FOR A MONEY CONFERENCE.

ONLY FOUR VOTES CAST AGAINST THE BILL IN THE HOUSE.

IT WAS PASSED BY 279 TO 4 AFTER TWO HOURS OF DEBATE—SPEECHES FOR THE MEASURE BY CHAIRMAN DINGLEY AND EX-SPEAKER GROW.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Feb. 26.—The opposition to the bill to provide for the representation of the United States by commissioners at any International Monetary Conference hereafter to be held, and to enable the President to promote by the use of other means an international agreement, which had made itself heard at the public sittings of the Coinage Committee, when the measure was there under consideration, did not present a formidable front in the House of Representatives to-day. On the contrary, it was so small and weak as to be actually pathetic, if not pitiable. After a two hours' debate the rules were suspended and the bill, with the amendments recommended by the Coinage Committee, was passed by a vote of 279 yeas to 4 nays—the negative votes being cast by Messrs. Henry, of Connecticut; Johnson, of Indiana; Knox, of Massachusetts, and Quigg, of New-York. It will be noted that the vote was a pretty full as well as a substantially unanimous one. The affirmative votes represented were of all shades of opinion so far as the silver question was concerned. All the Democrats, Popocrats and Populists present and voting were recorded in the affirmative, as were nearly all the Republicans, except the four mentioned.

AN AMENDMENT ADOPTED.

The most important of the amendments recommended by the committee was added to the second section of the bill, which, as passed by the Senate, authorized the President of the United States, in the name of the Government of the United States, to call, in his discretion, such international conference to assemble at such point as might be agreed upon. The amendment added by the House to this section further provides as follows:

And he is further authorized, if in his judgment the purpose specified in the first section hereof can thus be better attained, to appoint one or more special commissioners or envoys to such of the nations of Europe as he may designate to seek by diplomatic negotiations an international agreement for the purpose specified in the first section thereof. And in case of such appointment so much of the appropriations herein made as shall be necessary shall be available for the proper expenses and compensation of such commissioners or envoys.

An additional section was also attached to the bill repealing so much of the Sundry Civil Appropriation act of 1895 as authorizes the appointment of delegates to an International Monetary Conference. The first section of the bill was not amended. It provides that whenever after March 4, 1897, the President of the United States shall determine that the United States should be represented at any international conference called by the United States or any other country with a view to securing by international agreement "a fixity of relative value between gold and silver as money by means of a common ratio between these metals, with free mintage at such ratio," he is authorized to appoint five or more commissioners to such conference, and appropriates the sum of $100,000 for the compensation and reasonable expenses of the commissioners, including the proportion to be paid by the United States of the joint expenses of any such conference.

The debate which preceded the vote was an interesting and somewhat instructive one, and was marked by two or three sharp passages and brisk colloquies. Mr. Towne (bolting silver Republican), of Minnesota, wanted to take Governor Dingley to task for "imputing motives to the silver Republicans" which they denied and repudiated, and Mr. Quigg resented some allusions to him by General Grosvenor, of Ohio.

The motives which led the Popocrats and Populists to vote solidly in favor of a measure which they with one accord declared would be barren of results were not very difficult to understand. They hope and believe that an international conference, if held, will result in no agreement, and that the failure to agree will strengthen the hands of the fiat silver monometallists of the United States, and therefore they were eager to vote for the bill. The members who voted and spoke against the bill appeared to be earnest and sincere, but some of their logic was exceedingly lame, to say the very least of it. Mr. Johnson, of Indiana, however, gave better reasons for his attitude than either of the others did. The speeches in favor of the bill by Chairman C. W. Stone, of the Coinage Committee; Chairman Dingley and General Grosvenor, of the Ways and Means Committee; ex-Speaker Grow, of Pennsylvania, and Colonel Hepburn, of Iowa, were short, but pithy and exceedingly effective.

MR. DINGLEY'S ARGUMENT.

Governor Dingley, who has been seen in the House only twice before since he and his colleagues entered upon the task of framing a new tariff bill which shall give adequate protection to American industries and at the same time yield enough additional revenue to fill the wide gap between receipts and expenditures, was loudly cheered when he arose to speak, and was repeatedly applauded as he proceeded with his remarks. He spoke only six minutes, but into that brief space he packed an answerable and conclusive argument in favor of the passage of the pending bill. Mr. Dingley spoke as follows:

I can only briefly suggest two reasons why I shall support the pending bill. First, it is in response to the clear, distinct, unquestioned pledge of the Republican party in the last campaign. (Applause.) The Republican party at St. Louis declared against the free coinage of silver by the independent action of this country because they believed, as I believe, and as every scientific bimetallist in the world outside of politics believes, that such independent free coinage of silver at 16 to 1 is nothing in the world but silver monometallism. But the party said at the same time that they would promote so far as lay in their power an international agreement for the free coinage of silver, under circumstances which should make every dollar of silver as good as every dollar in gold; and that pledge it is our duty to-day by the passage of this bill to endeavor to respond to. (Applause.)

Secondly, I am in favor of the passage of this bill because I believe that its defeat under the circumstances under which it is presented, and in view of the pledge which we made at the St. Louis Convention, would result in a tremendous injury to the sound-money cause. (Applause.)

It must be understood that there are in this country thousands—yes, millions—of voters who, while opposed to the free coinage of silver by this country alone, because they believe it would give us simply silver monometallism, as I believe it would, are yet in favor of an honest effort to secure an international agreement upon this point, because they believe that if that can be secured through the co-operation of the commercial nations of the world it will give us a currency every dollar of which shall be as good as gold, and that we shall have a gold standard or its equivalent. That is what they believe.

Now, in view of the fact that there are these millions of people who believe that this can be accomplished, I hold that it would be a fatal mistake for this side of the House, under those conditions, not to meet the wishes of those men and give a thorough trial to this endeavor to obtain an international agreement. If it fails, then we shall have done our full duty in the premises, and no harm will have happened. If it succeeds, then we shall have secured throughout the commercial world a universal and common standard of value that will promote international trade. (Applause.) I believe, therefore, under these circumstances, that it is the duty of every Republican, in view of the pledge we made, in view of the fact that we should damage the cause of sound money by refusing to meet our pledge, to vote for this proposition. As Republicans or as sound-money men, we cannot go to the country and say that if this measure had been presented to us two months ago we would favor it, but now we are opposed to it. We cannot dodge it in any such way.

One word further. When the suggestion is made that gentlemen in favor of silver at 16 to 1 are voting for this bill, I want you to read between the lines of their speeches, and you can understand very distinctly that nothing would please them so much as to see this bill defeated to-day; and if their votes would do it they would so cast them.

EX-SPEAKER GROW'S REMARKS.

Mr. Grow spoke in part as follows:

Many persons believe that the passage by Congress of a law to reopen the mints of the United States to the free and unrestricted coinage of silver at a ratio of value of sixteen ounces of silver to one ounce of gold would of itself restore the silver of the world to its former market price of $1 29 an ounce, while it is now selling in all the markets of the world for less than 63 cents an ounce, making the commercial value of our silver dollar about 53 cents. In support of such belief it is claimed that this Nation is great enough, rich enough and powerful enough to legislate on any subject in its own way. Whatever may be claimed for this Nation in greatness and power, in territorial extent, in vastness of material resources, and in its ever-increasing wealth and population, grant it all. But this Nation is not great enough, rich enough, or powerful enough, nor is any other nation, nor are all the nations of the world put together great enough, or powerful enough, to make fifty-three cents in commercial value buy in the markets of the world one hundred cents in commercial value. This Nation is, however, great enough and powerful enough, and so is any other nation, no matter how poor or weak it may be, to make fifty-three cents in commercial value pay a debt to its own citizens of one hundred cents. There is no nation on the face of the earth, and there never will be one, great enough or powerful enough to fix by law the value in the money unit, except for debt paying. Law everywhere makes and fixes the unit of value; but the dealers in the commodities for which money is exchanged make and fix the real value in the unit. Value in money for trade and commerce is no more the creature of law than is the value in flocks, herds and cultivated fields.

The expectation of acquiring wealth through some theory of legislation has always been more alluring to mankind than by the slow process of labor and economy. But it is not in the power of human ingenuity to devise any scheme by which debased or depreciated money can be used successfully to develop the industries of a country or add to the wealth of a nation.

GOOD MONEY ONLY WANTED.

The advocates of free and unrestricted coinage of silver, no matter what its commercial value may be, have a ready answer to all objections, in the question, How can there be too much money? That depends upon its quality. If it is poor money, there is always too much. If good money, then never too much, if there is any use for it. The mere existence of money, no matter how much there may be, creates no business. Money not in circulation neither makes business nor adds anything to what is called prosperity. Business puts money into circulation, not the making of it. While there cannot be great prosperity without money, yet business itself must first call for capital for its development or its enlargement. And capital, which is only accumulated wealth, then furnishes the money for such purpose. Thus is created the demand for labor, and employment gives to labor its purchasing ability, for without employment it has none. In that way comes what is called prosperity. The mere fact of an abundance of money in existence, but not in circulation, cannot make it. There never has been so large an amount of money in this country, in time of peace, as there has been for the last five or six years. Yet business never languished more, and the ability of labor to buy has seldom, if ever, been less.

There is of money in the country now over $1,600,000,000, all good money based on gold. A per capita in round numbers of $24; greater than that of any nation, except France, Belgium, Australia and the Netherlands. It is $3 per capita greater than the per capita in Great Britain. The per capita in gold and silver in this country is equal to that of Great Britain, and greater than that of any other nation except those already mentioned. France has more gold and silver and less paper than any nation. Her per capita is greater than that of any other nation, being $35 77, with only 84 cents of it in paper.

The following table shows the money per capita and the kind of money in the seven nations having the largest money per capita and the monetary system of the nation:

Nation.	Gold.	Silver.	Paper.	Total.	Monetary system.
France	$22 19	$12 94	$0 84	$35 97	Gold and silver
Belgium	8 72	8 71	10 38	27 81	Gold and silver
Australia	24 47	1 49	——	25 96	Gold
Netherlands	6 21	11 96	6 08	24 25	Gold and silver
United States	8 78	8 89	5 92	23 59	Gold and silver
Un'd Kingdom	14 91	2 96	2 91	20 78	Gold
Germany	12 21	4 20	1 18	17 59	Gold

There is no single silver standard country in the world that has a money per capita of over $18. Mexico has $4 95 and Russia has $8 46; these two nations are fair representatives of the silver nations in their per capita. . . .

In 1859 the market value of silver was $1 36 an ounce; the highest price ever known before or since. Its market price in 1861 was $1 33¼ an ounce, being 2¾ cents an ounce less than in 1859; the world's production for that year, coinage value, in round numbers was $46,000,000. Its market price in 1870 was $1 32¾ an ounce, being 3¼ cents less than in 1859, and its production for that year was in round numbers $56,000,000. Its market price in 1873 was $1 29¾ an ounce, being 6¼ cents an ounce less than in 1859; and the world's production for the year 1873 was in round numbers $82,000,000. Its market price in 1875 was $1 24½, being 11½ cents less than in 1859; the world's production that year was in round numbers $92,000,000. Its market price in 1880 was $1 14½, being 21½ cents less than in 1859; the world's production that year was in round numbers, $102,000,000. Its market price in 1886 was 99½ cents an ounce, being 36½ cents an ounce less than in 1859; the world's production for that year was in round numbers $121,000,000. Its market price in 1894 was about 63½ cents an ounce, being 73 cents an ounce less than in 1859; the world's production for 1894 was in round numbers $217,000,000.

This great increase in the world's production of silver for the last twenty years and the present production of both gold and silver, with their prospective increase for the future, render it absolutely impossible for the free coinage of silver, by this Nation alone, at a ratio of value to gold of 16 to 1, to add materially to the market value of silver.

COINAGE CREATES NO VALUE.

Reopening the mints to free and unrestricted coinage of silver would not create a single purchaser for it. The owners of the bullion brought to the mints would be the owners of the money coined therefrom. Coinage itself only stamps upon the coin its denomination, which is in reality only the same thing as stamping on it the weight and fineness of the metal out of which it is coined. That is all that law can do, except to fix the amount of indebtedness which the denomination of the coin would pay within the jurisdiction of the law. Law makes and fixes its denomination and debt-paying value. Its commercial value is fixed by the dealers in the commodities for which it is exchanged. As the uses of money for debt-paying are so much less than its uses for trade and business, if its commercial value is much less than its debt paying value it will fall to its commercial value for any purpose after the debts are paid existing at the time of its coinage or fall in its market value. For all creditors before creating a debt, if they know what the debt can be paid in, will see to it that the amount of the debt is enough greater to meet the difference, whatever it may be, in the commercial value and the debt-paying value of the legal-tender to be received.

With free coinage the owner of silver bullion would have two ways of disposing of it; one to sell it in the market just as he does now, the other to take it to the mints and have it coined. After coinage he would then have two methods of disposing of his coin; one to pay his own debts if he had any, the other would be to buy something with it. In debt-paying it would pass at its denominational value to a person within the jurisdiction of the law under which it was coined. Its purchasing value in business would be its commercial value, that is, the market price of the metal out of which it may be coined. And there is no ingenuity of the human intellect that could by law change these conditions of trade.

Since Abraham paid Ephron for the Cave of Macpalah four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant," mankind in business transactions has dealt in realities, not in fictions; and that will continue to be the case until the acquisition of property ceases to be a desire of the human heart, and the love of money is no longer an incentive to action. In this earliest business transaction settled with money of which we have any account it was money current with the merchant. From that time to this the merchant, that is, the dealer in property for which money is exchanged, determines what money shall be current by fixing its commercial value, in receiving or rejecting it, in trade for commodities or in payment for property purchased. . . .

For each of the silver dollars, or for the certificate which represents it, coined and paid out, the Government has received one hundred cents, no matter what it paid for the bullion it purchased or what the market value of silver may have been.

Hence its pledge in business fairness to keep silver money on a parity with gold. But the reopening of our mints to the free and unrestricted coinage of silver at the old ratio of 16 to 1 would, of necessity, change all this. The Government would then cease to coin on its own account, and individuals would again put silver money into circulation, coined out of their own bullion; and whatever profit or advantage there might be in the coinage would be theirs instead of the Government's. The Government could not, therefore, stand responsible for the money thus coined, and it would go forth as in all cases of free and unrestricted coinage of money, without any redeemer except its own intrinsic value.

USE OF CREDIT INSTRUMENTS.

If it would not be advisable for this Nation to adopt either of the foregoing plans in its monetary affairs, then the only alternative, in case of no agreement among the nations, would be a single gold standard in our money unit, with silver circulating as subsidiary coin. Whether that would be advisable and could be done successfully would depend, first, upon whether there is gold enough in the world for the world's business should all nations adopt it as the standard in their money of ultimate redemption, and whether, in case that should be done, there is a reasonable probability that the future annual production of gold would be sufficient for any increase there might be in the world's business. To ascertain whether such a result would be possible there are many things to be considered in connection therewith, and upon which ultimate success would largely, if not wholly, depend.

Reliable statistics show that of all the business transactions of the people of commercial nations, as now transacted, not to exceed 8 per cent of the volume of such transactions are made with actual money. The other 92 per cent are made with what is called substitute money or credit, like bank bills, bills of exchange, checks, drafts, letters of credit and certificates of various kinds. This substitute or credit money answers just as well, if not better, for the transaction of business, if it is at all times convertible at the will of the holder at its face value into money of real or commercial value, commonly called intrinsic value.

To illustrate: 1,000 persons owe each to the other $1. The first one has $1 deposited in the bank. He draws a check on the bank for $1 and passes it to his creditor, who takes it if he believes it will be paid when presented at the bank. The second one does the same, and so it passes from one to the other until it again reaches the drawer of the check. One thousand dollars of indebtedness has been discharged, and not a dollar in actual money has been used in doing it. This process is the same in large or small transactions, by which business is done on what is called credit. But it could not be done at all without the actual dollar, which is called the money of ultimate redemption, nor without confidence that the dollar itself would be paid when the check [illegible] presented. Without such confidence the dollar itself would have to be used in each transaction.

While the check was the instrument used to discharge $1,000 of indebtedness, yet the check itself was not paid, and no matter how many times it might be passed it would not be paid until the holder received for it $1 in commercial value. By its use the creditor simply exchanges one debtor for another. But without the confidence that the $1 of commercial value promised would be paid whenever the check should be presented, the first creditor to whom it should be offered would refuse to take it, and so on with every other one. The same would be true with the purchaser of commodities. No one would take the check for his commodity, except in full faith and confidence that the $1 of commercial value which it promised was on deposit to be paid whenever called for. Law makes all the regulations for the use of substitute money, and makes and fixes the money unit in the standard of value, but cannot make or fix the value in the unit except for debt-paying. There must, therefore, be the actual commercial value in the money of ultimate redemption called for in all this substitute money or it would be no better than the paper rags of which it is composed. . . .

How is the standard of value in money fixed and what are its requisites? The standard of measure of anything must partake of the nature of the thing of which it is the standard. If it is the standard of length it must itself have length like the yardstick. If it is the standard of weight, it must itself have weight like the pound. So of the standard of cubic contents like the bushel. In the standards and units of weights and measures, value is not involved, therefore law makes and fixes the standard. The words of the Constitution are, "Congress may coin money, regulate the value thereof" and "fix the standard of weights and measures." Law makes and fixes the unit of value just as it makes and fixes the unit of weights and measures, but it does not make or fix real value in one case any more than in the other. It regulates the relative value in one case and fixes the standard in the other. It regulates the value in money by fixing the alloy and the relative weights of the metals in exchangeable value. The units fixed by law are only part of the arithmetic intended to facilitate a final settlement and payment of balances in business transactions.

THE UNIT OF VALUE.

With us the unit of value is a dollar. In England it is a pound sterling. In France it is a franc, and so on, differing in different nations. These units differing in different nations, made by law for convenience, could be changed into any others, and the new ones would answer just as well; but the value in the money unit itself is not made by law. That the value in the standard of value varies with the amount of commodities, like wheat, corn or cotton, which it would buy at different times, is a perfect absurdity. If that was the case, then the commodities, varying in their production with the seasons, would be the standard of value. The standard of value could not itself be changing with abundant or short crops, or by decreasing or increasing demand for them. As the standard of value measures the value in all commodities, it cannot itself be changing in its own value by the increasing or lessening quantity of any commodity. The standard of value in the money unit of nations is a certain number of grains of gold; not so many bushels of potatoes, beets or onions. The value of a grain of gold of certain fineness has been fixed by the acquiescing consent, the consensus of opinion of commercial nations, and it is of the same commercial value in them all. . . .

We hear much about the purchasing power of gold varying at different times, implying that the value of the gold unit in the standard of value itself is of greater or less value at one time than another. This is a confusion of terms in the use of language. The cheapening of the cost of commodities, by reason of inventions in labor-saving machinery, greater skill in various appliances of human ingenuity, may so reduce the cost of any commodity that the same number of grains of gold will purchase a much larger quantity at one time than another, the supply and demand remaining the same. But the value in the grain of gold would be the same in either case, and must continue to be the same so long as it is the standard of value. Will any one contend that because wheat sold six months ago for 50 cents a bushel and now sells for $1, that the value in the grain or ounce of gold that paid for it is now one-half what it was six months ago? Can the value in the grain of gold itself, in the money unit of the standard of value, which measures the value in all commodities, be varying with the supply and demand of the commodities themselves? If so, then there is no fixed standard of value, independent of the supply and demand of the commodities. If that were the case, then the value in the money unit of the standard of value shrinks and expands to meet the conditions of supply and demand, and what is called the purchasing power of gold would then be greatest when the supply of commodities is greatest and the demand least, no matter what the cost of production might be, and vice versa, in their supply and demand.

The value of the grain of gold in the money unit of the standard of value must remain the same through the varying conditions of supply and demand and cost of production in commodities, or there could be no such thing as a fixed standard of value. If that is not the case, then it is possible to have a fixed standard of weights and measures, but impossible to have a fixed standard of value, the most essential thing in all the business affairs of life, that will not be varying with the supply and demand and cost of production of commodities the value of which is to be measured by the standard itself. The greater purchasing power of gold at one time over another consists in the cheapening of the cost, or the increase of the supply over demand of the commodities purchased, and not in an absolute increase in the value of a grain of gold. It may take more grains of gold at one time than another to buy the same quantity or amount of commodities, by reason of their greater or less cost in labor, by abundant or short supplies, but the real value in the grain of gold in the money unit of the standard of value must remain the same, and the variation in the amount or quantity of commodities that it will buy is not in the value of the unit, but in the greater or less cost of or the respective supply of and demand for what is to be exchanged for it.

No matter how many grains of gold, more or less, any commodity may at any given time command in the market, the value in the grain of gold itself continues the same, and that must necessarily be the case, so long as it is the standard of value in the money unit of nations. It can no more be changed by one nation than can the mathematics of the world be changed by a nation attempting to change the axiom of the multiplication table that twice one are two into twice one are four. . . .

LAST CABINET MEETING BUT ONE.

PERSONAL MATTERS INCIDENT TO THE CLOSE OF THE ADMINISTRATION DISCUSSED.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The last meeting but one of the Cleveland Cabinet was held to-day. It is said that personal affairs incident to the close of the Administration were chiefly discussed. At any rate, the President asked Secretary Herbert about the portrait Charles Ayer Whipple has just finished of the Secretary, which is to be placed in the Navy Department, and the Secretary sent word to the Department to have it sent over to the White House. Four men bore the big canvas, surrounded by a heavy frame, into the Cabinet room, where it was inspected and commented on by the official associates of Mr. Herbert. The President is endeavoring to decide who shall paint his portrait for the White House collection, and is examining the work of a number of artists.

THE PERRINE LAND GRANT REGULAR.

NONE OF THE CHARGES AGAINST IT SUSTAINED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The Perrine grant, involving 23,000 acres of land in Florida, which has been under investigation for the last week by the Senate Committee on Public Lands, is found by this committee to be regular in every respect. None of the charges made by those attacking the grant are sustained. The committee reports that the testimony shows that the grant was issued in the regular course of business, in accordance with the laws, and that the evidence upon which the patents were issued had not the faintest suspicion of fraud attached to it. The evidence further showed that the Perrine heirs had expended something like $40,000 in improvements upon the property in order to protect their grant, and that at a fair valuation the whole property was possibly worth no more than that sum. The attack on the validity of the grant came from people who had entered into contracts with the heirs, and who, the committee says, pursued this policy in order to force a better bargain with the owners of the land.

MORE MONEY FOR COAST DEFENCES.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The Senate committee made little change in the Fortifications bill, which was reported to-day. It added $463,816, making the total $9,717,141. The estimates called for $18,410,256. The increases were as follows: Coast-defence guns of eight, ten and twelve inch calibre, under contract, $343,816; powder and projectiles for reserve supplies for armament of fortifications, $100,000; for purchase of machine guns, musket calibre, of American manufacture, $20,000; expenses under Bureau of Ordnance, $10,000. The only reduction made is an item of $8,000 for the purchase or manufacture of carriages for coast-defence guns.

NAVAL ORDERS.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The following naval orders were issued to-day: Commander C. W. Watson is ordered to command the naval station at New-London, Conn., March 11, on being relieved at the Washington yard by Commander G. W. Pigman, ordered there for ordnance instruction.

The Steel Board will be dissolved in March, its president, Captain G. W. Coffin, going to the Retiring Board as a member, Passed Assistant Engineer E. R. Freeman going to the Bureau of Steam Engineering, and Naval Constructor R. B. Dashiell resuming his duties in the Construction Bureau.

Chief Engineer G. E. Tower is placed on the retired list. Chief Engineers G. Cowie, of the Puritan, and J. P. Mickley, of the Terror, exchange places. Lieutenant-Commander W. Swift is detailed to the Ordnance Bureau, and Professor Simon Newcomb is detached from the Naval Observatory.

A NEW HOSPITAL BUILDING.

Beth Israel Hospital, now at No. 206 East Broadway, is to have a new building at Cherry and Jefferson sts., on which it is hoped to begin work this spring. The present structure is an old dwelling and inadequate to the needs of the institution. A six-story, fireproof building, with all modern improvements, is to be put up. The cost will be about $100,000, of which part has been raised.

PROPERTY-OWNERS GIVING CONSENT.

Owners of property in lower Broadway are giving written consents to the building of a two-track underground road there, in the hope that the Rapid Transit Commission will extend the branch from the City Hall to South Ferry. The Commission will not order the building of the branch unless consents representing $22,000,000 of the assessed valuation of the property are received. Thus far the consents represent property valued at $18,000,000. Some owners of property in lower Broadway are in Europe, and it has been necessary to send papers to them to obtain their written consents.

ALASKA BOUNDARY TREATY.

FULL TEXT OF THE CONVENTION MADE PUBLIC.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONERS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE UNITED STATES AND ENGLAND.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Following is the full text of the Alaskan boundary treaty recently signed by Secretary Olney and Sir Julian Pauncefote:

Article I.—Each Government shall appoint one commissioner, with whom may be associated such surveyors, astronomers and other assistants as each Government may elect. The Commissioners shall, at as early a period as practicable, proceed to trace and mark, under their joint directions and by joint operations in the field, so much of the 141st meridian of west longitude as is necessary to be defined for the purpose of determining the exact limits of the territory ceded to the United States by the treaty between the United States and Russia of March 30, 1867. Inasmuch as the summit of Mount St. Elias, although not ascertained to lie in fact upon the 141st meridian, is so nearly coincident therewith that it may conveniently be taken as a visible landmark whereby the initial part of said meridian shall be established, it is agreed that the Commissioners, should they conclude that it is advisable so to do, may deflect the most southerly portion of said line so as to make the range with the summit of Mount St. Elias, such deflection not to extend more than twenty geographical miles northwardly from the initial point.

Article II.—The data relating to the determinations already made at this time by either of the two Governments concerned, of points on or near the 141st meridian for the purpose of fixing its position, shall be submitted by each Government to the Commissioners, who shall decide which of the results of the determinations shall be adopted by them. In case of disagreement between the Commissioners as to the correct geographical coordinates of one and the same point determined by either of the two Governments separately, a position midway between the two locations in question of the 141st meridian shall be adopted, provided the discrepancy between them shall not exceed 1,000 feet. In case of a greater discrepancy, a new joint determination shall be made by the Commissioners.

Article III.—The location of the 141st meridian as determined hereunder shall be marked by intervisible objects, natural or artificial, at such distances apart as the Commissioners shall agree upon, and by such additional marks as they shall deem necessary, and the line when and where marked, in whole or in part, shall be deemed permanently to define for all international purposes the 141st meridian mentioned in the treaty of March 30, 1867, between the United States and Russia, and in the treaty of February 28 (16), 1825, between Great Britain and Russia. The location of the marks shall be described by such views, maps and other means as the Commissioners shall decide upon, and duplicate records of these descriptions shall be attested by the Commissioners jointly and be by them deposited with their respective Governments, together with their final report hereinafter mentioned.

Article IV.—Each Government shall bear the expense incident to the employment of its own appointees and of the operations conducted by them, but the cost of material used in permanently marking the meridian and of the transportation shall be borne jointly and equally by the two Governments.

Article V.—The Commissioners shall diligently prosecute the work to its completion, and they shall submit to their respective Governments from time to time, and at least once in every calendar year, a joint report of progress and a final comprehensive report upon the completion of the whole work.

The present convention shall be duly ratified by the President of the United States of America, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, and by Her Britannic Majesty, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Washington or in London as soon as possible within twelve months from the date thereof.

In faith whereof we, the respective plenipotentiaries, have signed this convention and have hereunto affixed our seals.

Done in duplicate in Washington, the thirtieth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven.

RICHARD OLNEY.
JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

WINDING UP ITS AFFAIRS.

PROBABLY THE LAST MEETING OF THE VENEZUELAN BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The Venezuelan Commission held to-day what was probably the last session of this tribunal. To-day's meeting was in the nature of a winding up of the affairs of the Commission. During its existence it has heard and collected much valuable testimony and prepared many exhaustive reports, which are now being printed. The work of the Commission has not been lost, as the result of its labors will be greatly to simplify the work of the arbitration tribunal when it meets. All the data, maps, testimony and reports will be placed at the disposal of the arbitrators as soon as they are ready to receive them, and they will undoubtedly be greatly aided thereby.

FORTIFICATIONS CLOSED TO VISITORS.

NO PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED TO CIVILIANS—GUARDING MILITARY SECRETS MORE CLOSELY.

Washington, Feb. 26 (Special).—The character, extent and other information concerning seacoast and other fortifications of the country are hereafter to be guarded as an important military secret by Army officials. An order on this subject has been prepared at the War Department, and will be issued at once. Civilians, whether Americans or foreigners, are not to be permitted to visit the fortifications in the future unless they have a pass signed by proper authority. No passes will be issued to any one except on military reasons. It has been the custom to permit nearly every one who wished to inspect the fortifications to do so. Until recently freedom in the matter was not important, as the country had little if anything to conceal. Now, however, a number of the new modern defences are nearing the point of completion, and persons with any knowledge of works of defence could readily see where the big guns and mortars are placed, how they are defended, and gain other information which would be of great value to all foreign countries. Not only this, but they could, by careful inspection, learn about the mine connections, torpedo preparations and other matters which it is important should be known only to officers of the Army.

All foreign countries closely guard their fortifications and permit no outsiders to learn anything concerning their character and extent. Some times secret information on the subject leaks out, but as a rule the intelligence sifts through some dishonest or unpatriotic subordinate. Occasionally it is purchased at a high price. The War Department authorities have been considering this subject for some time, intending to issue orders keeping visitors out of the new defences. It has now become necessary that action to this effect should be taken. At a number of places the plans of defence are almost executed. Accordingly, directions in the case have been prepared by General Miles. Under these no one can visit the fortifications who is without written permission to do so. The permission is to be signed by some one in military authority. Except in the cases of persons in the Army, permission will not be granted. Civilians need not expect a permit.

War Department officials say that while their new ruling may seem somewhat severe to civilians, and while they would be glad to have the public generally know how the appropriations have been expended severally and in detail, it is, considering all the facts, not only advisable, but necessary, to prevent important secret information concerning the country's defences being communicated to foreign Governments. The safest rule, under the circumstances, is, they say, to prohibit all civilians entering works of defence except when specially authorized.

BAILEY GETS IN HIS FINE WORK.

Washington, Feb. 26 (Special).—Bailey, of Texas, of whom officers of the Army and Navy have heard much in an unpleasant way in recent years; Bailey, who has on several occasions introduced bills in the House to abolish the retired list of the Army and Navy, but who has utterly failed in his efforts in this direction, got in some fine work in the House on Tuesday. On that day a bill was called up authorizing the President to appoint Lieutenant Robert Platt, of the Navy, to the rank of commander. Lieutenant Platt is not in the line of promotion, and will be placed on the retired list March 14 without pay.

Lieutenant Platt has an excellent war record, and the bill to retire him with the rank of commander has been approved by the Secretary of the Navy. In the course of a discussion of the bill, Mr. Fischer said that if the measure passed Lieutenant Platt could be properly provided for on the retired list. "Retired list" was Bailey's cue. He said: "If it is the purpose of the bill to retire anybody, I object."

It was explained to the Texan that if the bill did not get through Lieutenant Platt would be retired without pay. Bailey then drew himself up to his full height, and with head drawn back and manner defiant, said: "I am of the opinion that any man who retires from work ought to retire without pay, and I object."

The objection was noted by the Speaker, and the meritorious proposition in behalf of Lieutenant Platt went over. It is the first chance that Bailey has had to get in his work for some time. Presumably he enjoyed the experience hugely. It is a source of comfort to know that his colleagues on the floor glanced at him with evident displeasure as his objection was made.

REPROACHES FOR MR. PARKER.

THE REV. DR. PARKHURST ACCUSES THE POLICE COMMISSIONER OF HAVING NEGLECTED HIS OPPORTUNITIES.

The Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst is recovering rapidly from his recent collapse, which was said to be due to overwork. He sent on Thursday to Police Commissioner Andrew D. Parker a letter which contains some severe reproaches, at the same time telling him that a copy of the letter had been forwarded to Commissioner Roosevelt, in order that there might be no doubt of the intention to give it publicity. The letter is in part a recital of the beginning of the writer's acquaintance with Mr. Parker, and speaks feelingly of the good impressions which Mr. Parker had created at the beginning of his term of office, when he was understood to be a man who would work unselfishly for the reformation of the Police Department. Mention is made of private interviews at Dr. Parkhurst's house, and public speeches in which Mr. Parker spoke of his plans for the purification of the force. The closing paragraphs of the letter are as follows:

All of this, I say, has come back to me with peculiar vividness in the quiet of these last two weeks, when I had nothing to do but to think and to measure present results against the anticipations of eighteen months ago, and the comparison has filled me with distress. I recognize the wonderful gain that has been made in the administration of the city at large, but I am on safe ground when I say that that gain has not been participated in by the Police Department, and for that condition of things I believe you to be personally responsible. I believe your finished phrases were a mask to disguise your passion for place and power. I am not writing this in wrath, but in the bitterness of disappointment. You understand the Sheehan matter; so do I. You understand the Pickett business; so do I. You wanted to get Captain Martens off the force. Why didn't you get him off? You ate your own words, and what was the seasoning, and who administered it, that made those words of yours palatable so that you could eat them without distaste or relish?

If you say that it is presumption in me to write you in these terms, I repel the accusation. My warrant lies in the work I have myself put into the regeneration of the Police Department, and it lies also in the confidential communications that you have yourself made to me in this matter. I am distinctly within my own diocese. Your transcendent abilities, your knowledge of men, your understanding of the Department—its history and needs—created for you an opportunity of service unequalled by any which opened itself before either of the other Police Commissioners, and you have fallen short of your opportunity, and, in my opinion, have fallen short of it ingloriously and wantonly, and have, in my judgment, been wickedly willing to use the immense resources of a great public trust as a means of subsidizing your own interests. You may be able to writhe yourself out of the toils thrown about you by the technicalities of judicial procedure, but even your astuteness ought not to be able to escape the more searching assize of the general judgment and the popular conscience.

I have written to you, Mr. Parker, in entire calmness of mind untainted by peevishness. At one time I admired you with an admiration that was even warmer than admiration; but whether I think of you in relation to myself or in relation to the city, the thought of you now brings me only pain.

Commissioner Parker was seen at his home, No. 20 East Twenty-ninth-st., last evening. He said he had received Dr. Parkhurst's letter on Thursday evening. It had been sent to him by a messenger. Mr. Parker had a brief statement concerning it prepared which he read to the reporters. The statement is as follows:

The letter is a peculiar one, and from almost any other man would cause surprise. It is simply a repetition of what Dr. Parkhurst last spring told the world he thought about me—a quite superfluous announcement—the real reason for which at this moment I can only conjecture. It necessitates no answer, and I do not know whether I shall answer it at all. At any rate, I shall have no time to do so for a day or two. I will say now only that Dr. Parkhurst is quite ignorant of the Department matters he says he understands.

President Roosevelt declined to discuss the letter.

LOCKED IN THE TOMBS A MONTH.

THE PAPERS CHARGING ONE PRISONER WITH ASSAULT, ANOTHER WITH LARCENY, MISLAID.

Presiding Justice Holbrook grew indignant yesterday when Michael Kane, twenty-three years old, of No. 404 Pearl-st., and David Friedman, thirty-four years old, of No. 70 Forsyth-st., were arraigned for trial on a charge of larceny and assault, respectively, committed about a month ago. He was especially angry when he learned that the long delay in both cases was caused by an error of a clerk in the Essex Market Court, and that Kane and Friedman had all that time been in the Tombs waiting for their cases to be called.

The cases would not have been called yesterday had not the men complained to their keepers, and the latter informed Chief Clerk Fuller, of Special Sessions. Fuller started an investigation and learned that the papers in both cases had never been sent to him. Therefore the cases had never been put on the court calendar. Both men said they had been first arraigned in Essex Market Court. Fuller communicated with the chief clerk of that court, with the result that the papers in both cases were found there. They had been mislaid, and it is not yet known what clerk was to blame.

The first of the two men to be arraigned was Kane. He was arrested on January 28 on a charge of having stolen a pushcart worth $10 from C. L. Coombs, of No. 58 John-st. Two days later he was held by Magistrate Kudlich in Essex Market Court for trial. In consideration of the mistake, Justice Holbrook imposed the light sentence of one month in the City Prison. When Friedman's turn came, he was found to have been arrested on February 5 for having assaulted Abraham Liss, of No. 237 Henry-st. Justice Holbrook said he had been punished enough and discharged him.

Justice Holbrook instructed Chief Clerk Fuller to write to the Board of City Magistrates asking them to investigate the case.

FUNERAL OF A. W. CRUIKSHANK.

Augustus W. Cruikshank's funeral was held yesterday afternoon in the Collegiate Church, at West End-ave. and Seventy-seventh-st. After the services, which began at 12:30 o'clock, the Masons of Morton Lodge No. 63, of Hempstead, took charge of the body, and buried it in the Cruikshank plot in Woodlawn Cemetery.

The Rev. Dr. Henry E. Cobb conducted the services at the church, which were largely attended by members of the Real Estate Exchange, of which Mr. Cruikshank was treasurer. The pallbearers were George Anderson, W. L. De Bost, Spencer Hill, W. Van Wart, H. R. Denmead, G. W. Connell, E. A. Jones and Robert E. Bary.

Under the direction of Sumner Salter the choir sang Schnecker's "Crossing the Bar," "Lead, Kindly Light" and "Nearer, My God, to Thee."

Among those who attended the funeral were Commodore Gerry, Douglas Robinson, H. H. Cammann, J. K. and John T. Lockman, Solomon De Walltearss, George R. Read, John F. Doyle, Augustus H. Carpenter, Moses Ottenger, Louis De Cunha, C. F. Hoffman, Edward Ashforth, Benjamin Hardwick, John Treat Irving, Coulter Irving and Charles A. Schermerhorn.

Besides the widow and her two sons, Edwin A. and Frank Cruikshank, there were also present among the immediate relatives Mr. and Mrs. Warren Cruikshank, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Cruikshank, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. C. C. Thompson, Miss Biddell, Mr. and Mrs. Pitney, Miss Macy and Frederick Pitney.

A HUSBAND CHARGED WITH CRUELTY.

Cornelia Durwanger, through her counsel, Henry Dollinger, moved in the Supreme Court yesterday before Justice Beekman for an award of alimony and counsel fees in an action for separation which she has brought against her husband, Frank Durwanger, the secretary of the American Brewing Company of Morrisania. Married in August last and separated by articles in the following December is the record of Mrs. Durwanger's married life. She sets up in her complaint charges of cruelty on the part of her husband, who, she alleges, put her out of his house, in Tinton-ave., Morrisania.

In his answer the husband denies all the allegations against him, and pleads articles of separation, by which, in consideration of $450, Mrs. Durwanger released her dower rights in his property, as a cause why he should not be compelled to pay alimony. Mr. Dollinger replied that Mrs. Durwanger signed the papers without a proper knowledge of their contents. Decision was reserved.

FINE WEATHER AND THE FRUIT TRADE.

The fine, mild weather of the last few days has been extremely favorable for the fruit trade, both wholesale and retail. It has enabled jobbers to ship fruit in all directions without hindrance, and outdoor dealers safely to display their stocks on stands and pushcarts. As a result, there has been an increased demand, especially for oranges and bananas, which are plentiful, but not in oversupply. Shipments of lemons to inland places have been numerous and prices strengthened. Receipts of Mediterranean fruit have been light.

THE FULTON CLUB'S COMING ELECTION.

William Brookfield heads the ticket announced by the Nominating Committee of the Fulton Club Wednesday. The other nominations made by the committee, which was appointed to name a ticket for the annual election of the club on March 18, are as follows: Vice-president, Alexander Gilbert; treasurer, Henry B. Haigh; secretary, Frederic G. Dow; directors, John H. Sprague, Henry B. Platt and Edward E. Brown.

The Fulton Club has rooms in the Market and Fulton Bank Building, at Fulton and Gold sts. It is one of the most prosperous and popular of the downtown dining and social clubs. Mr. Brookfield was one of its founders.

BUTLER SAVES THE SILVER.

THREE BURGLARS SURPRISED IN J. D. ROCKEFELLER'S COUNTRY HOUSE.

TABLE ARTICLES VALUED AT MORE THAN $2,000 PACKED UP TO BE TAKEN AWAY—SHOTS FRIGHTEN THE THIEVES OFF.

Three burglars entered the Pocantico Hills home of John D. Rockefeller, the well-known millionaire, who is president of the Standard Oil Company, and patron of the University of Chicago, early yesterday morning, and but for the prompt action of Danial Conaty, the butler, would have stolen silverware valued at more than $2,000.

The house stands in a beautiful piece of land in the Bedford Road, adjoining Kaak-Out, where Mr. Rockefeller is about to erect a handsome mansion, which, it is said, will cost about $1,000,000. Mr. Rockefeller recently purchased his present house from the Parsons estate, and intended to make it his home until his new mansion is completed. He found it desirable to make some repairs and build an addition to the house, and had plans prepared by D. W. Purdy, of Tarrytown. Work was begun last week, and Mr. Rockefeller went to Lakewood, while his wife is staying with their daughter in the West.

The improvements made it necessary to disconnect the burglar alarm, a thing that was never allowed while Mr. Rockefeller and his family were in the house. This favored the burglars, for had the alarm been in place it would have been impossible for them to gain an entrance, which they made by cutting away the sash and shoving the catch back on a window leading into the telephone-room, which is on the east side of the house. They made their way through the library, across the main hall to the dining-room, where they broke open the sideboard.

SILVERWARE PACKED UP.

It was here that the table silverware was kept. The burglars took it all out and placed it on a quilt, which one of them took from a bed on the second floor. Together with the silver they removed a lot of table linen, cut glass and chinaware.

While two of the thieves were packing up their plunder, the third went upstairs and entered the room of Daniel Conaty, the butler, adjoining the one in which he was sleeping. He pried open Conaty's trunk without awakening him, and emptied the contents on the floor. He seemed to like two dress suits belonging to the butler, for he tied them up and then proceeded to ransack the bureau. From the top drawer he secured $250 in cash and some trinkets belonging to Conaty.

The butler was suddenly awakened by a loud noise which, he thinks, was caused by the burglar letting a drawer fall to the floor. He jumped out of bed and opened the door leading into the next room. Before him stood a tall man, wearing a black overcoat and a soft hat, which was pulled down over his eyes.

THIEVES CHASED BY THE BUTLER.

Conaty turned around and seized a revolver and a shotgun, which he always kept in his room. The thief took advantage of this opportunity and sprang for the stairway, closely pursued by Conaty, who fired a shot from his revolver. It missed its mark and lodged in the wall.

At this point the butler's attention was distracted by a second burglar, who ran across the hall into the library, off which opens the small place called the telephone room.

Conaty followed, in time to see the burglar jump out the window. Looking out he saw the figures of the three. He aimed through the window and fired five shots, but the bullets went wild and were found in a tree opposite the window yesterday morning. He then discharged his shotgun, and he thinks that he succeeded in hitting one of the burglars.

The shots aroused the two women servants in the house and William Hemmingway and George E. Hutchinson, foreman and superintendent for Mr. Rockefeller.

Hemmingway telephoned to the North Tarrytown Police Headquarters, and Policeman John H. Murphy responded. Together they searched with lanterns for some distance around, but no trace of the robbers could be found.

NOT PROFESSIONALS' WORK.

Later in the morning Chief of Police Frederick Hackett and Policeman Murphy visited the place and made a thorough investigation. Chief Hackett says he does not think the burglars were professionals, because the silverware is valued at $2,000 alone, and no professional, he thinks, would be foolish enough to run the risk of being detected when they were sure of so much silver. He thinks that the burglars took to the woods and went toward Pleasantville. He telephoned to all the villages in Westchester County and to New-York City in hopes of capturing them.

Mr. Hemingway said yesterday morning that he saw three poorly dressed men hanging around the place on Thursday afternoon, and thinks that they were probably the ones who entered the house. Conaty and others also saw them. They acted suspiciously, and at places where they applied for work were refused. It is thought that they noticed the addition being built to the house, and, knowing to whom it belonged, planned the robbery some time before, and that their object in hanging around the place on Thursday afternoon was to get the lay of the ground and to decide on the best methods of operation.

A DETECTIVE TO GUARD THE HOUSE.

Yesterday morning Hemingway telephoned what had occurred to Mr. Rockefeller at Lakewood, and he gave instructions to secure the services of a private detective, and to spare no expense in capturing the robbers.

A detective from this city arrived at the place yesterday afternoon, and made a careful investigation of the house and premises. He agreed with Chief Hackett that the burglars were not professionals.

It is thought that Mr. Rockefeller will leave Lakewood for Pocantico Hills to-day and probably offer a reward for the capture of the burglars.

HIS GUEST STEALS FROM SEÑOR ACUNA.

Señor José Acuna, one of the Spanish Vice-Consuls at New-York, is mourning the loss of about $2,000 in money, a collection of rare old coins and a number of valuable jewels that belonged to his wife and that are valued at more than $20,000. He lays the blame at the door of a fellow-countryman, who gave the name of Blas Ibanes, of Valencia, Spain, and told Señor Acuna a tale of hard luck and misfortune. Ibanes said he was the son of the keeper of a well-known café in Valencia, and the Vice-Consul believed him, and took him to his home to look after him until he should be on his feet again. On Monday night Señor Acuna and his wife went out to spend the evening. Ibanes said he had a headache and could not go. When the Vice-Consul returned his guest had disappeared and so had $2,000 in money, the old coins and the jewels. The theft was reported to the police, who are working on the case.

At the Spanish Consulate yesterday it was said that Señor Acuna had been away for several days.

A BUILDER'S WILL TO BE CONTESTED.

Application was made to Surrogate Fitzgerald yesterday for the appointment of John Henry Murphy as temporary administrator of the estate of Lawrence B. Lynch, the builder, who died several weeks ago in St. Luke's Hospital, leaving a large estate. Mr. Murphy is executor of the will, and he and his sister are the principal legatees. The testator also left a half-brother and half-sister, to each of whom he left only $10. They have entered a contest to the will, alleging undue influence on the part of Mr. Murphy, who is a nephew of the testator. For this reason, also, they oppose the appointment of Mr. Murphy as temporary administrator. The Surrogate reserved decision.

THEY WANT MR. EAMES AS PRESIDENT.

More than six hundred of the 1,100 members of the Stock Exchange having signed a petition to Francis L. Eames to become a candidate for a fourth term as president of the Stock Exchange, he yesterday consented. The election will take place May 10. Since the office of chairman was separated from that of president Mr. Eames is the only person to serve more than two terms as president.

HE WON THE POOL ON M'KINLEY.

Sixty-two brokers on the Stock Exchange made up a pool on McKinley's electoral vote. They put in $25 each, which made the total $1,550. S. Fisher Johnson guessed 271 and won. He entertained twenty-three of the pool at luncheon, put his original $25 in his pocket, distributed $500 among Stock Exchange employes and gave the rest to charity.