New-York Tribune.

VOL. LV...No. 17,969. NEW-YORK, SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 1896.—THIRTY-TWO PAGES. PRICE FIVE CENTS.

CZAR AND SULTAN.

IS THERE AN UNDERSTANDING

COMMENT ON THE RUMORED RUSSO-TURKISH ALLIANCE.

WHAT ABDUL HAMID MIGHT GAIN BY A RUSSIAN PROTECTORATE—APPARENT ENGLISH INDIFFERENCE TO THE ARRANGEMENT—THE SIAMESE CONVENTION NOT POPULAR IN FRANCE—GROWTH OF THE CONCILIATORY SENTIMENT IN REGARD TO VENEZUELA—SENATOR WOLCOTT'S SPEECH COMMENDED—THE IMPENDING CHARTERED COMPANY INVESTIGATION.

[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

(Copyright, 1896: By The Tribune Association.)

London, Jan. 25.—After champagne, cold water is not an exhilarating drink. The discussion of foreign topics has been dull this week, and the public has lacked the stimulus of exciting events and startling surprises. "The Pall Mall Gazette" has attempted to enliven affairs by printing a Constantinople dispatch in relation to an offensive and defensive alliance between Russia and Turkey. The news is not officially confirmed from any capital and is discredited at the Foreign Office, but it is seriously discussed by all the journals except "The Times," which recently had a painful experience of its own with a similar disclosure, the alleged secret treaty between Russia and China. If the Sultan has put himself in the hands of Russia, he has chosen a strange time for the surrender of any rights. He has apparently baffled the combined resources of six Powers and triumphed all along the line. When he has succeeded in bringing the diplomacy of Europe to naught, why should he seek an offensive and defensive alliance with any single Power? Why should he abandon his permanent policy of playing off one Power against another? On this ground alone the rumored convention may be regarded as improbable.

Still, there are certain inferences which seem to render the disclosure reasonable. Russia has thwarted England during the recent complications in Constantinople and has broken up the European concert. Russia has rendered the Sultan important service, and may have bargained in advance for this treaty. Turkey, moreover, owes Russia a good deal of money. Russia may have demanded payment of an instalment of the indemnity fund and secured this treaty from the bankrupt Government under financial pressure. The Sultan, too, has been directly under the influence of the Russian and French Ministers, and may have consented to the revival of the treaty of Unkiar-Skelessi as an act of retributive justice to England for attempting to coerce him. While these and other conjectures can be formed, the secrets of diplomacy are not obtained in Constantinople so easily as in Washington.

If Russia has adopted measures by which the Black Sea is converted into a private pond, with a free outlet for her navy, the truth of the disclosure will not be admitted by any responsible diplomatist. The story may not be true, but denials do not settle it, for these would be forthcoming in any event.

What is more to the point is the temper of the English journals in discussing the general subject. Even with a flying squadron available for service, there are no suggestions from any source that the Cyprus convention now binds England to protect the frontier of Asiatic Turkey, or that the Sultan should be prevented from flinging himself into the arms of Russia. Indeed, signs are not wanting that the English people would be relieved if Russia were to assume the moral responsibility for the future conduct of the Sultan, since Europe has been unable to prevent or avenge the slaughter of the Armenians. The Sultan accepted from Lord Beaconsfield a British protectorate over his dominions and made a bad bargain, for he lost Cyprus and got nothing in return worth having. A Russian protectorate may be worth more, and certainly cannot be worth less.

The Sultan wants two things: The privilege of ending his days on the throne and money to pay the expenses of the palace. If Russia will guarantee these, the alliance will not be a bad bargain for him, nor is there any evidence in the present tone of public discussion in England that such a coalition would lead to war with Russia. The main point that is made is that the transit of the straits, free for one, must be free for all, but little stress is laid even upon that.

Sir John Tenniel hits off the main situation with a cartoon representing John Bull and Mme. France seated on a bench under a tree and casting sly glances at each other, with remarks aside: "She's rather an attractive woman," and "After all, he's not so bad." This expresses the rapprochement as embodied in the Siam convention and the Niger-Tunis stipulations. But the Russian is on the other side of the tree, close to Madame, if "The Pall Mall Gazette's" story be true, for the French Minister is reported to have consented to the Constantinople intrigue.

The news of the Siam convention is received coldly in France, although it is evidently a good stroke of diplomatic business for the Radical Ministry. Apparently the French people have a keener zest for an intrigue with Russia, in which nothing is to be gained, than for a fairly good bargain with England. The Ministers are reproached, not for having made a bad arrangement on the Mekong, but for having entered into closer diplomatic relations with England. That is not a popular policy in France.

The feeling of public confidence that the Venezuela question will be adjusted amicably has increased steadily during the week. Every Minister who speaks, whether it is Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Goschen, or the Marquis of Lansdowne, is conciliatory. Jingoism here has abated, and it has not at any time been directed against America. Some irritation was caused by the text of the Davis resolution, but this was at once allayed by Senator Wolcott's speech, which has been received with hearty satisfaction by Englishmen. The text of Justice Brewer's letter disarmed critics, who had assumed indignation over the Commission's reported demand for the presentation of British evidence.

Several journals have even suggested that points of dignity might be waived and the British case actually argued before the Commission, but the general opinion of the English press is that the Government cannot recognize that tribunal in any form. Some keen critics have argued that the Commission, by disclaiming the functions of an Arbitration Board and assuming modestly the duties of an information bureau, has counteracted the effect of Mr. Cleveland's undiplomatic and menacing language.

The tone toward Mr. Cleveland himself is changing. Englishmen are now disposed to believe that he is anxious to settle the question as soon as possible, having found out that the Commission is an impracticable expedient. Direct action with Venezuela is regarded as the easiest method of adjusting the boundary dispute, and indications that President Cleveland is disposed to favor that course are welcomed. Doubt is expressed with regard to his ability to control the action of Venezuela, but nobody questions the willingness of Lord Salisbury to make large concessions for effecting a compromise. If diplo-

Continued on Fifth Page.

WORKING AGAINST M'KINLEY.

POLITICAL REVELATIONS IN OHIO.

DISCLOSURES BROUGHT OUT BY A "RIPPER" BILL—ALLEGED CONFERENCES OF ANTI-M'KINLEY MEN WITH REPUBLICANS IN THE EAST.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Toledo, Ohio, Jan. 25.—The introduction of a "ripper" bill for this city, the author of which is the present Mayor, Guy G. Major, which bill delegates absolute authority to the Mayor for the appointment of every city official, high and low, and which is being bitterly fought, special trains carrying loads of people to the State capital, has brought out the details of a deal reaching into National politics. Mayor Major, George B. Cox, the Cincinnati boss, and Charles Kurtz, formerly Governor Foraker's secretary, and the chairman of the State Republican Committee, are close friends. The assertion has been boldly made that every man on the Municipal Committee of the Ohio House of Representatives stands practically pledged to the support of the "ripper" legislation, that he gave his promise to that effect before he was named, and that it was all a part of the deal to secure Toledo's votes in the State Convention for Bushnell, as against Judge Doyle, a home candidate. Several weeks before the convention met, Major met Kurtz and Cox at Cincinnati, and a deal for the delivery of a Bushnell-Foraker delegation arranged.

This fight over a new city charter in a way branches out into National affairs, according to one of Major's most intimate friends, who got the information from Major himself, but who is angered over Major's attempt to foist so radical a "ripper" upon the people. He says:

"You remember the last time Major went to New-York and remained several days? Do you know who else was there? Well, Cox, Kurtz, Platt, Quay, Clarkson, two or three Western men and our own Guy were there, and the situation was carefully canvassed. The Ohio crowd was satisfied that a delegation could be secured from Ohio that might be handled in such a manner as would eternally lay the Presidential aspirations of Governor McKinley and his friends in the shade. Now, this may sound somewhat as though our little Mayor had been getting into tall timber, but Cox has taken a fancy to him, and whatever Cox says goes with 'Charley' Kurtz, and whatever Kurtz says goes a long distance just at present with Eastern opponents of McKinley. Mind, I never heard Major or any of his friends intimate that Foraker was at all mixed up in this mess, but his friends in Northwestern Ohio are determined to knock McKinley out, if at all possible.

"The fine Italian hand of Platt is discernible through all of this little list of queer transactions. It has been said, you know, that for many years the State of New-York has generally controlled the ultimate result in the National conventions of all parties. Ohio has also exercised a wonderful influence on these occasions. This being the case, what can be expected of a coalition of the two States, recognized powers in Republican National conventions? This I do know: that should the present measure not pass the General Assembly of Ohio, another bill will be presented somewhat modified, but practically of the same import in a general way. The combination is bound to carry its point, and step by step the various little schemes will be worked out, and they will culminate, if allowed to get through, in a giant effort to accomplish the carefully planned coup in the end. Now mark this: If that bill comes to a vote in both Houses every member who votes for its passage may be put down as at heart an anti-McKinley man, and when the time comes for the selection of delegates to the St. Louis convention, keep an eye on those men and see that they do not get upon the State delegation.

"Every man of them who gets on the list may be counted on, in a comparative degree, to lessen the chances for McKinley's nomination for the Presidency. They will make open protestations of fidelity, and would probably vote for McKinley should he be nominated, but their object is to see to it that he falls short of the nomination. The Toledo 'ripper' is only a factor in the general scheme, the Ohio end of which is entirely in the hands of George Cox and 'Charley' Kurtz, two of the smoothest political articles ever done up in nice packages."

Entire confirmation of this story comes from Columbus and Cleveland to-night, and even William M. Hahn, State Insurance Commissioner and Governor McKinley's close adviser, is confident the plan is well laid and that nothing short of a tremendous effort will upset it. The feeling here in Ohio is that the delegation is to be used for Morton as first choice and will go to Allison providing it shall become apparent that Morton cannot be nominated.

Albany, Jan. 25 (Special).—News reached here to-day that John Palmer, the Secretary of State, went West with Senator-elect Foraker, of Ohio, yesterday as far as Rochester. Republican politicians believe that Captain Palmer received a telegram from Thomas C. Platt to head off Mr. Foraker here, accompany him some distance through the State and expatiate upon the iridescent hues of the Morton boom—that, at least, is the statement given out by Mr. Morton's friends in this city. Whether or not Captain Palmer succeeded in his mission will not be known until he returns here. He is reported to have gone to the Soldiers' Home at Bath from Rochester. Word has been received at the Morton headquarters in New-York, so Republican politicians say, from Maryland, that a combined "landslide" and "tidal wave" in favor of Mr. Morton have recently occurred in that State. The "landslide" it is suspected here is a seismic disturbance caused by the passage through the State of Caleb Simms, the janitor of the Senate, now engaged in imparting Mr. Morton's "sound money" views to prospective Southern colored delegates, and as for the "tidal wave," that can be but a perturbation in Chesapeake Bay, caused by a speech from Charles W. Anderson, the colored orator and private secretary of State Treasurer Colvin, who is likewise travelling in the South instilling Mr. Morton's "sound-money" views into other prospective Southern delegates. By-the-way, do the Legislature and State Treasurer Colvin intend to pay the salaries of Simms and Anderson while they are thus absent in the South?

FOR MUNICIPAL REFORM IN CHICAGO.

Chicago, Jan. 25.—At a representative municipal reform meeting to-day, the committee of fifteen to whom had been entrusted by the original meeting the task of considering and presenting a report recommending the best course to pursue to divorce politics from municipal affairs, reported in favor of appointing a central body of 100 citizens in sympathy with the movement, who shall have charge of the detailed work and act independently of both the old parties. The plan is based on the independent reform movement which was successful in defeating Tammany in New-York City. After much discussion, in which extreme views were expressed as to organizing an independent party and trading with the machine politicians for the balance of power, the meeting decided to adopt the report of the committee of fifteen. The latter body, which is composed of the foremost citizens who are still Republicans or Democrats on National issues, will select the 100 men. This body will be one of practical politicians for reform purposes, and the present practical politicians of the party machine stripe will be met and fought on their own grounds. The municipal party will enter the field for every office in city, town and country.

MRS. PHIPPS'S ALLEGED ASSAILANTS.

Nathan Hirshberg, eighteen years old, of No. 253 East Fifty-seventh-st., one of the alleged assailants of Mrs. Phipps, of No. 535 East Seventy-second-st., was arraigned before Magistrate Brann in the Centre Street Court yesterday and committed until Monday, when he will get a hearing.

Frederick Veldmann, whose case has been under examination on several occasions in the last week in Yorkville Court, was yesterday committed by Magistrate Simms in $2,000 bail.

HE WAS BOUND TO SHOOT SOMEBODY.

Lexington, Ky., Jan. 25.—Captain Anderson Hayes, of Hindeman, several days ago shot and wounded James Black, and it is believed that the latter will die. Hayes is an ex-Confederate and a friend of Congressman J. W. Kendall. He became enraged at the report that Hopkins had been seated in Kendall's place. He got together and drilled forty-two men, declaring that he would go to Washington and whip the Republicans for seating Hopkins. When told that the report was false, he drew his pepper-box pistol and shot Black in the shoulder. He defies arrest.

THE KENTUCKY SENATORSHIP.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 25.—The two Houses met in joint assembly at noon for the fourth joint ballot for Senator. There is no prospect at the present time of breaking the deadlock. The ballot was as follows: Hunter, 66; Blackburn, 57; scattering, 11; no choice. The Populist Poor voted again for the Populist Bate.

LOST LACE RECOVERED.

PART OF IT TAKEN TO MRS. BARRETT BY A WOMAN WHO CLAIMS A REWARD.

SHE HAD BOUGHT ONE PIECE FOR $6 FROM A SECOND-HAND STORE, WHERE IT HAD BEEN SOLD FOR $5—THE OTHER PIECE HAD BEEN SOLD TO A FRIEND OF CAPTAIN O'BRIEN WHOSE NAME IS WITHHELD—LOOKING FOR THE THIEF.

Acting Captain O'Brien, of the Detective Bureau, last night announced that the valuable lace belonging to Mrs. Erastus Corning, of Albany, which disappeared from the dressmaking rooms of Mrs. Ellen Barrett, No. 19 East Thirty-first-st., had been recovered. There were over six yards of it, and the value was said to be $6,000. It had been sold by the Empress Eugenie to Worth, the Paris dressmaker, and bought from him by Mrs. Corning.

The story that the loss of the lace had not been reported to the police was unfounded, as Captain O'Brien said last night that on Wednesday Mrs. Barrett called upon him and told him that the two pieces of lace, which had been left with her by Mrs. Corning on January 16, had been stolen from a small safe in the dressmaking establishment. She said the safe was in the parlor, which was generally left open during the day. Detectives Rynders and Robinson made a search of all the pawnshops. They failed to find the lace, however.

TWO WOMEN CLAIM A REWARD.

The two detectives were in Mrs. Barrett's establishment yesterday morning when two women entered. One of them had a small parcel. Miss Sammons, Mrs. Barrett's niece, questioned them as to the nature of their errand. The parcel was unrolled, and it was found to contain lace. As soon as she glanced at it Miss Sammons identified it as one of the stolen pieces. The woman was ready to give it up on condition that she received $500. She declared that Mrs. Barrett had advertised a reward of that amount for the recovery of the lace. Mrs. Barrett and her niece both denied that any such reward had been advertised. The girls in their establishment, however, had been told that they would get $150 if they could find it, as Mrs. Barrett supposed that it had only been mislaid.

TAKEN TO HEADQUARTERS

The two women were about to go away with the lace when the detectives who had listened to the conversation stopped them, and demanded that the lace be returned. The women still demanded a reward. The detectives then telephoned to Police Headquarters and asked Acting Captain O'Brien what they should do. He told them to bring the women to Headquarters. Miss Sammons went along. At Headquarters the woman who had the lace described herself as Lena Dunschen, and said she lived in West Twenty-second-st. Her companion said that she was a Mrs. Bradley, who lived with her mother, Mrs. Tilda McNeil, who keeps a second-hand clothing store at No. 154 Seventh-ave.

Mrs. Bradley said that about nine days ago a man came into her mother's store with two pieces of lace, which he wished to sell. He said he needed money, and had taken the lace from an old dress belonging to his wife. The lace did not appear valuable, she said, and all that Mrs. McNeil would give for it was $5. The man was satisfied with this, and went away.

FINALLY SOLD FOR $6.

Later in the day Mrs. Dunschen entered the store. Her attention was attracted to the lace, and she asked what it was worth. Mrs. McNeil said she would sell it for $6. The sale was made, and Mrs. Dunschen went away with the two pieces. Mrs. Bradley read yesterday about the disappearance of the lace from Mrs. Barrett's establishment, and the large estimate that had been placed upon it. She thought it might be the same lace, and so yesterday morning she started out to see if she could recover it. She located Mrs. Dunschen, and though she does not say so, the police understand that she wanted to buy it back again, for the same price for which it was sold. Mrs. Dunschen, however, had also read the papers, and she thought the lace was just as valuable to her.

The women finally compromised by going to Mrs. Barrett's establishment to see if they could get a reward for the return of the lace. Mrs. Dunschen only had one piece. She had left the other piece to be sold in Samuel Krieser's auction-room, at No. 9 West Twenty-eighth-st. After hearing the story told by the women, a detective was sent to Krieser's place. He said that the piece of lace left with him was sold on January 18 to a man who said he intended to give it to his wife. There were two yards and a half in this piece, and it was sold at $4 10 a yard. The name of the man who bought the lace was obtained from Krieser and he was visited.

He is a personal friend of Acting Captain O'Brien, and when it was told to him that the lace had been stolen, he at once hurried down to Police Headquarters with it and turned it over to Captain O'Brien. His name was not given out.

LOOKING FOR THE THIEF.

The police have not yet arrested the man who sold the lace to Mrs. McNeil, and who is supposed to have stolen it from Mrs. Barrett's place. Captain O'Brien said last night, however, that the detectives had a good description of him and thought they would be able to find him. According to Acting Captain O'Brien, the lace is not as valuable as it was first reported, when it was said to be worth $1,000 a yard. It is said that the value of the lace is not more than $160 a yard. The piece which was recovered from Mrs. Dunschen contained four yards. The police still have possession of the lace. Mrs. Dunschen says that she will bring suit against Mrs. Barrett for the recovery of the $500 reward which she says was offered.

A dispatch from Albany yesterday stated that Mrs. Erastus Corning had not yet been informed by Mrs. Barrett of the loss of the lace. The lace is not a recent purchase from Worth, but has been the property of Mrs. Corning since 1873. It was left with Mrs. Barrett in New-York, and Mrs. Corning had not been made aware of the robbery until the lace was recovered.

USED HER SHOE AS A WEAPON.

A WELL-DRESSED WOMAN MAKES A SCENE IN LOWER BROADWAY—HER CLOAK STOLEN WHILE SHE WAS CHASTISING HER COMPANION.

A man and woman, both well-dressed, were observed in an animated conversation on the east side of Broadway, near Ann-st., about 7 o'clock last night. A crowd was soon attracted by the loud talk and excited gestures, and the couple, who were evidently quarrelling, walked over in front of the Astor House.

There the quarrel was renewed, when suddenly the woman threw off her sealskin cloak, and leaning over, took off one of her shoes. Before the man could note her purpose she struck him three violent blows in the face with the shoe. Her companion attempted to defend himself, and was about to strike the woman, when some of the bystanders interfered, and the man beat a hasty retreat down Vesey-st.

The woman then looked around for her cloak, but some thief had stolen it. She disappeared down Barclay-st.

CRAZED BY CIGARETTES.

Mariano Garcia, a Spaniard, thirty-one years old, was removed to Bellevue Hospital from No. 402 West Twenty-third-st. yesterday, suffering from insanity. Mrs. Van Zandt keeps a boarding-house there, and he has been employed by her as a man-of-all-work for the last seven or eight years. About a year ago he was sent to an asylum, but was released as cured after two months' confinement. His insanity is said to be due to excessive use of cigarettes. He has been acting queerly of late.

THE BALTIMORE TO BE LAID UP.

Vallejo, Cal., Jan. 25.—A board of inspection has been appointed for the cruiser Baltimore. The members of it will inspect the ship as soon as possible. She will tie up alongside the quay wall next week, land stores and prepare to go out of commission. Her ordnance will also be hoisted out.

WILL CLEVELAND VETO IT?

THE TARIFF BILL LIKELY TO REACH HIM WITHOUT AMENDMENT.

NO OPPOSITION EXPECTED FROM THE SILVER SENATORS—THEN THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THAT FORM OF TREASURY RELIEF OR NOTHING.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Jan. 25.—It is now considered reasonably certain that the Emergency Revenue bill passed by the House a month ago will get through the Senate without serious opposition and go to the President unamended. The silver Senators, whose disposition to force a free-coinage rider on the House measure has hitherto been considered the chief stumbling-block to its success, now privately express the opinion that no changes will be made in committee or in the Senate. The amended Bond bill is expected to reach a vote some time next week. The Utah Senators will probably be sworn in on Monday or Tuesday, leaving no further excuse for delay. The expectation of the silver men is that as soon as the Jones substitute is disposed of, the Tariff bill will be reported from the Finance Committee, and that it will ultimately pass the Senate in the form in which it came from the House. This would, of course, send the measure direct to the President, and its fate would then depend on his action.

The President would then have to consider two things before deciding on his course. In the first place, he would know that, however unsatisfactory this form of relief for the Treasury might be to him, it would be the only sort he could get from Congress. In the second place, it is admitted by earnest tariff reformers of Mr. Cleveland's own class of thinkers to be doubtful whether the special provision of the Constitution that revenue bills must originate in the House does not place such legislation on an entirely different footing from other legislation as regards the veto power. The view is presented that with this discrimination by the Constitution as regards revenue legislation it is extremely doubtful whether the President would feel at liberty to veto a revenue bill on any except constitutional grounds. While the last Democratic platform declared that protection by means of a tariff is unconstitutional, it is not understood that Mr. Cleveland has ever been willing to go quite so far. It is not thought, therefore, that he would veto the present bill on the ground that it violated the Constitution.

It is not at all certain that he would not let the bill become a law if confronted with the necessity of accepting or vetoing it. He was as much opposed to the Gorman bill, and let it become a law, not because it was a party measure, for that he denied in his letter to Representative Catchings, but because Congress had passed it. He did not then indicate any constitutional reasons for not exercising the veto, but some of those in Congress who are most in sympathy with him are extremely apprehensive that the passage of the bill by the Senate will mean its ultimate enactment into law.

MR. PLATT NAMES THE DAY.

THE STATE CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN NEW-YORK ON MARCH 26.

Albany, Jan. 25 (Special).—William Barnes, jr., a member of the Republican State Committee, makes the interesting announcement in his newspaper, "The Albany Evening Journal," to-night that Thomas C. Platt has decided to have the Republican State Committee meet in New-York on February 8 and issue a call for the Republican State Convention. Mr. Barnes also announces that Mr. Platt, in advance of the meeting of the State Committee, has made out the programme for its members, which is that they shall select as the date for holding the convention March 24, and that it shall be held in Cooper Union, New-York.

A "snap" character is thus given to the State Convention, as the National Republican Convention will not be held until the middle of June, and therefore there is no necessity for the election of delegates from New-York before the middle of May. Mr. Platt seems anxious to foreclose the mortgage he believes he holds on the State of New-York.

SHE TRIED TO SAVE HER HUSBAND.

MRS. JOHN ORAM DECLARES THAT SHE KILLED JOSEPH CONLAN.

Chicago, Jan. 25.—There was a sensational scene in the Criminal Court to-day when John Oram was called up to say why sentence of death should not be imposed upon him for the murder of Joseph Conlan. As Oram arose his wife sprang to her feet and cried: "I killed that man. My husband is not guilty. He shall not suffer for my crime." The courtroom was instantly in an uproar.

When quiet was restored the prisoner asked time to consider, which was granted him. He then pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to imprisonment for life. Mrs. Oram told the Judge that she committed the murder, but that her husband's lawyers would not allow her to testify. The Judge told her her testimony would be of no avail, as her previous contradictory statements would disprove it. She then fainted repeatedly.

AN EXCURSION TRAIN WRECKED.

RAYMOND & WHITCOMB PASSENGERS UNINJURED—A PORTER KILLED.

Roanoke, Va., Jan. 25.—A section of Raymond & Whitcomb's excursion train, coming south on the Shenandoah Valley Railroad, was wrecked at 10 o'clock last night near Riverton. Two Pullman cars and a baggage-car were burned. A colored porter named Phillips was instantly killed. Long, the engineer, and Propper, the fireman, were severely injured. The passengers escaped without injury. The wreck was caused by the fall of a mass of rock across the track.

Dispatches received in this city yesterday announced that a special train of the Raymond-Whitcomb Excursion Company had been wrecked on the Norfolk and Western Railroad at Crooked Rock, near Riverton, Va., on Friday night. At the office of the excursion company, No. 31 East Fourteenth-st., yesterday afternoon the managers made the following statement to a Tribune reporter:

"Our special vestibuled Pullman train, bound for Mexico and California, left here on the Central Railroad of New-Jersey at 10 a. m. on Friday, running in two sections, and containing about 150 persons, among whom were many prominent New-York and Brooklyn people. Our representative in charge of the train telegraphs that it struck a sliding rock which the storm had washed upon the track. None of the travellers were injured, but the porter of a Pullman car was killed. The train was simply delayed, so far as I have learned, and the excursion will be continued in the same cars. We have received no more definite information, and do not know whether or not the cars were thrown from the tracks."

Among the travellers were the following from this city: Miss Emma Brugman, Alfred Hoff, Mrs. C. E. Potts and Lambert Suydam; from Brooklyn, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Fradley, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Kendall, Mrs. William F. Merrill, Mr. and Mrs. A. Obig and Miss Wright; from Yonkers, Mrs. James Renwick Brevoort.

TO TRADE IN CASH GRAIN ONLY.

Chicago, Jan. 25.—At a meeting of the Board of Trade men to-day the report of the sub-committee which has been formulating the plan of Robert Lindblom for the trading in cash grain to the exclusion of futures, was approved, and if the plan is approved by the directors it will be put into operation after next May. The plan is that all trading in wheat shall be in cash property, and that the Board of Trade Cash Grain Depository shall be organized, with $1,000,000 paid-up capital, to take care of the wheat and advance money on it, with other duties which are considered necessary for the successful operation of the plan. Mr. Lindblom made a vigorous speech in support of his plan, which he was convinced would be adopted by all the exchanges of the country in the near future, if only for self-preservation, in view of the powerful influences at work to suppress speculation in agricultural products by National legislation.

AN OHIO LEGISLATOR'S DISGRACE.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 25.—Representative James A. Spear, of Clinton County, has admitted that he asked a constitutent for $300 to secure for him an appointment as a guard in the State prison. Spear's constitutents asked for his resignation. Mr. Spear came here to-day to tender his resignation, but he was unable to do so, as Speaker Sleeper was not in the city.

THE ST. PAUL AGROUND.

BIG AMERICAN LINER STRANDED.

SHE STICKS HER NOSE IN THE SAND AT LONG BRANCH.

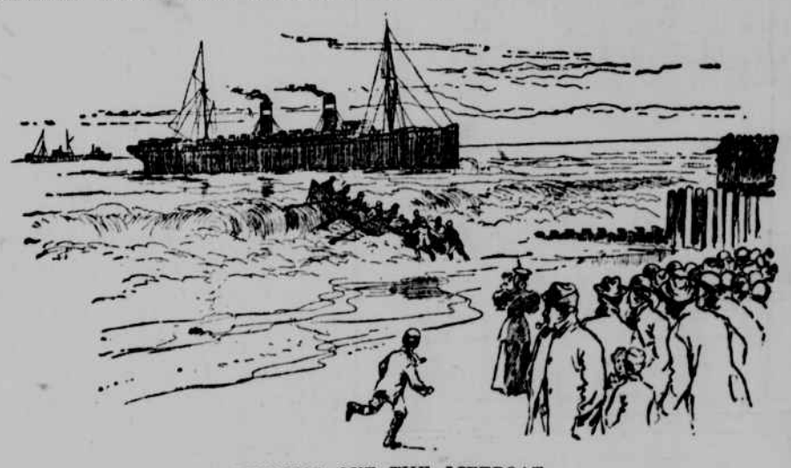
FOG CHIEFLY BLAMED FOR THE ACCIDENT.

LITTLE HOPE FOR THE VESSEL IF A STORM SHOULD ARISE.

RUMORS OF A RACE WITH THE CAMPANIA.

PASSENGERS AND MAILS TAKEN OFF THE STEAMER BY LIFE-SAVERS AND BROUGHT TO THIS CITY ON AN EXCURSION BOAT—THE MANY WRECKING TUGS FAIL TO MAKE ANY IMPRESSION UPON THE IMPRISONED VESSEL—MORE THAN $1,000,000 IN GOLD ABOARD.

One long boom of the big whistle, then another sounding through the gloom and fog of the night, then yet a third, and last a crunching sound portentous of contending masses, and with a last revolving effort the mighty engines of the big American liner St. Paul ceased their pulsations. The crack ship of the International



RUNNING OUT THE LIFEBOAT.

Navigation Company was hard and fast aground, but where?

That was the question which echoed from bridge to promenade deck, for many of the passengers were up and about even at that uncanny hour of the morning. Some of them were possibly there to admire the sight of a dying storm at sea. Others were living in hope of a speedy sight of the Highland Lights and a nearer glimpse of home land within the bend of Sandy Hook. They did not know, nor perhaps did any of the officers at first, that they had run bow on against the sandy shores of the State of New-Jersey. How could they? The night was as dark as Erebus, the stanch steamer had just weathered one of the severest gales the Atlantic has known in months of voyaging and was working her way through the fag end of it in the midst of fog and darkness that could be felt. Whatever else was known, it was certain that she had shoaled on a sandy shore.

WHAT AN EYE-WITNESS SAW.

This is the beginning of the most exciting narrative that has attracted the attention of sea-faring folk for a long period. An eye-witness of the catastrophe almost was James F. Bradley, of the Grand View House, at the foot of Sea View-ave., East Long Branch. He said:

"I was sleeping here on the lower floor of the hotel, and it must have been about 1:30 o'clock that I heard the long boom of a steamer whistle. It was so close to me that the windows seemed to rattle. I started up broad awake, and then before I had fully decided to get up I heard two blows in succession. Hesitating no longer, I sprang out of bed and got into my clothes as quickly as I could, which was not long. I rushed out on the porch of the hotel, which looks directly down on the beach, and out over the water, through the fog, which was very thick. I could just discern the lights of a big steamer. She was lit up fore and aft, as far as I could note, but I could not make out her shape near enough to know what she was. At first I thought it was one of the Savannah Line boats which had been blown in shore, yet the object seemed larger.

"I ran down to the beach and there met one of the members of life-saving crew No. 5, who was patrolling the beach. I asked him, and he said he could not make her out. Messages were hustled right and left, and I should judge it must have been nearly 3 o'clock when the life-saving crews arrived, the first on the ground being No. 4, of Monmouth Beach, Captain Mulligan. Others followed in rapid succession. The life-savers at once rigged their gun and a line was shot across the vessel's deck, and in a very little while the breeches buoy was rigged and Captain Mulligan sent a message on board. The answer came back to telegraph No. 6 Bowling Green, New-York, that the steamer was the St. Paul, of the International Navigation Company. 'We will not come ashore, but will remain on board till daylight. Tell them to send assistance. Your apparatus worked immensely.' This was signed 'Jamison.'"

THE FIRST VIEW OF THE BIG LINER.

This was the story told to The Tribune reporter almost as soon as he reached the scene at East Long Branch shortly after noon yesterday. At that time the big liner was lying with her nose pointing southward and almost broadside on to the surf, which was pounding her side and throwing great jets of spray high into the air from around the sharp contour of her bow and over the bend of her rudder, which was half out of the water, while fully four feet of her red water-line mark was showing.

She was listed slightly toward the port, or seaward, side, apparently bowing to meet the majestic rollers which came chasing one another in toward the breakwater in inspiring fashion, and breaking against the piled wall threw sky-scraping showers of spray, showering hundreds of spectators in a salt drench, and eliciting screams of mingled delight and terror from women and children who had ventured too near the domain of the water sprite. To them the stealthy ground swell, backed by the long storm-spent rollers of Old Ocean, was not terrible. To the stout-hearted men on board the steamer and to the wrecking crews they told a different story for with each long, incoming billow the expert minds felt the chances of a speedy release for the titan were lessened by just so much.

Captain Merritt, of the Merritt Wrecking Company, who was standing on the beach where the lifeboats were making their way out to the ship, was not sanguine. He smiled a rather dismal smile when asked if they would be able to get her off yesterday. "We will be lucky," said he, "if we get her off inside of the next three days. We shall try, in fact, to save the ship, but she may be here for two or three weeks." Later he remarked that it would require two days for them to sling their apparatus into shape to work, for it would be worse than useless to try to work her off the bar with tugs. Steel cables must be used, and three of these were made fast yesterday afternoon about 3 o'clock, and anchored, quartering out from the stern to the seaward. He had received word at 9 o'clock in the morning regarding the necessities of the case, and had gone at once to the scene by train. The tug I. J. Merritt was sent off at once, and in the evening she was joined by the still more powerful wrecking tug, the D. J. Jones. These were joined by the tugs Hustler and Chapman, of the Chapman Wrecking Company, and these in turn were reinforced by others until at one time during the afternoon fourteen were counted in immediate proximity to the stranded steamer, dancing and nodding to the billows like so many paltry courtiers before their king.

AFRAID OF THE BREECHES BUOY.

The passengers were still on board at noon. Soon after the breeches buoy had been rigged Captain James Mulligan entered it and was drawn out to the ship, where he remained for some time. The passengers had the option of taking a dance on the long cable through the surf or of remaining on board, and they decided without dissent to follow the latter course. At that hour there was a stiff wind blowing and the surf was too heavy for the life boats to make a successful launch, although the crews were constantly at hand to avail themselves of the first lull.

Of course, the thing of first importance was to save the passengers should that become necessary, although it was hardly likely that any immediate exigency could arise requiring haste, lying, as the ship was, within three hundred feet of the shore and on a shallowing beach. The next thing was the mail, of which the steamer had on board something like two hundred bags. So the crews of the lifeboats, clad in life belts and rubber boots and coats, stood by and waited as patiently as they might for whatever was to turn up. These men of the life-saving service are stolid philosophers every one. They know nothing but the business they have in hand. They obey orders with the precision of clock-work machinery. Each man is a tooth in the cog fitting the jaw of his neighbor with a nicety that is admirable. Thus it was that when daylight came and the big hull lying so close to the sandy shore was for the first time visible, everything was in readiness for work of whatever character might be demanded.

While there had been some uneasiness among the passengers, many of whom were aroused by the first stroke of the bow upon the sand, there was no sign of panic. The breeches buoy was rigged to the mast forward and well up toward the cross trees, so as to give a sweep for the bending cable clear of the surf in case it should have to be brought into use, and the passengers in consequence were unaware of its presence until the fact had been made known to them by the officers. As soon as all was ready the fact of its connection was made known, and then it was that the passengers had the option of going ashore or of remaining on board. The fact, too, was emphasized that they would incur no danger by staying where they were, and even of going to bed and getting their beauty sleep before breakfast.

Owing to the lightness of the blow, the officers and those within the immediate vicinage of the vessel thought that it would be a matter of no great difficulty to dislodge her with the coming of daylight. The engines, of course, had been reversed as soon as the contact was felt, but pull as they would, the propellers could make no impression. That the St. Paul was hard and fast, ignobly tied to a sand bar, had to be recognized, however humiliating such a confession must of necessity be, and with the wind blowing and the tide rolling at its flood, as it was when she first struck, it was plain to be seen that the task would not become easier as time went on. She struck bow on, and it was stated that at first her bow was pointing almost due north, but she swung around under the influence of the current, and by noon her nose was to the south, and a little inshore. This, however, was due to the fact that she had gone hard aground in the sand and mud almost amidships, leaving bow and stern swinging free.

IN NINE FEET OF WATER.

As the day advanced the stern settled more and more, due possibly to the hammering which she was receiving on the nose by the rollers which pounded that feature upward, until at 3 o'clock it bore a decidedly retrousse appearance, and wagged backward and forward under the impetus of the arriving and departing swells which flirted with it and threw foam over it as the wind blew it and caught the spray up in giant handfuls and cast it high up in the air and washed the black sides of the helpless monster till they glistened in the half-sunshine of the afternoon. It did not seem possible, so pliant was the forward end, that there could be any great difficulty ahead of the wrecking tugs which were hustling about at a safe distance, but it took the experts to reveal that there would be only nineteen feet of water amidships at high tide, or 3 o'clock, and that at low tide she was lying in only nine feet of water, the rest, according to a native, being sand and mud, of very uncertain texture and mighty slippery variety.

It is notorious of this part of the Long Branch coast that it is exceedingly changeable and where there is a channel to-day there is likely to be a shallow to-morrow. This was possibly the reason why Mr. Merritt looked so serious when he was asked as to the possible limit of time required to release the vessel. Contrary currents prevail here. They wash hither and yon with absolute irresponsibility, and it is urged that the captain of the St. Paul should have known from these in what danger he was running his vessel. These are matters, however, for expert minds and have nothing to do with the news record. He would not have gone there if he had known; that much is apparent, and how could he know it with a fog mantling the face of the low-breasted coast of Jersey like a blanket. Whether he could have seen the Highland Light is a conundrum impossible of answer at this time.

The fact that the Campania was only saved from a possible like fate by the swinging lights of the coast patrol, who happened to be near her danger point just in the nick of time, gives food for thought in any analysis of causes which led to so disastrous and deplorable an effect as the stranding of the noble steamer. Her patron