of the aqueduct and the city is without drinking water.

ANOTHER ELECTION ORDERED IN CRETE.

Canea, May 8.—The late elections for members of the Cretan Assembly have been annulled, and new ballots have been ordered.

MR. O'BRIEN'S LIBEL SUIT.

London, May 8.—A new trial has been refused William O'Brien of his libel suit against Lord Salisbury. On the first trial a verdict was returned for Lord Salisbury.

Mr. O'Brien will take his case against Lord Salisbury to the House of Lords.

PROFESSOR FRYE TAKES AN APPEAL.

Boston, May 8.—In the Municipal Court to-day Professor C. B. Frye, a former landlord of Count Roman Ivanovitch de Lippmann Zuboff, was fined one cent, without costs, for an alleged assault on the Count while ejecting him for non-payment of rent. Professor Frye took an appeal, and the case will go to a higher court.

MURDERED BY A DISCHARGED FARM-HAND.

Canandaigua, N. Y., May 8 (Special).—Alfred Leach, a farmer of Canadice, Ontario County, was shot and almost instantly killed to-day by Frank Lamont, a farm hand, whom he had discharged. Lamont fled with his wife. They were both arrested at Springwater, Livingston County.

ANNIVERSARY OF AN ANCIENT CHURCH.

Philadelphia, May 8.—The 175th anniversary of the founding of the Great Valley Church, the second Presbyterian Church established in Pennsylvania, was celebrated to-day at Cedar Hollow, Chester County, Penn. A new edifice, built on the site of the old meeting house, was also dedicated to-day. A large crowd was present. At the services this afternoon Governor Beaver presided.

SOUTH CAROLINA LYNCHERS ARRESTED.

SOME OF LEAPHART'S MURDERERS CAUGHT—HIS ATTORNEY ARRESTED FOR FORGERY.

Columbia, S. C., May 8 (Special).—The affidavit and letters that were filed in the Governor's office, upon which he respited "Willie" Leaphart, have been practically proved to be forgeries. The notary public before whom W. J. Miller was credited with having made the affidavit makes oath that he never saw the document, although the signature is perfect. Miss Rosa Cannon swears that she never wrote to her mother and her mother confirms that statement. It is evident that her letters were forged, as there is no resemblance between the handwriting of Miss Cannon and that in the letters. Charles Cannon, whose affidavit was also filed with the Governor in favor of Leaphart, denies having ever seen the document. Lexington is in a state of excitement. W. J. Miller, the maker of the affidavit, has been arrested on the charge of forgery and perjury. He is a Deputy United States Marshal. He has applied to the Government for protection, fearing that he would be lynched. The Governor being assured that there was no danger, declined to take any action. Miller to-day swore that he was persuaded, while drunk, to sign the affidavit and knew nothing of it. He throws all responsibility on J. T. Graham, the lawyer for Leaphart and now Probate Judge of the county of Lexington. The plot deepened later in the day, when T. O. Caughman, who had openly acknowledged being in the lynching party, made an affidavit charging Lawyer Graham with forgery and perjury. Caughman came to this city and had Graham arrested. A warrant was sworn out in Lexington charging Caughman with murder. Attorney-General Earle yesterday determined to go beyond the usual forms and to push the matter against those lynchers who had been identified, and whom the coroner's jury refused to recognize as having taken part. For this purpose General Earle went to Lexington to-day, and after examining several witnesses, swore out warrants against F. C. Caughman, Richard Woods and Pearce Taylor, charging them with the murder of Willie Leaphart. They were arrested to-night. This is the first time such action has been taken by an Attorney-General, and his action is strongly commended.

SECRETARY WINDOM'S VISIT.

WILLING TO LEASE CASTLE GARDEN FROM THE SINKING FUND COMMISSIONERS.

Secretary Windom arrived at the Fifth Avenue Hotel on Wednesday night and yesterday took a thorough survey of the immigration business. He inspected the Barge Office and visited Ellis Island. He was accompanied by Supervising Architect Windrim, Assistant United States Treasurer Roberts, Collector Erhardt, Superintendent Weber, Colonel Marshall, the Superintendent of the Bureau of Repairs and others. Mr. Windom arrived at the Barge Office about noon, where the party held a long consultation in the Superintendent's private office.

After that the Barge Office was thoroughly inspected. At that time a large number of immigrants were being received and Mr. Windom had full opportunity to see how the business is handled in the present limited quarters. The Secretary said that he was perfectly willing to lease Castle Garden, but the Government must have entire control. He would share nothing with the State Commissioners. The Government would have no partnership with anybody, and was willing to lease Castle Garden, but for an indefinite period.

Superintendent Weber said that he should submit a proposal to the Sinking Fund Commissioners, in behalf of the Government, at their next meeting, to rent the Garden. He proposed to take Castle Garden until Ellis Island was ready, at the same rental ($8,000 a year) as the State Commissioners pay, the lease to be terminated at sixty days' notice by either side. When the news of this offer was wafted over to the historical cheese-box, the lone voice of Commissioner Stevenson was heard to pipe from within his foot that the Government could not have Castle Garden. He'd pay the rent first out of his own pocket. At the conference there was a discussion about the construction of quarters for immigrants at Ellis Island and the preparation of the harbor there for navigation.

LOOKING FOR A DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF A FAIR.

Chicago, May 8 (Special).—The railroad officials of Chicago are still demanding that the director-general of the World's Fair be selected from among them. E. T. Jeffrey was once prominently mentioned, but it is now understood that he could not possibly accept the place. The last day or two the railroad men have been discussing the fitness for the place of H. B. Stone, who recently resigned the office of second vice-president of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, to accept that of president of the Chicago Telephone Company. Since the directors have organized and settled down to a consideration of affairs a conservative feeling has sprung up in regard to the appointment of a director-general. It is probable that the directors will not take final action themselves, but will wait until the National Commission shall have been organized by the President.

CHARGED WITH BURNING MR. CHILDS'S BARN.

Philadelphia, May 8.—James Mellen, age forty-six, was arrested in Delaware County yesterday, charged with arson in setting fire to the stable of George W. Childs, at the latter's country home at Wootton, on May 3. Detectives have been searching for Mellen since the night of the fire. He was committed for a hearing at Media. After the destruction of the barn Mr. Childs expressed the opinion that Mellen was the guilty man. The act was prompted, it is said, by a desire to be revenged upon Mr. Childs's coachman, because the latter refused to loan Mellen money. Mellen was formerly in the employ of Mr. Childs as a waiter, but was discharged because of his quarrelsome disposition.

ILLINOIS WHEAT DESTROYED BY FLOODS.

Springfield, Ill., May 8.—Reports received by the State Department of Agriculture from the more important wheat-growing counties of the State confirm the accuracy of the estimates made by the department on March 22 and show even a lower average condition than was made at that time. The area of winter wheat destroyed by floods will reach 38 per cent of the area seeded last fall, and the condition of that left standing for harvest does not promise more than 75 per cent of an average yield per acre. Taking the State over, the condition of the wheat was nearly 55 per cent short of an average on May 1. The area seeded to spring wheat this season is hardly up to that of 1889.

TO FORM A NEW POLITICAL PARTY.

About fifteen men assembled in the hall at No. 125 Rivington st. last evening, for the purpose of organizing a new political party, to be known as the "Industrial Party of the United States." Frank Waters presided. Samuel Archer, of Sedalia, Mo., explained the underlying principles of the new party's platform. These included the issue of "Federal money, either of gold, silver or paper, based upon the wealth of the people, which should be loaned to the people on real estate security at one per cent per annum; the control by Government of all railroads and means of communication, and a revenue to be raised by a system of direct graduated taxation." After appointing a committee of five on constitution and by-laws, an adjournment was had until Monday night, when a mass-meeting will be held.

TO WELCOME EDUARD STRAUSS, THE MUSICIAN.

The well-known musician and composer, Eduard Strauss, with his famous Vienna orchestra, is now on the North German Lloyds steamship Werra, and is expected to arrive here on Monday afternoon. A reception down the bay has been arranged for Mr. Strauss by many of his countrymen and a number of well-known citizens of New-York. The steamboat Laura Starin will be in readiness at Starin's Pier 18, North River (Cortlandt st.) on Monday at noon, and will leave the pier at a reasonable time after the Werra is signalled off Fire Island.

EDITORS OF A COLLEGE ANNUAL.

The class of '92 School of Arts of Columbia College, has elected its board of editors for "The Columbian," the college annual, which will be issued after the members of the class become juniors. Eleven candidates were nominated and the five who were elected, with the fraternities they represent, were Charles H. Sisson, Delta Upsilon, chairman; E. Rodney Fiske, Delta Kappa Epsilon; Thomas L. Chrystie, Phi Gamma Delta; Clarence W. Vail, Zeta Psi; Mr. Giddings, Psi Upsilon.

MRS. VANDEGRIFT FOUND GUILTY.

Mount Holly, N. J., May 8.—The jury in the case of Mrs. Vandegrift, on trial for attempting to poison her son, Frank Norman, came in this morning with a verdict of guilty as she stood charged in the indictment. Her motive was to obtain insurance on Norman's life. The defendant's counsel will move for a new trial. Mrs. Vandegrift displayed no emotion whatever when the jury was polled.

TEN INMATES WERE BURNED.

THE CHENANGO COUNTY POORHOUSE DESTROYED.

AN OLD WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH WHILE SMOKING A PIPE—THE FLAMES, AT FIRST SUBDUED, BROKE OUT AGAIN AT MIDNIGHT AND NINE PERSONS IN THE IDIOT WARD PERISHED.

Utica, May 8.—The larger portion of the Chenango County Buildings, which, for fifty years have been at Preston, about six miles from Norwich, were destroyed by fire last night, about midnight, and ten of the inmates, possibly more, were burned. The buildings destroyed were the asylum, in which there were about eighty inmates, and the pauper-house and idiot ward, in which there were about forty inmates. Both were wooden buildings, in good repair, having wings and two stories in height. They stood side by side, a driveway separating them. They were valued at $25,000, and insured for $19,000, and are a total loss. The fire started in the idiot ward of the main building, and as the inmates were asleep and no sounds heard, it is probable that the smoke and gases smothered them before they felt the pain of the fire.

The origin of the fire was probably the smouldering sparks of a slight fire which occurred on Wednesday afternoon. Deborah Dibble, a feeble-minded old woman, was smoking a pipe, and set her clothing and bedding on fire, and was burned fatally before the flames could be extinguished. Her corpse was burned last night. It is supposed that the fire started from some undiscovered smouldering sparks.

The keeper was awakened by a pauper. He attempted to release the idiots, but was driven back by the fire. He then ran through the other buildings in his night-clothes, rousing the inmates and turning them out of doors. The insane patients had some of them to be forced out, and fought against release, but all were saved. Most of them were taken under guard to the Methodist and Universalist churches till other quarters were procured, and such a gibbering, motley congregation was never seen in churches before. Some escaped to the woods, where the Sheriff and a large number of deputies hunted for them to-day.

The names of the idiots who were burned are Sarah Mills, Afton; Sarah Gallagher, Arvella Atwood, Norwich; Sarah Bailey, Columbus; Laura Gray, Greene; Deborah Dibble, Bainbridge; Mary O'Daniels, Preston; Almeda Austin, Adelia Benedict, Lucy Warren, County.

Keeper Mainwaring rescued several persons at the peril of his life. The scene was indescribable and the horrors of Longue Pointe were re-enacted on a smaller scale. Demented and terror-stricken inmates wandered around the burning pile in a hopeless manner. The flames lighted up the hills for miles around. A bucket brigade was formed by the citizens of Preston, and about a hundred labored to save the smaller buildings in the rear, with success. The stables and farm-buildings were saved. The large milk-house was burned.

The Board of Supervisors held a special session to-night at Norwich to take measures for prompt relief. It is probable that the county buildings will be erected at some place where there are railroad facilities.

Edward Francis, pauper, tells this story: "My room was in the rear of the pauper department, just across the alley from the idiots, and immediately on hearing their cries, I called Keeper Mainwaring, who came down stairs from his room in a hurry. By that time the building was doomed and the folks inside were screaming and calling for help, but no one could live a minute in there, so we went for the others and got them out safe and sound. You know that Mrs. Dibble was smoking a pipe in there in the afternoon and set herself on fire and was burned so badly that she died about 8 o'clock last night. Her bed was all on fire, too, but we threw water on it and put it out, afterward washing the floor; and I thought at the time that everything was all right, but some sparks must have been left to smoulder and they finally broke into a blaze. Everybody who could possibly be saved was taken out and none perished who could be awakened."

E. T. Mainwaring, the keeper, said: "How the fire originated is a mystery to myself, as well as to every one else. When I took possession as keeper of the house, I threw out all the old stove-pipe and replaced it with new, besides putting heavy sheet iron screens around every stove. Besides this, it has been my hobby to do everything to prevent a conflagration. It must have been a case of spontaneous combustion."

The insurance amounted to $19,000 and is equally divided among the following companies, except that the policy in the Citizens' is for $2,000: Phoenix, Hartford, Home, North America, Royal Imperial, Niagara, Pennsylvania, Citizens', Glens Falls, Washington, Pacific, London and Liverpool and Globe, German-American, Hanover, American, Orient and Sun.

The Chenango County Poorhouse was situated on the county farm on the east side of the road leading from Preston to Oxford. It was six miles west of Norwich, six miles north of Oxford and about one mile from Preston Corners. The building devoted to paupers was built of wood, three stories high above the basement, and was pleasantly situated on an eminence facing the west. The main building, or central part, was forty by eighty feet. Attached to this were two two-story wings extending east, each thirty by forty feet. In the rear of these, at a distance of twenty-six feet, was the milk house. The building was erected in 1862, and afforded originally accommodation for 125 inmates. The insane asylum was south of the poorhouse, and was separated from it by a driveway twenty-three feet wide. This building was two stories high and eighty-five feet long. Several additions had been made to it from time to time, the latest being a two-story wing, which extended east from the rear thirty feet. The farm has been used by the county for poorhouse purposes for fifty years. This is the first disaster in its history.

SOUTH CAROLINA DIOCESE AND THE NEGRO.

Charleston, S. C., May 8 (Special).—The negro question was virtually settled in the Episcopal Church of South Carolina, by the Diocesan Convention to-day. The question came up on an amendment to the constitution which allows the only colored clergyman in the diocese to retain his seat. The discussion was long and exciting. The opponents to the proposed amendment offered an amendment to insert the word "white" in the clause of the constitution prescribing the qualifications of clergymen. Bishop Howe, who has steadfastly stood by the colored clergymen in their right to a seat in the convention without having their credentials submitted to the laymen, has not abandoned his position. The amendment was tabled by a substantial majority. The seceders were not in the convention, although they were represented by delegates who took their view of the question. The action is the result of a compromise agreed upon two years ago. It is thought that the seceders will return to the church.

NOMINATED BY DELAWARE PROHIBITIONISTS.

Dover, Del., May 8 (Special).—The Delaware State Prohibition Convention met in the Opera House here at noon to-day. There were thirty-five delegates present out of the 140 allotted to the State. Richard M. Cooper, of Kent County, was made chairman, and the Rev. J. D. C. Hanna secretary. William T. Kellum, of Dover, was nominated for Governor by acclamation, after several others had declined, and Daniel M. Green, of Newcastle County, was nominated for Congress. The platform, which was adopted after much discussion and against the protest of some of the delegates, reclies that Prohibition can only be secured through amendments to the National and State constitutions, and opposes every form of license.

A CHINAMAN NATURALIZED IN NEW-JERSEY.

Camden, May 8.—New-Jersey's first Chinese citizen was made in court this morning. He is Gee Hop, a laundryman, who wants to visit his native land. He was vouched for by his Sunday-school teacher, Mrs. Elizabeth Nash.

CIGARMAKERS ON STRIKE.

HOLDING OUT AGAINST THE CARPENTERS.

CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW IS EXPECTED TO SETTLE THE DIFFICULTY.

The strike of Cigarmakers' Union No. 87 is extending rapidly throughout the city. On Wednesday evening there were eighteen firms, employing over 1,000 men, involved in the strike. A demand has been made for an increase in wages ranging from 60 cents to $3 50 a thousand. These are among the firms thus far reported: Sutro & Newmark, whose men demand an advance of $1 a thousand all around; Heveert Brothers, No. 175 Chambers-st., employing eighty hands, who demand from $2 to $2 50 per thousand; Lichtenstein, Son & Co., of Fifty-ninth-st., near First-ave.; Cohen, of West Seventy-third-st.; Kaufman Brothers, of Third-ave. and Sixty-second-st., employing 200 hands, who demand that the firm shall recognize their union; Landauer & Klein, Sixty-fourth-st., near First-ave., employing 225 men, who ask for an advance of $1 50 per thousand; among these are some nineteen families who work in tenement-houses, and who declare that their working hours are from 6:30 a. m. to 12:30 a. m.; John Lave, Seventy-fourth-st. and First-ave., 120 men; Katz Brothers, Fourth-ave. and One-hundred-and-seventh-st.; Prosnetz & Krauss; Lewis & Hood, of No. 402 East One-hundred-and-fourth-st.; M. Spiegel, No. 278 Bowery, and H. Jacoby, No. 214 Bowery.

The various strikes are under the supervision of the committee appointed by the Cigarmakers' International Union, although many of the strikers are non-union men. It was reported yesterday afternoon that fully 1,500 cigarmakers were out, and that many more shops would be reported to-day.

A settlement with the officers of the New-York Central Railroad in the case of the striking carpenters employed on the new large grain elevator was not arrived at yesterday by the delegates of the United Brotherhood. With the exception of this place, the strike for an eight-hour workday and $3 50 has proved an entire success. Yesterday Superintendent Moulton, who is in charge of the work on the elevator, discharged all the unskilled men he had hired since last Monday, finding that they were unfit for the work. This news was received with much satisfaction by the committee, and will, it is believed, pave the way toward a reconciliation through Mr. Depew, who returned to the city yesterday and will be called upon by the delegates this morning.

Secretary Doyle said yesterday that there was no truth in the rumor which appeared in several papers yesterday to the effect that a reduction of 25 cents had been conceded in the case of a number of shops who had accepted the eight-hour basis. "No carpenters belonging to this union," said he, "have been allowed to go back at 1 cent less than the schedule rate."

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, said yesterday that a general demand on the part of the coal miners for an eight-hour day, had been fully agreed upon, but that the date for beginning operations had not been settled. "I cannot say now whether the strike will occur before next fall or not. If there is to be a strike—which is very doubtful, I believe the employers will consent without delay—we will give them due notice, as we did in the case of the carpenters, and I believe the results will be just as satisfactory. The miners have as strong an organization as the carpenters, and their victory will naturally aid us."

THE STRIKES ON THE CONTINENT.

Paris, May 8.—Twenty thousand strikers at Roubaix have resumed work. The strike there is practically ended.

Pesth, May 8.—The bakers' strike continues. The price of bread is rising. Five hundred strikers are camping on an island in the river. They pass the time with music and dancing.

Havana, May 8.—The authorities have ordered the closing of the Workmen's Circle.

Berlin, May 8.—The carpenters and masons' strike at Hamburg continues. Seventeen hundred carpenters quit work. They are supported by their union.

Madrid, May 8.—The strike is almost ended at Barcelona and Valencia. At Corunna and Alcoy the men still hold out firmly.

IS HE A SUICIDE OR AN ABSCONDER?

A MAN'S CLOTHES FOUND ON A PIER, BUT HIS BROTHER THINKS IT IS MERELY A RUSE.

A man's coat and waistcoat, two pairs of stockings, a pair of cuffs, a necktie and some papers marked "T. L. Maccabee" were found on the pier at the foot of East Fourteenth-st. yesterday morning. The police examined the papers and thought they belonged to Thomas L. Maccabee, of No. 201 Fifth-st., Jersey City. It was believed that Maccabee had drowned himself.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon J. E. Maccabee, of No. 201 Fifth-st., Jersey City, called at the Eighteenth Precinct Police Station and identified the clothes as those of his brother, Thomas L. Maccabee, who was chief clerk in the freight office of the West Shore Railroad at Pier No. 5, North River. The missing man, who is married, was in pecuniary difficulties and had for some time been acting strangely.

Just before his disappearance he raised money from every available source. His brother ridicules the idea of suicide and believes that he has absconded and adopted this plan to throw his creditors off the scent.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS IN RHODE ISLAND.

Providence, May 8 (Special).—The Democrats of the incoming State Legislature held their caucus to-day and parcelled out the offices. The Carroll and Brennan faction of the party won, the opposition not mustering more than twenty votes out of forty-nine, the largest number cast. Augustus S. Miller was nominated for Speaker, and this means the appointment of Carroll and Brennan to their present important chairmanships. Elisha H. Bucklin, Carroll's bosom friend, is slated for State Auditor. Ambrose Feeley, of Woonsocket, who was ambitious to be Speaker, is the nominee for Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for Providence County in place of George E. Webster, a man of fifteen years' experience. Raymond J. Rathbone, who engineered the scheme by which two Democratic members were elected at West Greenwich after dark, is the choice for high sheriff. The American wing of the party, or rather the faction which resents the Carroll-Brennan dictation, are wrathful to-night, and there is some anxiety among Democratic leaders as to whether or not they can hold their men to vote for all the nominees of the party or of the caucus.

BANK OF AMERICA OFFICERS HELD FOR TRIAL.

Philadelphia, May 8.—President Louis Pfeiffer, Cashier Dungan, Assistant Cashier Joshua Pfeiffer and Paying Teller Hergesheimer, of the suspended Bank of America, had a hearing this afternoon before Magistrate McCarty, on the charges brought yesterday by Roger Maynes, a depositor of the bank. There were two charges brought by Mr. Maynes against the bank officials. One charged them with conspiracy to injure Mr. Maynes's credit, by refusing payment on his check and informing the person presenting the check that Mr. Maynes had not sufficient funds on deposit. The other charge was that officials accepted $3,300 from Mr. Maynes on April 29, when they knew the bank was insolvent. The Magistrate held the president and cashier in $2,000 bail each, and the other two officials in $1,000 bail each, for trial.

Camden, N. J., May 8.—John Hood, of this city, has taken the oath as receiver of the Merchants' Bank, Atlantic City, and will go to there to-morrow to take possession.

A HOUSE BILL MISSING AT TRENTON.

Trenton, N. J., May 8 (Special).—The bill which makes it illegal to remove veteran soldiers from public office, and which was ordered to a third reading in the House some weeks ago, cannot be found. The engrossing clerk says he knows nothing about it, neither has he any record of it. Mr. Polleck, of Essex County, who is deeply interested in the bill, says this is another illustration of the shabby treatment which this Democratic House has given to bills concerning the welfare of veteran soldiers.

Attorney-General Stockton has delivered an opinion to the Governor in reference to the payment of the bills of the Senate Investigating Committee. He says that the Governor has no authority to sign the bill. The only way now for the persons interested to get their pay is through the incidental bill.

OHIO LAW AND THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY.

Columbus, Ohio, May 8.—Attorney-General Watson has brought suit in quo warranto in the Supreme Court to take from the Standard Oil Company its charter for violation of the laws in various ways. The petition refers to the general State laws against monopolies, and cites the fact that the Standard Oil Company has forfeited its right by going into the Standard Oil Trust of New-York and receiving trust certificates in lieu of its former shares of stock. The laws of Ohio provide explicitly that a majority of the members of the board of directors of all companies incorporated under the laws of Ohio shall be residents of the State. The petition sets forth that the Standard Oil Company has surrendered its rights for control and management of its business to the nine trustees of the Standard Oil Trust and that none of those trustees live in Ohio.

HOPE ALMOST ABANDONED.

NO SIGNS OF BREAKING THE RAPID-TRANSIT DEADLOCK.

MAYOR GRANT'S REFUSAL TO NAME IN ADVANCE THE COMMISSIONERS WHOM HE WOULD SELECT—MR. FASSETT'S SPEECH IN DEFENCE OF THE SENATE'S POSITION.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Albany, May 8.—New-York will not have a Rapid Transit law this year, because Mayor Grant declines to name the three additional Rapid Transit Commissioners proposed. The Republican Legislature, in the interest of the people of the great city, will not take such a leap in the dark as that would be of trusting Mayor Grant to name men for such highly responsible places as those of Rapid Transit Commissioners. They especially feel that it would be a betrayal of the trust the people put in them to do so at a time when the memory of the damning testimony taken by the Fassett Committee is still fresh in the minds of the people.

The Conference Committees of the Senate and the Assembly upon the Fassett Rapid Transit bill met several times to-day, but each time found that they could not agree. Senator Fassett, for the Senate, offered the following amendment to the first section of the bill:

William Steinway, August Belmont, O. B. Potter, John H. Starin, Woodbury Langdon, all of the city of New-York, and heretofore appointed Rapid Transit Commissioners, under the provisions of Section 1 of Chapter 606 of the Laws of 1875, entitled "An act further to provide for the construction and operation of a steam railway or railways in the counties of this State," together with the following named persons, residents of the city of New-York, to wit: Joseph J. O'Donohue, William L. Strong and Frederick T. Brown, and their successors, are hereby constituted a Board of Rapid Transit Commissioners for all cities in this State containing over 1,000,000 inhabitants. They shall have and exercise the specific authority and powers hereinafter conferred, and also such other and necessary powers as may be requisite to the efficient performance of the duties imposed upon the said Board by this act. If a vacancy should at any time occur in the said Board by the refusal of any member thereof to serve, or by the death, resignation, disability, or other disqualifications of any member of the said Board, such vacancy or vacancies so caused shall be filled by a concurrent vote of two-thirds of the remaining members of said Board, and the Commissioner so chosen to fill such vacancy shall belong to the same political party as the Commissioner whom he had been chosen to succeed. The terms of such Commissioners shall terminate and expire with full performance by them of their functions in the supervision of the construction of the road or roads authorized