THE BLAND BILL NOT DEAD.

THE PRETENDED ABANDONMENT ONLY FOR EFFECT IN RHODE ISLAND.

SILVER DEMOCRATS STILL CIRCULATING THEIR PETITION—BLAND WILLING TO COMPROMISE ON A STANDING SPECIAL ORDER.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, March 30.—"Is the Bland bill dead for this session?" is a question which is asked by a good many members of the House of Representatives to-day. The free-silver leaders were more cheerful, not to say confident, to-day than they had been since Thursday night, and the "anti-silver" Democrats from New-England and New-York were several degrees less confident and happy than on Monday. The free-silver leaders seemed to have discovered that Speaker Crisp's sudden change of front in regard to the bringing in of a rule to stop filibustering on the Bland bill was not due to a change of opinion as to the merits of that measure or the desirability of passing it at this session, but to the appeals of some of his influential party friends, who declared that the passage of the bill on the eve of the Rhode Island election would inevitably swell the Republican majority in that State. There is no doubt whatever that great pressure was brought to bear on the Speaker and that he and some of his stanchest supporters were made to believe that if the House would drop the Bland bill until after the election the Democratic party in Rhode Island would be greatly benefited. It was strongly urged, moreover, that mere temporary postponement would not injure Democratic prospects in the South and West.

A number of Democratic Representatives, who are among the strongest advocates of the Bland bill, were induced to take this view of the matter and withhold for the time being, at least, their signatures to the petitions which were circulated on Monday; and the bearers of the petitions were persuaded to pursue their work as quietly as practicable. It was then proclaimed that Bland and his associates had abandoned the fight and that the bill was "dead." Mr. Bynum, of Indiana, who is one of the most rabid free silver men in the House, had been called to Rhode Island to deliver a Democratic campaign speech and while there had been impressed with the belief that Democratic prospects in that State would be seriously injured if the free silver programme in the House should not be checked until after April 6. He accordingly hastened back to Washington and exerted all his influence in that behalf. The radical free silver men had no choice but to consent to the new programme and with more or less good-will help to carry it out. But they have by no means lost hope or abandoned their purpose to force the Bland bill to a vote at this session. Messrs. Pierce, of Tennessee, Livingstone, of Georgia, and several other free-silver men are still busy with petitions. One of them said to a Tribune correspondent this afternoon:

"Our list of signers is steadily growing and I have no doubt that we shall be able to obtain the requisite number to justify the majority of the Committee on Rules in taking action which will result in bringing the bill to a vote. Yes, the list of signers now exceeds 100 and we need only 117."

When these figures were mentioned to Mr. Tracey and several other Democratic opponents of the bill, they declared them to be not only incorrect but preposterous. "Why," exclaimed Mr. Tracey, "we had eighty Democratic votes in favor of Burrows's motion to kill the bill and at least forty Democrats who were not with us then are with us now; now, 120 is more than a majority of the Democrats in the House. There is no danger, no possible danger, that the friends of the bill will obtain 117 signers, but even if they do, we are now strong enough to kill it outright whenever it comes to a vote. The bill is dead."

Some of the other Democratic opponents of the measure spoke in a less hopeful strain and all of them appeared to be surprised as well as annoyed by the persistence of the free-silver men. And yet it is not quite clear why they should feel surprised. The seat of a Southern or Western Congressman is just as dear to him as the seat of a New-York or New-England Congressman is to him. Southern Representatives especially are trembling for their future. It would probably be too strong to say that the failure of the House to pass the Bland bill would defeat Judge Crisp for renomination or re-election, but that even his return to Congress would be seriously imperilled by such failure is freely asserted by Democrats who are familiar with Southern politics. The declarations of Mr. Watson, of Georgia, were read with anxiety and fear today by dozens of Democratic Representatives from the South and West. Among other things he said:

The action in the House on the silver bill is the death knell of the old Democratic organization. Hundreds of thousands of voters in the Southern states have felt that if financial relief could be had Democracy, as now organized, would give that relief if it had a chance. With a majority of 148 in the House, it certainly had a chance to pass the Free Silver bill. It failed to do it. The most conservative Democrat in the South knows now that Democratic majorities wielded under the present organization mean absolutely nothing so far as practical legislation is concerned. No power on earth can now keep Georgia from going into the Electoral College with the People's party delegation. I confidently believe the same is true of several other Southern States. I have never ceased to claim that the Alliance demands upon which the People's party was founded were true Jeffersonian principles. I claim that to-day. But I believe now that the immense majority of the Democrats all over the South will come to our party as the truest exponent of the Jeffersonian principle of the rule of the people, as against the Hamilton doctrine of the rule of money and of the classes. Let it never be forgotten that Mr. Boutelle, of Maine, a Republican, asked the Tammany Democrats stop filibustering on the bill, and challenged the Democratic House to come at once to a Democratic vote on the bill itself. That challenge was refused, and refused by Democrats. In other words, a magnificent Democratic majority of 148 found itself absolutely powerless to legislate upon a mild measure of reform to which their party is committed, and upon which they have sought and obtained votes.

It is understood that Chairman Bland is willing to compromise with the Democrats who, while they profess earnestly to desire the speedy passage of the bill, insist that they cannot countenance a "gag rule"—such a rule, for example, as was applied by Speaker Crisp with so much vigor and complete success on March 21, before the journal had been read. Mr. Bland, in order to prevent the laceration of the sensibilities of the Democrats who are hiding behind that bush, has intimated that he will consent to the adoption of a rule which will make his bill a continuing special order until it is passed or defeated by ordinary modes of procedure. This rule, of course, would enable the opponents of the bill to filibuster against it indefinitely, but Mr. Bland seems to believe that they would finally be overcome and the measure brought to a direct vote. It may be that this compromise will be adopted.

SILVER MINES TO SHUT DOWN.

Denver, Col., March 30.—Advices to "The Times" say that Dr. Henry Paul, manager of the Aspen Consolidated Mining Company of Aspen, which embraces many valuable mines, and J. H. Ernestwater, who manages several rich silver mines at Telluride, Col., have received orders to shut down work in these properties within a week from now. The action will throw 1,000 men out of employment. The cause for closing down is the low prices being paid for silver. They say that in order to receive any profit from their mines it is necessary that they should receive at least 90 cents an ounce for silver. Other mines will probably be forced to shut down if the depression in this metal continues.

COMMITTEE CHANGES IN THE HOUSE.

Washington, March 30.—There were some changes made this afternoon in the House Committee membership. The most important was the appointment of Mr. Hopkins, of Illinois, to succeed Mr. McKenna, of California (now a United States Judge), as a member of the Committee on Ways and Means. Mr. Crain, of Texas, was also appointed to succeed Mr. Mills on the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Other appointments were as follows: Mr. Dunphy, of New-York, on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; Mr. Pickler, of South Dakota, on Indian Affairs; Mr. Hayes, of Iowa, on Postoffices; Mr. Enloe, of Tennessee, on Education (chairman); Mr. Wheeler, of Alabama, on Postoffices; Mr. Robinson, of Pennsylvania, on Columbian Exposition.

To bring about these changes Mr. Hopkins resigned from Merchant Marine and Fisheries and from Postoffice; Mr. Enloe from Postoffice, and Mr. Hayes from Education. Messrs. Crain, of Texas, and Bushanan, of New-Jersey, were also named as directors of the Columbian Hospital for Women in the District of Columbia.

NOMINATED FOR MINISTER TO JAPAN.

Washington, March 30.—The President to-day sent to the Senate the following nominations.

Frank L. Coombs, of California, to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to Japan.

To be Judges of Probate in Utah Territory: Edward B. Kirk, in Box Elder County; George W. Bartch, in Salt Lake County.

Frank L. Coombs, is not yet forty years of age, is a college graduate and by profession a lawyer. He served several terms in the California Legislature and was speaker of the last House. He is a native of California.

SPEED, SAFETY AND SATISFACTION.
These and more are afforded by the Through Western and Southern trains of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

DEBATE ON THE WOOL BILL.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS TRYING TO HELP THE PARTY IN RHODE ISLAND.

MEANING OF THE SUDDEN DECISION TO FORCE THE BILL THROUGH—SPEAKER CRISP OPPOSED TO UNDUE HASTE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, March 30.—How to manage the business of the House so as to help the Democratic party in Rhode Island seems to be the chief aim of the Democratic leaders just now. The sudden and unexpected decision to force the Free Wool bill through before that election is a part of the scheme. The majority of the Ways and Means Committee has been induced to believe that this will be a trump card for the Rhode Island Democrats. Chairman Springer shows that he has reached the stage of convalescence by sending word to his Democratic colleagues that he will come to the House on Monday and move to suspend the rules and pass the bill, and they have formally decided that this is the thing to be done. In furtherance of this scheme Mr. McMillin to-day gave public notice that he will move on Saturday to close general debate on the bill. It was also privately intimated that "a short time" will be allowed for the offering of amendments and debate under the five-minute rule on Monday before the motion is made to pass the bill.

Speaker Crisp is strongly opposed to this plan; he never has favored the passage of a revenue bill in that manner and will not do so now. If any attempt shall be made to force the bill through the House without allowing the minority full opportunity to offer amendments and debate them, there will probably be trouble. The bill is a bad one and surely needs amendment. The Republicans have not offered, nor have they shown a disposition to offer, captious opposition to the bill. It is one of the most important and far-reaching revenue bills which was ever brought before Congress, and it, moreover, proposes an entirely new departure in revenue legislation.

Neither the provisions nor probable effects of the bill upon the woollen manufacturing industry are understood. Operatives in Rhode Island woollen factories are asked and expected to take the word of Springer, McMillin and other free-trade theorists that a sharp reduction of the duties on woollen manufactures, so as to allow free foreign competition, will reduce the prices of woollen goods, and at the same time increase the wages of the men who made those goods. There are few farmers in Rhode Island who are flock owners, and therefore it will not be important to convince them that the repeal of the duties on wool will enhance the price of wool.

Mr. Butler, of Iowa, spoke in favor of the measure. He contended that the price of no article of consumption had ever been decreased one cent by a protective tariff, and that protection had not resulted in the increase of the wages of the workingman. There should be no tax on trade except what was necessary to meet the necessities of the Government economically administered.

Messrs. Lawson and Everett, of Georgia, favored the bill.

J. D. Taylor, of Ohio, speaking for the wool growers of Ohio, strenuously opposed the measure. He regretted to be compelled to call in question the integrity of the report made by the majority of the Committee on Ways and Means. But the figures in regard to wool and woollen industries were entirely inaccurate and absolutely untrustworthy. He argued that this country could produce all the wool that was needed. If in every Southern State the dogs could be killed and sheep substituted in their stead, the Southern section would be more prosperous. The south needed protection. Inside of ten years the South would be demanding protection for its cotton as to-day the people of Ohio were asking protection for their wool.

He predicted that free wool would be followed by free woollens in this country, as in England, and that the people would resent this conspiracy between the cotton raisers of the South and the wool manufacturers of the North to enrich themselves at the expense of our prosperity in time of peace and our independence in time of war. He called attention to the fact that in 1889 we imported $356,000,000 worth of agricultural products, $240,000,000 of which we can produce at home. The McKinley law was fast accomplishing this end, and we are increasing our money under it by keeping the balance of trade in our favor. During the last year our imports of clothing were reduced $20,000,000 and the product of our woollen mills increased $40,000,000. Clothing was never cheaper, wages were never better, homes were never happier, and when the present law had had time to dispel the clouds of agricultural depression the United States would be what Providence and the Republican party had made it, the grandest republic the world ever saw, and our people would continue to be the happiest people on the face of the earth.

Mr. Grady, of North Carolina, and Mr. Layton, of Ohio, favored the bill, as did also Mr. Crosby, of Massachusetts.

The committee then rose, and the House took a recess until 8 o'clock.

THE PENSION OFFICE INVESTIGATION.

FURTHER QUESTIONING OF COMMISSIONER RAUM ON THE CONDUCT OF HIS OFFICE.

Washington, March 30.—The examination of Commissioner Raum was resumed to-day by the Special Pension Office Investigating Committee of the House. Mr. Enloe asked the reasons for the dismissal of Edward Renaud, a Pension Office clerk.

The Commission read three letters, in two of which he asked the dismissal of Renaud from the Pension Office. In these letters Mr. Raum called attention to articles which had appeared in The New-York Tribune, criticising the conduct of Pension Office officials and commenting particularly upon one case. The Commissioner wrote that Mr. Renaud admitted having the papers in this case on his desk, but gave no explanation as to why he had the papers on his desk. Mr. Renaud's duties did not require him to examine the papers, and he had no right to take the papers from the files.

The articles could not have been written without these papers; and while Mr. Renaud denied having written or inspired the articles, he admitted being a writer for The Tribune. The articles were misstatements of the case. Mr. Raum, in his letter, further stated that Renaud, after Commissioner Black went out of office, boasted of having written the well-known "physical wreck" articles, and Mr. Raum demanded his dismissal, on the ground that no clerk in the Department should be permitted to attack the head of the bureau in which he served. Renaud was dismissed from the Pension Office. Subsequently he was employed in the Census Office, and witness wrote a third letter to Secretary Noble calling his attention to Renaud's employment. Renaud was still in the Census Office. To Mr. Enloe, the Commissioner said he had never heard that Secretary Noble had said the statements in the articles were true.

A Tribune correspondent denied that Renaud had written the articles or furnished the facts. Renaud had refused to assist the witness in ascertaining the name of the author. Renaud had never said the papers were put on his desk by mistake.

Mr. Enloe asked the Commissioner how long it was since The New-York Tribune had ceased to make war upon his administration.

The Commissioner said he really could not tell. He was not usually a reader of The Tribune.

Q.—Did you send anybody to see Mr. Russell Harrison, or did you go to see him, to ask him to use his influence with the manager or the controlling powers of The Tribune to stop this attack upon your administration? A.—I did not.

Q.—Do you know of anybody being to see him for that purpose? A.—I do not know anything about it.

Q.—Do you know of Mr. Lemon having performed such a service? A.—I have no knowledge or information on the subject.

Q.—Do you know of anybody having spoken to Mr. Whitelaw Reid to get him to stop this correspondence attacking your administration? A.—I have no knowledge of it.

Q.—Have you ever heard of such a thing? A.—I understand that one of the principal men of The Tribune office was in the city here and that he had some conversation, probably at the Secretary's office. It was probably with General Bussey. I did not see the gentleman and had no conversation with him.

Q.—Do you know what the conversation with General Bussey was? A.—I do not. I learned that the gentleman seemed to be labouring under the impression that the Department was much dissatisfied with my management of the Pension Office, and that they informed him quite to the contrary—that they thought I was giving to the country a good administration of the Pension Office.

Q.—Was it General Bussey who told you so? A.—He informed me of something of that kind. I suppose that this gentleman also saw Secretary Noble, but I did not have any conversation with Mr. Noble about it. I did have with General Bussey. He volunteered to make the statement.

Q.—Did General Bussey state that that matter had been arranged? A.—He said that this gentleman was somewhat surprised at being informed that the Department thought that my administration was good and that the criticisms upon it were not just.

Q.—Did General Bussey tell you that Russell Harrison and Mr. Lemon and other gentlemen had interceded with this man? A.—No, sir; that is entirely new to me.

Q.—You have not heard what it was that brought this man here from New-York? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What was his name? A.—I cannot recall his name. I was not acquainted with him.

Q.—Have you not understood that the influence of the Administration was brought to bear on Mr. Whitelaw Reid to stop these attacks? A.—I have no direct information on the subject.

Q.—I do not suppose you have any direct information; but has not that been your understanding? A.—I cannot state that I have any information on the subject. Persons have spoken to me with some indignation about the manner in which The Tribune was conducting itself in the matter, and said that Mr. Reid ought to be spoken to.

Q.—Did the President ever express himself to you in that way? A.—No, sir; I never talked with the President about it.

Q.—Did Russell Harrison? A.—I never said a word to Mr. Harrison on the subject.

Q.—Did Mr. Lemon? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Who were the persons who expressed themselves as you say. A.—I cannot tell you. Many persons coming into the office and talking about these articles thought it a little curious that one of the principal bureaus of the Government should be attacked by The Tribune while Mr. Whitelaw Reid was a Minister at Paris.

Q.—While he was holding a position under the Administration? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did they express to you the idea that anybody holding a public position under the Government and having control of a public journal should muzzle his paper? A.—I have no information on the subject.

The examination then recurred to the subject of the dismissal of clerks in the Pension Office.

THE INDIAN BILL IN THE SENATE.

DISCUSSION OVER THE HOUSE PROVISION TO EMPLOY ARMY OFFICERS AS AGENTS.

Washington, March 30.—In the Senate to-day, the Indian Appropriation bill having been taken up, the discussion which was begun last week on the subject of Army officers being assigned to the duties of Indian agents was again taken up. Mr. Pettigrew opposed the proposition as a step backward, and argued that Army officers did not possess the necessary qualifications and were not familiar with the business.

Some of the points made by Mr. Pettigrew were replied to by Mr. Proctor—particularly one as to the troubles at Pine Ridge. If there had been three or four Army officers at the Pine Ridge Agency, Mr. Proctor believed that those troubles would not have occurred there, and that millions of money expended and the lives lost there would have been saved.

A dissertation upon the general policy of the country followed on the part of Mr. Peffer.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Hawley, who favored the proposed assignment of Army officers to the duties of Indian agents, and who was inclined to think the better of it the more objections he heard urged against it; and by Mr. Manderson, who expressed his belief that the House provision was a wise one, and that, with Army officers as Indian agents, the era of bad blankets, shoddy clothing and rancid bacon would be at an end.

Mr. Hawley moved to amend the House provision by adding to it a proviso that whenever the President shall be of opinion that the good of the service specially requires it he may appoint a civilian. He was asked by Mr. Palmer whether the word "specially" had any significance, and replied it had, in common conversation, and that the law was not much of a fool.

The discussion, which had lasted over two hours, was closed by Mr. Dawes, chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, who had charge of the bill, in an argument against the House provision, as being a radical change in the administration of the Indian service—a change sprung by a single member of the House—which had not received the sanction of any executive officer. He complimented Mr. Proctor's brilliant administration of the War Department, although the Pine Ridge difficulties, which had occurred during that administration, "resulting in a cold-blooded butchery of 150 men and women and a debt of $2,500,000, formed no part of its glory." If civil places were wanted for the 200 supernumerary highly educated Army officers why not (Mr. Dawes asked) find places for them in the customs service, which was so rotten, or in the land office service, which had been so run out with by political hucksters out in the Western country? The Committee on Appropriations, he stated, were unanimous in recommending that the House provision be struck out.

Finally Mr. Hawley's amendment to the House provision was agreed to, and without reaching a vote on the amendment to strike out the House provision, the Senate, at 5 p. m., adjourned till to-morrow.

BOURKE COCKRAN'S SHIPPING BILL.

REALLY A MEASURE TO BENEFIT TRANSATLANTIC STEAMSHIP COMPANIES.

Washington, March 30 (Special).—The House Committee on Merchant Marine to-day reported favorably Bourke Cockran's bill "to encourage American ship building." Mr. Cockran's scheme provides for admission to American registry of such foreign built steamships engaged in freight and passenger business and sailing in an established line from a port in the United states as are of a tonnage of not less than 5,000 tons and capable of a speed of not less than twenty knots per hour, according to the existing method of Government test for speed, of which not less than 90 per centum of the shares of the capital of the foreign corporation or association owning the same was owned January 1, 1890, and has continued to be owned until the passage of this act, by citizens of the United states, including as such citizens' corporations created under the laws of any of the States thereof, upon the American owners of such majority interest obtaining a full and complete transfer and title to such steamships from the foreign corporations owning the same:

"Provided, That such American owners shall, subsequent to the date of this law, have built, or have contracted to build, in American shipyards, steamships of an aggregate tonnage of not less in amount than that of the steamships so admitted to registry."

The foreign built steamships thus admitted to American registry are not to be employed in the coastwise commerce of the United states.

Section 4 provides:

That any steamships so registered under the provisions of this act may be taken and used by the United States as cruisers or transports upon payment to the owners of the fair actual value of the same at the time of the taking, and if there shall be a disagreement as to the fair actual value at the time of taking between the United states and the owners, then the same shall be determined by two impartial appraisers, one to be appointed by each of said parties, who, in case of disagreement, shall select a third, the award of any two of the three so chosen to be final and conclusive.

This bill is, to all intents and purposes, a "Free ship bill," for the benefit of such transatlantic steamship companies as may choose to take advantage of it in case it shall become a law; and the title of it, at least, ought to be amended.

THAT ITALIAN INDEMNITY

GOOD AUTHORITY FOR THE BELIEF THAT GOVERNOR PORTER'S FRIENDS WERE WELL INFORMED.

Washington, March 30 (special).—"Indianapolis is a curious place, anyway, from which to get diplomatic news," a "prominent official" of the State Department is quoted by "The Star" as saying to-day, in regard to the dispatch printed in The Tribune this morning announcing a settlement of the New-Orleans incident by the payment of 100,000 francs to the relatives of the victims of the mob. "Very little credence," says "The Star," "is placed in the story by officials in this city. At the State Department to-day a 'Star' reporter was told that nothing was known of any proposition to pay such an indemnity, and it is not thought likely that the President would act in the matter without a special appropriation."

The informant of "The Star" is either ignorant of what is going on, or chooses to appear so. There is good authority for saying that the friends of ex-Governor Porter in Indianapolis were well informed, and that a settlement of the question growing out of the New-Orleans incident by the payment of an indemnity of 100,000 francs has practically been determined upon. The Indianapolis dispatch to The Tribune was in every essential particular apparently correct.

SENATOR STANFORD'S FINANCIAL BILL.

Washington, March 30.—Senator Stanford, of California, addressed the senate in support of the bill introduced by him to determine the value of a legal tender dollar. Money, he said, is the creature of the law. The Government declares what money is and makes it, and does not allow any one else to do so, not even the states. If the credit of the Government is impaired, its money will be affected to a certain extent, and then it is possible that the material used may, in its commercial value as a collateral to its legal-tender quality, determine the value of the money used. The Land Loan bill introduced by him, Senator Stanford said, provides that the Government may loan money upon double the amount of landed security, that is, $1 upon $2 worth of land at 2 per cent interest on the amount loaned, the money issued in this manner to be legal tender. A sufficiency of money means to every one a credit according to their deserts for the transaction of every calling and enterprise that may offer.

THE NEW CUSTOM HOUSE AT NEW-YORK.

Washington, March 30.—Representative Fellows, of New-York, to-day introduced a bill amendatory to the act approved March 3, 1891, providing for the erection of a new Custom House in New-York City. Section 1 of the bill provides that in the event the sum of money necessary to secure title by purchase or condemnation of the property in New-York bounded by Bowling Green, Whitehall, Bridge and State sts., as a site for a new Custom House, shall exceed the sum appropriated by the act providing for the erection of an appraiser's warehouse, approved September 14, 1888 and available therefor, then such excess may be paid from any money which may be derived from the sale of the Custom House property in Wall-st., under the provisions of this act and of the act of March 3, 1891. Section 2 of the act of March 3, 1891, is amended so as to authorize the secretary of the Treasury to sell to the highest bidder, but for not less than $3,000,000, the present Custom House property, the proceeds of which are appropriated for the purpose set forth in Section 1 and for the construction of the new Custom House. If sold, the secretary is to lease the premises at a rental not exceeding 5 per cent per annum on the purchase price, for use as a Custom House until a new Custom House is ready for occupancy.

The total cost of the new Custom House building is not to exceed $3,000,000, but no additional appropriation is made.

MR. MILLS TAKES HIS SEAT.

Washington, March 30 (special).—Mr. Mills appeared to-day in the Senate for the first time since his election as Mr. Chilton's successor, and on motion of Mr. Coke, his colleague, was duly and speedily sworn in as a member of the "deliberative branch" of Congress. Some sentimental interest was sought to be attached to the ceremony by the announcement that Mr. Mills had delayed his transfer to the Senate so that it should fall exactly on his sixtieth birthday, but as the ex-leader of the House has always declined to give either the date or place of his birth in the autobiographical sketches which he has contributed to "The Congressional Directory," the coincidence could not be established beyond doubt. Mr. Mills was warmly welcomed into the Senate, where he has already many friends, and a score of his more immediate followers in the Speakership canvass of last December came over from the House to see him take his new office and to congratulate him afterward on the logic of a much altered and more distinctly satisfactory situation. The ex-leader of the House is not quite so fortunate in his entry into the Senate, however, as was his old-time friend and colleague ex-Speaker Carlisle. Mr. Mills succeeds a Senator of short service and inconspicuous standing, and consequently inherits committee appointments of little value. The four committees on which he secures places are Coast Defences, Mines and Mining, Patents, and Postoffices and Post Roads—the last being the only one of even second-rate rank. Mr. Carlisle, it will be remembered, went at once on the Committee on Finance—an assignment which generally comes to a Senator only through unusual good luck or long and tedious promotion.

PUBLIC MEN SPEAK.

OPINIONS OF IMPORTANCE FREELY EXPRESSED.

Most Interesting and Valuable Facts Brought Out in an Interview by Our Correspondent.

Washington, D. C., March 30.—The interviews with various prominent men which I recently sent you as to the apparently mysterious cause of the untimely and sudden deaths among them has aroused a great deal of excitement.

Senators, representatives and heads of departments all declare that unless some steps can be taken to avoid the killing strains of public life, few prominent men would care to run for office. Traced to its source, it has become fully apparent that there is one great cause for it all, and that cause is the wearing strains upon certain organs of the body which cause their tissue to give way, and hence bring about sickness or sudden death. I continued the investigation, which was reported yesterday, by calling upon a number of leading public men.

Hon. Daniel Lockwood, genial and whole-souled, has an extensive knowledge of the public men of the country. He was well aware of the strains to which they are subjected, and the sudden deaths which have been so prevalent. "It would seem," he said, "as though there should be some way of preventing these things. Our grandfathers had family remedies that seemed to preserve health and prolong life, and it would appear as though some modern discovery should be found which would answer the same purpose for the added strains of modern life. I think if any one has such a discovery it is certainly my friend Warner with his famous Safe Cure. I know of a great many people who use it constantly, and I have in mind one gentleman connected with the Government Printing Office here who, together with his wife, has occasion to be exceedingly grateful for the restored health and strength which Warner's Safe Cure has imparted."

Hon. H. S. Greenleaf was found in the House of Representatives. He said: "The exhaustions of public life are certainly very great, but so also are the strains of business life, of professional life, of social life. I have personal acquaintance with Mr. Warner, the discoverer of the celebrated Safe Cure, and I consider it far superior to any or all other preparations. Certainly any article as popular as that and selling as extensively as it does, must have unusual merit."

Probably the most remarkable case of a Government official brought to death's door and then rescued is that of Mr. J. Henderson Wilkinson, a prominent attorney of this city. In conversation with me he said: "Ten years ago I was seized with an attack of Bright's disease. I was then at work in the Treasury here. I know it was Bright's disease for several reasons. In early life I studied medicine some little time. I knew from my symptoms what my trouble was, but I was also in the hands of my physicians. How badly I became you can understand when I say that my hands became bloated and actually cracked open. My limbs and body would alternately swell and collapse. I could only creep across the floor. Finally my physician said to me: 'You are at death's door with Bright's disease. You may live a few weeks, but there is absolutely no hope of your recovery.' Although I was so very sick, my friends did not desert me. Numbers of them called to express their sympathy. Colonel Daniel A. Grosvenor, Judge Tarbel, Rev. Dr. Rankin, Colonel Robert M. Douglas—more than a hundred prominent men—extended to me their sympathy. None supposed for a moment I could ever recover. Upon the advice of the Rev. Dr. Rankin, now president of the Howard University, I began the use of a preparation of which I had but little knowledge. I began to improve at once. I continued its use, nothing else, and I state to you to-day that I owe my life solely to Warner's Safe Cure, which rescued me from the grave after the doctors had abandoned all hope. I am certain that if men and women generally fully realized the wonderful power of this great discovery, and used it faithfully, there would be less sickness, fewer deaths, longer life and more happiness than at present."

I was greatly impressed with Mr. Wilkinson's earnestness of manner. Certain it is that his statement is true, and that he is today in perfect health.

Senator Blackburn not only knows what wearing strains of political life are, but also of the power which the great discovery above mentioned has shown both in Washington and throughout the land. Indeed, he is a living example of its efficiency.

I saw Senator W. C. Squire, Mr. H. C. Clark, of the First Auditor's Office; Captain J. G. Ball and many others, and their statements amply confirmed all I had previously learned.

Mr. Abraham I. Hahn, well known in newspaper and army circles, said: "Personally I have used Warner's Safe Cure, and consider it the best medicine in the world for the diseases it is recommended to cure. A member of my family has also been cured after several physicians had failed to do any good."

Mr. H. McNeil, a highly educated man, a graduate of a medical college, said: "I have frequently heard Mrs. Hahn mention Warner's Safe Cure, and its highly beneficial effect."

Wherever I went I found the testimony the same. It was generally admitted that the strains of public life in Washington were wearing and shortening to the life, but it was universally conceded that for overcoming these tendencies, for strengthening the vitality, toning the health and prolonging the life, nothing had ever been known equal to the great remedy I have above described.

THREE MEN OVERCOME IN A SEWER.

RESCUED BY A COMPANION AND DRAGGED UNCONSCIOUS TO THE STREET.

Evidences of illuminating gas were discovered several days ago in the sewer which runs from the bulkhead at Fulton and Nassau sts. under Nassau-st., Broadway and Dey-st. The contract for cleaning this sewer is let out by the Department of Public Works to John Sentine. At 7 o'clock last night Mr. Sentine with six men began an examination for the purpose of finding where the leak was. They began operations at the corner of Fulton-st. and Broadway. Three of the men were sent into the sewer through the manhole, while the remaining three remained above to haul up the buckets of dirt. The work went on smoothly for ten minutes. Then there was a delay and the men in the sewer ceased work. Those above grew impatient. They peered into the dark hole, into which they were afraid to lower a light, and called to their companions below. There was no response.

Each of the three men who had not entered the sewer were in turn commanded to go to the assistance of their comrades and each refused. Threats and entreaties were in vain, until one of them, named John O'Brien, finally said: "I'll go if it kills me."

His companions tied a rope about his body and lowered the man into the hole. Three minutes later the signal to pull up the rope was given, and the first man was dragged to the street. He was unconscious. In quick succession the other two unconscious men were brought to the surface and laid upon the sidewalk before an ambulance was summoned. O'Brien was then hauled up from his perilous position half dazed.

The three men soon recovered consciousness and started for their homes. They refused to give their names, and the firemen would not tell who they were. When the ambulance arrived there were no patients for the hospital.

O'Brien said afterward: "The three men who were overcome were Italians. When I went into the sewer I found them lying in the mud. There was a strong smell of gas, but I did not feel dizzy until I had finished my work and returned to the street."

After the accident an attempt was made to continue the work, but little was done.

YOUNG HOUSON WAS A BAD MARKSMAN.

Arthur J. Houson, a good-looking, well-dressed man of thirty, attempted to commit suicide by shooting himself on the Fall River Line steamer Plymouth at 5 o'clock yesterday morning. Three shots were heard and the door of his stateroom was broken open by the watchman. Houson was found lying in his berth, groaning, and the stateroom was filled with smoke. No one of the bullets had taken effect. The noise of the shooting alarmed the passengers and caused a panic among them for a time. Houson had written a long and well-written letter, addressed to F. P. Rutter, of Waltham, Mass., in which he said that he was going to take his own life because he had lost his job and was discouraged. In the Tombs Police Court yesterday the young man said he came from Lewes, England. Judge Duffy decided to hold him until his friends could be communicated with.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE MARKETS.

FEATURES OF NEW-YORK DEALINGS.

The wheat market developed considerable irregularity yesterday, but the final drift favored the "bears" and general losses were scored on all the months. With firmer private cables from Liverpool and an advance of 3 pence a quarter at Liverpool, the start was a strong one. Prices eventually rose 1-4@1-2 cent and local "shorts" covered freely, while there was more or less foreign buying. "Bradstreet's" estimated a decrease of 1,350,000 bushels on both coasts and the seaboard clearances were liberal. March options at one period ruled fully 1 1-4 cents higher, owing to a premium of 8 cents on cash No. 2 red over May. This gain, however, was subsequently lost and the close was 1 1-4 cents lower. The late cables were generally "bearish" and this led to "long" selling. Crop reports from the West were favorable and a Chicago dispatch announced that manigaulon would probably be opened by April 10. French advices reported fine weather with prospects of a full average crop. All this had a depressing influence and final figures showed a decline of 5-8@7-8 cent. The speculation reached 6,000,000 bushels, spot lots were unsettled, closing heavy. Exporters took twelve loads and millers four.

Corn was not particularly active and no special features were developed. There was a rise of 1-4@5-8 cent early on strong Western advices, coupled with comparatively small receipts. Then a reaction set in and the advance was mostly lost, July closing 1-8 cent lower. The spot market was firm. Fourteen loads were taken for export.

Oats were weak on better crop prospects. Options closed 3-8@1-2 cent down. The cash market was quiet, closing weak.

Lard was 7@8 points lower on freer selling at the West. No export business was done.

The closing quotations were as follows:

Wheat—March, 94 3-4 cents; April, 94 cents; May, 91 1-4 cents; June, 89 3-8 cents; July, 89 5-8 cents.

Corn—March, 48 3-8 cents; April, 48 3-8 cents; May, 47 cents; June, 45 3-4 cents; July, 46 cents.

Oats—March, 34 5-8 cents, April, 34 5-8 cents; May, 34 3-8 cents; June, 34 cents; July, 33 3-4 cents.

Lard—May, $6 53; July, $6 64.

The receipts at New-York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore were: Wheat, 159,831 bushels; corn, 201,426 bushels; oats, 128,573 bushels; total grain, 489,830 bushels; flour, 62,538 packages. The receipts at Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Louis were: Wheat, 125,826 bushels; corn, 511,494 bushels; oats, 328,750 bushels; total grain, 966,070 bushels; flour, 47,037 packages.

TRADE IN CHICAGO.

Chicago, March 30 (Special).—Wheat opened strong; it closed weak. May opened at 80 3-8 cents, sold between 80 1-2 and 79 1-4 cents, and closed at 79 3-8 cents. New-York and St. Louis sold July wheat; Pardridge sold the May. Crop reports were more favorable. The McCormick Harvester Company reports that it expects as big a crop as for any year except last, and is making its business arrangements on that basis. Minneapolis sent the report that 500,000 No. 1 wheat had been worked there on all-rail basis, but the report was received with incredulity. Receipts here were light, ninety-nine cars; and were lighter in the Northwest, 584. New-York reported clearances of over 400,000 bushels, and Bradstreet's made a decrease in the available of 1,357,000 bushels. Neither prevailed against the New-York and St. Louis selling. Wet weather and lighter receipts made a firm corn market, firm in spite of the decline in wheat. May opened at 40 7-8 cents, sold to 40 1-2 cents, and closed at 40 1-2 cents. There were only 225 cars this morning; only one of the lot graded contract; the estimate for Wednesday was only 195 cars. There was open selling by the Cudahy interest; but it was regarded as a "milking" process. Oats were firm in sympathy with corn. The talk of a late spring and prospects of wet weather had also some influence. May sold between 29 1-4 and 28 3-4 cents and closed at 28 7-8. Provisions were very weak. There were more hogs than expected, 29,000; the estimate for Wednesday was 30,000. It also looked as if some liquidation was being done for Wright. May pork sold from $10 37 to $10 12 and closed at $10 17; May lard from $6 30 to $6 17 and closed at $6 20; May ribs from $5 70 to $5 55 and closed at $5 60.

THE PETROLEUM MARKET.

Dealings in crude petroleum were more active at the Consolidated Exchange yesterday than has been the rule during the long-continued stagnation in this form of speculative operations, but the quotations had a downward tendency throughout the day, with a partial rally at the close. The sales of National Transit certificates amounted to 75,000 barrels, at 55 3-8@54 5-8@55 cents. Refined oil in barrels was quoted at 6.10 cents, in bulk at 3.60, and in cases at 7.70 cents; crude in barrels at 5.40, and in bulk at 2.90 cents.

Foreign quotations were: Antwerp, 14 francs; Bremen, 6.05 marks; London, 5 1-4@5 3-8 pence.

COTTON MARKETS—BY TELEGRAPH.

Liverpool, March 30, 4 p. m.—The sales of the day included 7,700 bales American. Futures closed easy; American—Middling, low middling clause, March delivery, 3 35-64d sellers; March and April delivery, 3 35-64d sellers; April and May delivery, 3 35-64d sellers; May and June delivery, 3 38-64d sellers; June and July delivery, 3 40-64d@3 41-64d; July and August delivery, 3 43-64d buyers; August and September delivery, 3 46-64d buyers; September delivery, 3 49-64d sellers; September and October delivery, 3 49-64d sellers.

Galveston, March 30.—Cotton dull; middling, 6 7-16c; low middling, 5 7-8c; good ordinary, 5 1-4c; net and gross receipts, 2,434 bales; exports to Great Britain, 12,611 bales; sales, 98 bales; stock, 42,045 bales.

Norfolk, March 30.—Cotton quiet; middling, 6 1-2c. Net receipts, 552 bales; gross, 752 bales; exports, coastwise, 1,056 bales; sales, 229 bales. Stock, 37,821 bales.

Savannah, March 30.—Cotton easy; middling, 6 1-4c; low middling, 5 7-8c; good ordinary, 5 1-2c; net and gross receipts, 1,132 bales; exports coastwise, 2,123 bales; sales, 750 bales; stock, 60,342 bales.

New-Orleans, March 30.—Cotton quiet and firm; middling, 6 3-8c; low middling, 5 3-4c; good ordinary, 5 1-4c; net receipts, 3,973 bales; gross, 5,553 bales; exports to Great Britain, 5,350 bales; to France, 5,025 bales; coastwise, 8,003 bales; sales,