BAY STATE REPUBLICANS.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC GREETING TO SECRETARY TRACY IN BOSTON.

BANQUET OF THE NEW REPUBLICAN CLUB OF MASSACHUSETTS—SPEECHES BY SECRETARY TRACY, SENATOR ALDRICH, ROGER WOLCOTT AND GENERAL WOODFORD.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Boston, April 8.—The first general meeting and banquet of the newly-organized Republican Club of Massachusetts occurred this evening in Music Hall, and was an unqualified success. More than 800 men occupied seats at the tables, while the balconies were filled with women and men, friends of the members. The club was inaugurated at a time when the party might reasonably be supposed to have been depressed and weakened, if not disheartened, by unexpected and severe defeat. It was when first organized also handicapped by suspicion on the part of many old line Republicans that the young men who had taken the helm were setting sail on a course leading dangerously near to a Mugwump reef, and some of the hitherto active Republicans for a few weeks hesitated before lending their names and countenance to the new movement. But it soon became apparent that the motive behind this vigorous child of the party was entirely unselfish and patriotic; that there was no purpose or wish in the heart of its promoters to go over to the enemy. Even the friends and sponsors dared not predict such a splendid achievement in so short a period. It has to-day been organized less than three months, and it has on its membership rolls more than 1,000 picked men, representative of the best element of the Republican party in the old Bay State. The business meeting of the club was held from 4 to 5 o'clock this afternoon. At this meeting the report of the Executive Committee was read. The report briefly referred to the circumstances attending the birth of the new club and to its prompt entrance upon the campaign against free coinage, and the advocacy of Civil Service Reform principles. The report urges upon members of the club the importance of prompt and energetic work in the next State campaign, which must be largely one of education, involving serious discussion of the most important State issues.

At about 5:15 the members of the club proceeded to the hall, each wearing a badge in the shape of a miniature copy of the Stars and Stripes. The Cadet Orchestra was stationed in the front balcony and entertained the company during the dinner. The hour for the dinner was named at 5:30, and promptly at 5:35 President Wolcott entered the hall, with Secretary Tracy on his arm. Following them came Senator Aldrich, of Rhode Island; ex-Governors Banks, Brackett, Long and Ames, ex-Congressman Greenhalge, Congressman Walker, Henry Cabot Lodge and Morse, Collector Beard, President Sprague, of the Senate, Speaker Barrett, of the House, Lieutenant-Governor Hale, J. Otis Wardwell, Secretary of the Republican State Committee; Chairman Burdette, of the State Committee, and Postmaster Hart. These gentlemen occupied seats at the first table on the platform, while sitting near them were members of the club, including John Hopewell, jr., A. E. Winship, Edward Anthony, jr., Charles H. Hastings, A. A. Horton, R. E. Robbins, F. H. Gardner, A. B. Sattimore, Charles E. Harris, General John L. Swift, Royal Robbins, Joseph L. Shipley, B. S. Lovell, David Hall Rice, John Haskell Butler, Albert C. Burrage, Francis W. Breed, John L. B. Lawrence, Orville Dewey Baker, Curtis Guild, jr., Frank D. Allen, William W. Crapo, Nathan Appleton, A. V. Wadhams, U. S. Navy; William S. Coules, U. S. Navy; William Power Wilson, Arthur L. Deering, Charles F. Sprague and William M. Olin. While the dinner was in progress General Stewart L. Woodford, of New-York, entered the hall and was greeted with applause.

At 7 o'clock President Wolcott called the company to order. Allusions by the speaker to "drumming" out the mercenary and the self-imposed candidates and to the fealty of the Republican party to honest money, to Protection and to Reciprocity were punctuated by vigorous applause and when reference was made to Congressman Walker's record on the silver question the audience cheered until Mr. Walker arose and bowed his acknowledgments.

Secretary Tracy, the principal guest of the club, was then introduced and the audience rose and gave him a rousing welcome. His speech was listened to attentively and met with great applause, especially the allusions to the Secretary of State and his work. Cheers for James G. Blaine were given with a will. After expressing his thanks for the welcome extended him, Secretary Tracy paid a high tribute to the Republican party and the present Administration. He recognized as the underlying power of the latter the clear intelligence, the firm will and the high conscientiousness of purpose of President Harrison. He spoke of the diplomatic triumph of the Secretary of State, saying that in the latest question arising in our foreign relations, where a single error might have produced grave results, the course promptly adopted by the State Department has been followed by a wave of public sentiment in every capital of Europe, in commendation of the tone and temper with which this Government has met the occasion. He spoke of the great work of Secretary Windom in the Treasury Department, and made a feeling allusion to the last scene in his life. He described the good work accomplished in all the other Departments of the Government, and defended the LIst Congress against the charge of extravagance. He referred at considerable length to the appropriations for pensions and said that while he believed that we should not be carried away even by a generous sentiment to a liberality beyond our means, he, for one, could not refuse his assent to the principle which our pension legislation has enacted into law, that no man who risked his life in defence of the Union should ever want for bread. If the LIst Congress, he said, had done nothing but pass the Anti-Lottery law, the Meat-Inspection act and the Shipping bill, it would be entitled to the lasting gratitude of the American people.

The Secretary then gave a detailed account of the work in which the Navy Department is at present engaged, and in conclusion spoke as follows:

One last point in naval affairs remains to be considered—the question of the employment of labor at the navy yards. For fifty years this has been the one weak spot in naval administration. Whatever the party in control of the Government, it seems hitherto to have been powerless to exclude political influence in the employment of navy yard labor. It is not enough apparently that the mechanics and workmen in the Government shops should be Republicans or Democrats, they must wear the collar of the ward bosses who run the local political machine. The practice is a source of demoralization to any party that attempts to use it, destructive to the Government service and debauching to local and National politics. It is an ulcer on the naval administrative system, and I propose to cut it out. My attention has been directed for some time past to the system adopted here in the city of Boston for the selection of laborers employed upon the city work. I have caused an exhaustive study to be made of that system by which you have largely succeeded in eliminating politics from municipal labor, and I believe that by an extension and modification of it the same result can be made reasonably certain in the Government navy yards. The details of the system which I propose to adopt are now being prepared and in a short time will be in full operation. Its essential features as applied to the navy yards are:

First—The appointment at each yard of a registration board to register all applicants for employment in the department of unskilled labor, to be selected as required on the principle of "first come, first served; preference only given to those who have had experience in the class of work for which they apply; to those who have served in the Army or Navy; to those who have families to support, and, where all other considerations are equal, to those possessing superior physical qualifications.

Second—The registration of all applicants for positions of skilled labor, who can give evidence of experience at their trade, to be certified in the order of application under the same rules of preference, and their employment on trial for a period of probation after the necessary test of proficiency, to be ultimately graded or discharged, according to their merits; and,

Third—The selection of foremen upon a competitive examination, so conducted as to bring out their fitness and qualifications for the positions they seek, open to all comers who can show the requisite experience. The boards will consist of officers of the Navy engaged in conducting the work of the yard.

I propose in carrying out this new system, so to regulate it that three ends shall be secured: First, free and open competition; second, employment upon grounds of merit, to be determined by non-partisan experts engaged in and responsible for the work; and third, absolute publicity of every detail; and having begun in the way I have indicated, I do not propose to stop until the principle of efficiency and worth is the only test of Navy-yard employment. I am satisfied that such a system will be in the interest not only of the work, but of the workingmen; that it can be carried out so that it will remove not only all machine politics from the Navy-yards, but all suspicion of machine politics; that the economy and efficiency of the work will be promoted, while the community will be sure that a Navy-yard in its midst instead of being a focus of local political intrigue, is the place of employment of a body of independent and self-respecting workingmen, whose only road to promotion lies in good work, and in whom slackness, indolence or bad habits will surely lead to discharge.

Whether the present Civil Service law is the best that could be devised to improve the Civil Service of the country I do not know. But this I do know from personal observation in my own department, that the persons appointed under the system are unquestionably more efficient as a whole than those selected under any system of pure patronage; and I know further that no Republican charged with the responsibility of administrating one of the great executive departments of the Government can be true to himself, to the faith of the Republican party or to the people of this great nation whose servant he is, if he failed to employ any and all means within his power to elevate, purify and render more efficient the Civil Service of the country.

Senator Aldrich, of Rhode Island, followed Secretary Tracy. He saw on all sides evidences of a reaction in favor of the Republican party. Mr. Aldrich discussed the tariff question briefly and demonstrated the wisdom of the position taken by the Republican leaders. Mr. Blaine's name again aroused a storm of applause in the course of Senator Aldrich's speech.

The last speaker was General Woodford, who carried the audience with him as he touched upon the different issues of the day.

SECRETARY TRACY'S MOVEMENTS.

Boston, April 8 (Special).—Secretary Tracy arrived in this city this morning at 6 o'clock and at once went to the Parker House, where he breakfasted in a quiet and informal manner. He was accompanied on his journey by Captain William S. Cowles, commander of the United States steamer Despatch, who will remain with him during his visit to Boston. The Secretary's son Frank came on from New-York last night and secured a suite of rooms at the Parker House in anticipation of his father's arrival. Just before leaving Washington, at 3:15 o'clock yesterday afternoon, Secretary Tracy was seized with an attack of bronchitis, which made necessary the services of a physician this morning. Although no serious result is feared, he felt the necessity for rest and quiet, and therefore remained in his room during the day, declining an invitation to a luncheon. This precaution was considered all the more necessary because of his engagement to address the Republican Club this evening, being the principal guest at its banquet in Music Hall. During the day he was the recipient of many calls from State, Army and Navy officials. If his health permits the Secretary will to-morrow morning make a visit of inspection to the Charlestown Navy Yard, and in the evening he is to dine with Governor Russell. Accompanied by a detail of the Governor's staff and officers of the Navy at this station, the Secretary will visit the Irvington-st. armory and review the six companies of the 1st Infantry stationed there and the Naval Battalion, M. V. M. Before returning to Washington he expects to make an inspection of the Portsmouth Navy Yard, but all these engagements will depend upon the condition of Secretary Tracy's health.

TO SETTLE PARTY QUARRELS.

EFFORTS OF MARYLAND REPUBLICANS.

OPENING A CONVENTION TO ADOPT A SCHEME OF MANAGEMENT—A COMPROMISE OVER CONTESTING DELEGATIONS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Baltimore, April 8.—The efforts of William T. Henderson and his band of objectors and obstructionists to get control of the Republican State Convention to-day were unsuccessful, and the city supporters of the Administration, representing the regular party, received the indorsement and support of a majority of the county delegates. The convention was called to consider a constitution for the government of the party in Maryland, and to define the respective powers of the State Committee and the Baltimore City Executive Committee, so as to prevent the clashing of these two bodies in the future. Colonel Thomas S. Hodson, chairman of the State Committee; Henry Stockbridge, and other prominent members of the party, comprised a commission to prepare and report a constitution to the convention. The Henderson faction in this city, so soon as the plan for a State Convention was projected, determined to make a fight to get control of it and defeat Postmaster Johnson, president of the Young Men's Republican Club and a leader of the regular Republicans. Henderson's bitterness against Johnson is the result of his defeat for the postmastership. Colonel Hodson was won over to the Henderson side. He contended that the Administration question was not in the fight, but at the same time he became identified with the opponents of the representative of the Administration in the convention.

In the convention there were full delegations from every county in the State and contesting delegations from several districts of Baltimore City. Among the prominent men of the party present were ex-Congressmen McComas, Mudd and Stockbridge. Colonel Hodson, as chairman of of the State Committee, called the convention to order at noon. He said that the defeat of the party in Maryland and elsewhere last fall was due to the fact that the Administration at Washington was not able to gratify all those who thought themselves entitled to office. It was impossible to do this. The disappointed candidates, however, and their friends sought to wreck their vengeance upon the Administration principally by remaining away from the polls. That was wrong; but the wrong would be righted, as there was a disposition apparent everywhere to return to the fold and to support the party. Evidence of this was furnished by recent elections in the West; and where the party was defeated last fall it was now victorious. (Applause). Maryland was not usually a protective State, and should be in line with the Republican party in the great fight now being waged between the United States and Great Britain to become the workshop of the world. The dissensions in the party in this city should cease, as they imperilled the success of the party throughout the State. He declared he was not there to take part with either side, except to say that the office-holders seemed to be on one side and the "outs" on the other. His remarks were about equally hissed and applauded.

The contest of the day took place on the appointment of the committee on credentials and the election of a temporary chairman. Mr. Hodson was nominated for chairman, but Harry M. Clabaugh, of Carroll County, named by the Administration people, was elected chairman by a vote of 67 to 50. It was then decided that all Baltimore city delegates be excluded from representation on the Committee on Credentials; the county delegates to be the judges of which city delegations were entitled to seats in the convention. Colonel Hodson after his defeat retired, and the convention took a recess until evening.

At to-night's session the Committee on Credentials settled the contest between the warring city delegations by rejecting both sets of delegates from the 1st District, admitting the Henderson delegates from the IId District and the Johnson delegates from the IIId District. This is a compromise arrangement, and an effort upon the part of the county members to harmonize the party differences in the city. The report was adopted, and the convention adjourned until to-morrow.

MAKING A REPORT ON THE BENNINGTON.

The engineer experts of the Navy who officially attended the full-power trial of the third-class cruiser Bennington a week ago on Long Island Sound are busy at the Navy Yard making up their report. The steam gauges, the vacuum gauges and the indicators which traced the performances of the engines upon the little white cards at intervals of fifteen minutes, have been retested for correction, so as to facilitate the working out of the data. The experts must necessarily make careful measurements of the vacuum, atmospheric and steam (both lead and exhaust) lines on the indicator cards, and from these, together with the revolutions of the engines, etc., the computations for horse-power are made. The total horse-power of the main engines developed last week was 3,350, as against 3,214 made on the first trial, February 23, when the total horse-power of the main and auxiliary engines was 3,312.69. This was 87.31 units short of the required 3,400, and if the builders had permitted her to be accepted by the Government on the result of that trial they would have had to pay to the Government $8,731 penalties, or $100 for each unit of horse-power below the guarantee. Inasmuch as the auxiliary engines at the first trial developed 98.51 horse-power, it is very probable that they made as much last week, and this would give a total of at least 48 horse-power in excess of the guarantee, or a premium of $4,800, in addition to the credit of actual success in building a vessel of the same dimensions and character as the Yorktown, but superior in speed and power.

CASSIE BROOKS AND HER ALLIES INDICTED.

The Grand Jury yesterday found indictments against Cassie Helen Brooks, Byron W. Cohen, James W. Daskam and Henry H. Belcher, who conspired to secure the estate of Loring A. Robertson by palming the woman off as his widow. Cassie Brooks is charged with perjury, in making affidavit before Max Moses, a Commissioner of Deeds, that she was the widow of Mr. Robertson, while the men are charged with subornation of perjury. All have been arrested except Daskam, who is ill at his home in Stamford, Conn.

The woman was arraigned before Judge Martine yesterday and committed to Ludlow Street Jail. Those who appeared before the Grand Jury to testify in the case were Edward J. Bergen, a clerk in the Surrogate's office, Brooklyn; Max Moses, Cassie Brooks, William F. Ellis and John F. Baker, the lawyer, who was the woman's counsel for a time. The charge against Mr. Baker was dismissed, as he was clearly innocent of any wrongdoing.

LAST SURVIVOR OF A MASSACRE DIES.

Birmingham, Ala., April 8 (Special).—A. J. Morris, the last survivor of the bloody massacre at Fort Mills, in Lower Alabama, is dead at his home in Cleburn County. The massacre occurred in 1813 during the Creek War, when the fort was attacked by 1,000 Indians, and all except fifteen of the 553 inmates were slaughtered. Morris was a Mississippi volunteer, and escaped by jumping the fence. He was 100 years old, and had been living in Columbia County for many years. He leaves numerous descendants. He was poor, and though entitled to a pension, had never drawn it.

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A CENTURY OF PATENTS.

THE CENTENNIAL OPENED BY PRESIDENT HARRISON.

MANY WELL-KNOWN INVENTORS AND MANUFACTURERS PRESENT—INTERESTING ADDRESSES BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL, SENATOR PLATT, SENATOR DANIEL AND OTHERS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, April 8.—There were anywhere from 800 to 1,000 people in the Academy of Music, commonly known as Lincoln Hall, when President Harrison formally opened the centennial celebration of the passage of the law which is the foundation of the American patent system. But while not great in numbers, it was a highly representative audience, from the view of the inventor and the manufacturer of patented articles. There were many people from distant points present, including a liberal representation of women. About 250 season tickets had been sold to non-residents, embracing every part of the country, who are either inventors, manufacturers or patent lawyers; and nearly every ticket was represented by two or more persons.

The President appeared on the stage in a suit of black diagonal, with double-breasted frock coat and gloves of a dark brown shade. He was greeted warmly by the assemblage, and when John Lynch, ex-Congressman from Maine, as chairman of the executive committee of the Patent Centennial, brought him formally before the meeting, he proceeded with clearness and brevity to state the proposition, with some preliminary detail, that civilization had taken a great step forward when it came to recognize by law the fruit of the mind as property. This sentiment was applauded with great vigor. The President added that this recognition was distinctively the feature of the patent system of the United States. Then, with two or three further observations in this line, the speaker declared the opening of the celebration.

After the prayer which followed, the President excused himself to the audience on the ground of urgent public business awaiting his attention, and he called upon Secretary Noble to preside in his place.

The essay reading then began. Before it was ended at half-past 5 o'clock, Mr. Mitchell, the Commissioner of Patents; Mr. Wright, the Commissioner of Labor; Justice Blatchford and Robert S. Taylor, of Indiana, had edified the assemblage with learned discussions of the benefits of protected invention to civilization, and Senator Platt, of Connecticut, a leading member of the Senate Committee on Patents, had talked extemporaneously and most interestingly on the same subject.

At the night meeting there was an increased attendance, and two addresses of striking interest were made by Senator John W. Daniel, of Virginia, and Mr. Willits, the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

To-morrow there will again be two sittings of the congress. The day session will be presided over by Frederick Fraley, president of the National Board of Trade, and of the American Philosophical Society. At night Professor S. P. Langley, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, will preside. Many papers will be read.

Friday, the centennial anniversary of the signing of the patent law by President Washington, will be the day of greatest popular interest. The venerable Dr. Toner, who is now engaged upon a new life of Washington, is to deliver at Mount Vernon, whither the congress and many invited friends are to be carried by steamers, an address upon "Washington as an Inventor and Promoter of Improvements." In the early afternoon the Ordnance Foundry at the Washington Navy Yard is to be inspected. Later in the afternoon the President will review the Regular troops stationed hereabouts, the District National Guards, and two or three independent military organizations. At Friday night's session Professor Alexander Graham Bell will preside, and more addresses will be made.

The vast fund of information comprehended by the numerous papers is to be preserved in permanent form in a souvenir volume.

Carroll D. Wright, the Commissioner of Labor, spoke upon the subject of the relation of invention to labor, and said in part:

We are living in the age of mind, intellect, brain, which to-day is king, and machinery is the king's prime minister. Wealth of mind and wealth of purse struggle for the mastery, and the former wins and gives the crown to the Huxleys, Darwins and Tyndalls and the Proctors, Woolseys and Drapers, rather than to the Rothschilds and Astors. It is only natural and logical that under such sovereignty invention should not only typify the progress of the race, but have a clearly marked influence upon the morals of the people—a mixed influence, but on the whole with the good vastly predominant. Under the influence of inventions the working man has learned that, from a rude instrument of toil, he has become an intelligent exponent of hidden laws; that he is not simply an animal, wanting animal contentment, but is something more, and wants the contentment which belongs to the best environment. The mistake should not be made of assigning the cause of strikes and controversies to retrogression, or to supposed increasing antagonism, or to any desire to destroy the grand results of past inventions. How a new system shall be established with perfect justice to capital and to labor, recognizing the moral forces at work contemporaneously with the industrial, and the perfectly just distribution of profits relative to the use of inventions, is the great problem of the age. Machinery is young—in fact, is only the forerunner of more golden deeds. That the workingman does not receive full justice as the result of the use of inventions must be the conclusion of every student.

Commissioner Mitchell had for his theme "The Birth and Growth of the American Patent System." The patent system, he said, had stimulated inventive thought, had stimulated men to transform their thinking into things, had encouraged men to disclose the inventions and enabled inventors to make their efforts fruitful and saved them from the folly of misdirected labor.

Justice Blatchford, who is recognized as the Patent expert on the bench of the United States Supreme Court, spoke on "A Century of Patent Law." He summed up as follows:

The principle on which the patent laws are based is to give the inventor an exclusive right, for a limited time, in consideration of his fully disclosing his invention, so that it may be made and used by the public after the limited term has expired. Under this stimulus there has come into existence the brilliant succession of inventions which have contributed so greatly to the progress of science and arts, and to the material welfare of nations and individuals. In this career our country has played no small part, and it is quite certain that in the future American inventors will do their full share toward illustrating the beneficent operation of the patent laws, and that when a hundred years hence there shall be another centennial celebration like the one through which we are now passing, there will have occurred no diminution of the importance and value of American inventions.

Robert S. Taylor, of Fort Wayne, Ind., had for his topic "Epoch-making Inventions of America." The first epoch was just a century ago, save a year, he said, and was the epoch of cheap cotton cloth, caused by Whitney's invention of the cotton-gin. Forty-six years later the sewing machine opened the epoch of cheap clothes. Robert Fulton opened the epoch of cheap travel. The railroad and locomotive followed, and the Chicago limited was the legitimate descendant of a paddle-wheel steamboat. Franklin was the foremost in the great field of electricity, whose subjugation was begun by Morse. The steam engine, said the speaker, was the breath and muscles, the telegraph the nervous system of the body politic. But the most gratifying of all inventions was the telephone which introduced the epoch of neighborship without propinquity and lengthened life by saving time. The epoch of news came in with Hoe's cylinder press; of a new dimension for cities with the vertical railway, and of cheap food with McCormick's reaper. There was, he concluded, no more beautiful invention than the typewriter, the sewing-machine of thought, which clothed our ideas, as the sewing machine clothed our bodies.

Senator Platt closed the afternoon session with a speech on "Invention and Advancement."

Senator Daniel was the first speaker at the evening session, which was opened by Secretary Noble. He spoke in the highest terms of praise of the Patent Office and its worth, and pointed with pride to the long list of inventors from the Southern States. The inventions of the cotton gin and process for developing steel had greatly aided to develop the resources of the South, which was rich in raw materials. The last decade of Southern progress had been a revelation and a revolution. The intermixture of Southern brains and Northern capital would soon make the South the Eldorado of modern invention.

Assistant Secretary Willets, of the Agricultural Department, then made an address in which he spoke of the dependency of the farmer on the product of the inventor, and of the indifference and even hostility of the farming classes to labor-saving machines.

A delightful card reception was given to-night to the visiting inventors and manufacturers by Secretary Noble and Patent Commissioner Mitchell. The reception was held in the Patent Office and was largely attended.

During the day the National Committee decided to hold a public meeting to-morrow morning for the purpose of organizing a permanent association, to be known as "The American Association of Inventors and Manufacturers," which shall have for its object the advancement of industrial inventions and the improvement and enlargement of the American patent system.

FOURTH-CLASS POSTMASTERS APPOINTED.

Washington, April 8.—Fourth-class postmasters were to-day appointed as follows: Pennsylvania—Nancy J. Bell, Bell's Mills; E. C. Kern, Kreidersville; J. Bergstresser, Pipersville. New-York—B. K. Wood, Old Forge; W. F. Mould, Santa Clara. Connecticut—W. H. Crausha, Glasgo. Rhode Island—J. R. Kent, Phenix. Vermont—Zeno Page, Monkton Ridge. Maine—H. A. Hall, Littleton.

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ITS GROWTH IN ONE HUNDRED YEARS.

AN ALMOST INCREDIBLE NUMBER OF PATENTS—THE ORIGIN OF THE NICKEL-IN-THE-SLOT MACHINE—A COMPARISON WITH METHODS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, April 8.—Up to March 31, 1891, and since 1837, 444,652 patents had been issued from the Patent Office; and prior to that time about 10,000 had been issued without being numbered as by the present method. Of this vast number of patents probably between one-half and two-thirds are live patents to-day. The fertility of the American inventor is almost incredible and, were the figures not present to speak for themselves, there would be many doubting Thomases. It is still difficult to comprehend in spite of the figures that it is possible for 4,815 patentable combinations to exist in devices for coupling railway cars; that there can be 449 distinct patentable coffins and attachments, or that there can be 378 kinds of padlocks. The records of the Patent Office show 105 different novelties in walking sticks and 44 different combinations of "cane and umbrella in one." In grain binders there has been such great activity that there are 1,160 patents on them, while another aid to the farmer, the harrow, has 1,300 patents to show in how many ways clods can be crushed. The back-breaking work of digging potatoes is made easy by 651 different devices to do it mechanically, and there are 241 devices to chop up cornstalks and fodder. The tiller of the soil who purchases commercial fertilizers pays royalty on one or more of the 334 patents in that line, while he may take his choice from 307 different sorts of hoes.

Female wearing apparel is extensively protected under the patent system. There are 269 bustle patents, 515 on corsets, 149 on hoop-skirts, 239 on stays, 31 on underwaists, and so on through the list.

The number of patents to date on electrical devices is 16,794, and in electric lighting alone there are 2,168. The bicycle patents number 1,655, and there are 635 patentable devices in so simple an article as the horse-shoe. In sewing machines and their attachments there are 5,750 patents to date, and the printer's art is exemplified in 4,733 patents. There are 195 patents on type-setting and distributing devices, and 655 on typewriting machines. There are forty-one different kinds of printers' composing sticks, and 106 in automatic addressing machines. For elevators or lifts there are over 1,000, and there is about the same number on what is known technically in the Patent Office as "store service." This includes the ingenious devices in use in all large stores for sending money to the cashier and for getting back the change. There has been lately great inventive activity in "nickel-in-the-slot" devices, there having been nearly 400 patents issued during the last four years. Mr. Aughinbaugh, the examiner in charge of this class of cases, says that the principle of the nickel-in-the-slot machine has been traced back to 400 years before the Christian era. It has been proved conclusively, he says, that the Egyptian priests employed this method of obtaining money from the sale of the lustral or holy water; but they kept the construction of the device for dealing out the holy water a profound secret, and it was looked upon with supersitious awe by the barbarian worshippers, as something possessing divine attributes. Mr. Aughinbaugh also says that the coin-controlled phonograph is the only form in which the phonograph has paid. There are three patents out on this method of utilizing the marvel of inventive marvels.

The extent to which American women have become successful inventors, as shown by the records of the Patent Office, is rather surprising. The first woman's invention was that of the revolving ice-cream freezer by Mrs. Nancy M. Johnson, in 1843. Mrs. Johnson's idea has not been materially improved upon since, and it was certainly a great advance on the old method of making ice-cream with a flat dish and a spoon. The first colored woman to take out a patent in the United States was Ellen Eglin, of Washington, in 1888. It was for a clothes wringer, and she sold it to a patent agent for $18; and the invention is now said to be producing for its owner a handsome income.

It is maintained that Whitney's great invention of the cotton gin was the idea, originally, of the wife of General Nathaniel Greene, of Rhode Island, who conceived it while observing the process of separating cotton on her plantation in Georgia. It is related that she permitted Whitney to take out the patent, because, should it be issued in her own name, her high social position would thereby be impaired.

Woman's inventions embrace almost every conceivable form of device. They number to date, as nearly as can be ascertained from the records, 1,755. There are doubtless many more patents which have been issued to women under the initials of their Christian names, so that their sex was not made apparent.

In conversation with the writer to-day, Captain Wallace Bartlett, who has had many years' experience in the development of inventions, both as an official examiner and as an inventor, said: "I suppose there may be 4,000 people now living in the United States who, at some time or other, made patentable inventions; but probably 5,000 would cover the number who make a business of inventing. Yes, it is a business, and a professional inventor will turn you out something pretty practical in almost any line you wish, if you will foot the bills. It may not be the best, but it will be a start. Inventors are independent thinkers and rarely pull together. If they can effect an organization it may do them some good. With a dozen or two in each Congressional district they have little weight with politicians. Southern inventors have been away behind, but they are coming up with a rush and a good many of them strike out of the beaten track. We will yet get some great inventions from the South.

"The difference between an American and an English patent? Well, an American patent gives a prima facie right to whatever is covered by the claim. The law gives a defendant ample opportunity for defence, but if he makes no defence the patent itself is sufficient evidence of ownership. In England the patentee must prove his case. The patent is simply a registration, giving a right of entry to the courts. Most continental nations follow the English system, although they are still drifting our way, as is Great Britain. Germany, however, has a system of examinations something like ours, and the infringer of a patent may be prosecuted criminally. It is rather expensive to keep up foreign patents. In nearly all countries but this an annual tax is levied on patents for inventions. In Germany this tax amounts to about $1,500 for the fifteen years a patent runs. It is small the first year, however, and an increase at the rate of $13 is made each year. In England no tax is collected for four years. What happens if the tax is not paid? The patent is snuffed out.

"A few inventors make one invention and build up a good business on that. Others make an invention, and failing to make a fortune out of it, throw up the sponge. Others take patents by the hundreds. Many a man thinks he has a bright idea, hesitates a long time before he makes up his mind to spend the $60 or $100 it costs to get the patent through, and then believes capitalists are going to throw millions at him for a share of it. A large proportion of the really useful patents are for little improvements made on old things by the manufacturer or his workmen, or by some user who takes his device to the manufacturer. These improvements either better the device at the same price or make it as good at less cost. A few years ago the grangers became much exasperated against patents. There was probably a good deal of sharp practice by salesmen, which stirred up their wrath. They were specially exasperated about the driven-wire and barbed-wire patents. They forgot that they were not compelled to use those things, and they would not have wanted to use them if they had not been really advantageous. Well, they hired a lawyer from Chicago to come here and go before the Senate Committee on Patents to try and break up the whole patent system. The committee gave him a hearing and he talked learnedly. As an example he took a harvester manufactured by a well-known firm and pointed out that the machine was advertised as being covered by some forty patents. In the first place, he said, there could not be forty lawful patents on the machine. Then he said $2 50 was a low estimate of royalty on each patent. 'Thus it appears,' said he, 'that the poor farmer who buys this machine is swindled out of $100 in royalties over and above the fair price of the machine, which I suppose is $[illegible] more.' The attorney for the manufacturers, who happened to be present, interrupted the speech by offering to supply any number of the machines at $60, with a good discount for cash; and when his turn came he explained his offer to the committee. It seemed that most of the forty patents were on saving improvements. An improved wrist-pin saved 100 cents on a machine. A cane saved 25 cents. One or two improvements saved a dollar or two each, and all told they had brought the price from $125 down to $90 for a better machine, and paid, besides a fair manufacturers' profit, something like 10 cents a patent, or $4 on a machine, as inventors' royalties.

"By the way, inventors' royalties are largely overestimated. Ten per cent on cost is very heavy. A man who gets 10 cents each on a popular sewing machine, or a bicycle, or a gun has a pretty good thing.

"What are the most profitable inventions?" "Well, I suppose the telephone beats them all for cash returns. I ascribe success or failure much more frequently to business management than to the merit or demerit of the invention. The telephone did not look promising. I could have bought a pretty good interest at the start for $1,000—enough to have made me many times a millionaire now. Perhaps I didn't have the money. I know I didn't have the confidence. It happened this way: I was a young assistant examiner in the Patent Office when the thing was first brought. It was the talking telegraph then. The Commissioner of Patents, General Leggett; my immediate chief, Professor E. H. Knight, who was the author of the best dictionary of mechanics ever published, and Mr. Osborne, a prominent inventor, who has few equals as a scientist in any country, had been out to see some experiment with Gray's telephone. They came back and chatted about it during the luncheon hour. In their judgment it was a wonderful scientific toy; that it would be a part of the laboratory apparatus in every college, to show the marvels of electricity; but, they said, 'Business will never be done by a telegraph which makes no record. Business will always be done in black and white.'

"Now this was the candid opinion of three of the ablest men in America. Is it any wonder that some of the rest of us shoot wide in estimating the probable value of inventions? Probably Bessemer's steel process has been as profitable to the inventor and to the world as any English invention. Bessemer stated recently that he started to make the invention with the great advantage of knowing nothing about the business. It isn't every man, even though he be pretty brainy, who can succeed in a new line, but some do. There is Cromwell, the paper-folder man, who was, I believe, a sailor, and knew next to nothing about printing or paper until he took hold with Hoe & Co. and made their press do almost everything about a newspaper but read the news to you."

Captain Bartlett is the inventor of the automatic cut-off arrangement which made the Zalinsky dynamite gun or tube a success, and he now owns the right to make the gun in calibres of three inches and less. It was at his suggestion that Lieutenant Zalinsky first took special interest in the subject of throwing dynamite or nitro-glycerine by air-pressure.

RECIPROCITY WITH MEXICO.

Washington, April 8 (Special).—Senor Romero, the Mexican Minister, says that the impression conveyed by the interview with him printed in "The Washington Post" of March 29 and quoted in a recent dispatch to The Tribune is inaccurate and misdirecting. He did say, he explains, discuss at all with the reporter any negotiations pending for a reciprocity treaty between this country and Mexico, nor did he make the remark that the people of Mexico had not yet forgotten the treaty of 1889, which, though ratified by the United States, could not be carried into effect because of the non-action of the House of Representatives.

While no official correspondence looks toward the negotiation of a new commercial treaty as yet passed between the Mexican Legation here and the State Department, it is understood that the object has been considered informally during the last few months, and that formal negotiations may possibly be entered upon before the end of the present recess of Congress.

THE BEHRING SEA PROCLAMATION.

Washington, April 8.—The President this afternoon issued the Behring Sea Proclamation. It is in its usual form, and warns all persons against entering the waters of Behring Sea within the dominion of the United States for the purpose of violating the provisions of Section 1,956, Revised Statutes; and proclaims that all persons found to be or to have been engaged in any violation of the laws of the United States in those waters will be arrested and punished as provided, and that all vessels so employed, their tackle, apparel, furniture and cargoes, will be seized and forfeited.

CHANGES TO THE DOLPHIN.

Washington, April 8.—The dispatch boat Dolphin, which arrived at the Norfolk Navy Yard to-day, will immediately go out of commission and be examined by a board of survey. The purpose is to equip the vessel with a powerful wrecking plant, so that she may be able to blow up wrecks obstructive to navigation, in place of the Dispatch, which will probably be condemned. The Dolphin will also be supplied with a poop deck and suitable cabins to serve the purpose filled by the Dispatch, as a vessel for the use of the President and of the Navy Department when it desires to extend courtesies to distinguished visitors.

TO CONDEMN PROPERTY FOR A CUSTOM HOUSE.

Washington, April 8.—Assistant Secretary Nettleton has returned to Washington, and was at the Treasury Department to-day. He said he had conferred with men owning about half of the property desired for the new Custom House in New-York, and the prices asked convinced him that the property could not possibly be obtained by purchase within the limits of the appropriation. The Department, he said, had therefore decided to proceed to acquire property by condemnation, and the necessary proceedings would be instituted by the United States Attorney as soon as possible.

GEN. RUGER TO SUCCEED GEN. GIBBON.

Washington, April 8.—The War Department to-day sent an order to General Ruger, commanding the Department of Dakota, assigning him to the command of the Division of the Pacific, with headquarters at San Francisco. General Ruger is to assume command of the division by April 20, on which date General Gibbon, the present commander, retires. Nothing has yet been done by the War Department in the matter of the selection of a successor to General Ruger as commander of the Department of Dakota.

SILVER BOUGHT AND BONDS REDEEMED.

Washington, April 8.—The offerings of silver for sale to the Treasury Department to-day aggregated 2,044,000 ounces. The amount purchased was 470,000 ounces as follows: 250,000 ounces at $0.9799, 220,000 at $0.98.

The amount of 4 1-2 per cent bonds redeemed to-day was $116,000, making the total to date $4,469,250.

DEATH OF GOVERNOR FOWLE.

Raleigh, N. C., April 8 (Special).—Governor Daniel Gould Fowle died suddenly last night at 11:30 o'clock. He was at the Executive Office on Monday last and went to the Mansion early that day complaining of acute indigestion. He was much better last night and heard the lessons of his two children and solved a problem in arithmetic for his daughter, remarking, when he had finished it, that it was difficult, and her teacher would have found it so herself. He then went to bed, and at 11 o'clock he rang the electric bell and his daughter, Mary, came to his room, and he told her that he felt badly and he expected that she would have to sit up with him. At this time his grown daughter, Helen, came into the room and the Governor remarked: "I am fainting." He immediately fell back on his pillow and died instantly. Death is supposed to have resulted from neuralgia of the heart. He was sixty-one years old. He was an old Whig and was a Union man during the war and sympathized with the United States in that struggle. After the war he was appointed Judge of the Superior Court. While on the bench he sentenced a negro to be whipped at the whipping post, and General Daniel E. Sickles, who was in command of this department at that time, interfered with the troops and prevented the execution of the law. Immediately Judge Fowle resigned. From that time until elected Governor he held no public office.

Nearly Frantic.
Has it ever been your misfortune to be brought into frequent contact with a person excessively nervous? If so, you must be aware that trivial causes, unnoticed by the vigorous, drive a nervous invalid to the verge of distraction. It is as unnecessary to particularize these as it is impossible to guard against them. The root of the evil is usually imperfect digestion and assimilation. To assist these functions, and through their renewed, complete discharge to reinforce weak nerves