BIGELOW IN CONTEMPT.

REFUSES TO ANSWER.

Arrested, but Soon Released by Senate Canal Committee.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 18.—Poultney Bigelow, whose attack on the management of isthmian canal affairs in an article published in "The Independent" was denounced recently by Secretary Taft, appeared before the Senate Committee on Interoceanic Canals to-day, and for a time was held in arrest because he refused to furnish the names of persons he alleged to have given him information. Mr. Bigelow made various assertions, prefacing them with the statement: "It is my impression." Finally Senator Knox gave evidence of impatience and demanded facts of the witness, who then asserted that "many engineers of note declined to accept government employment in clearing up these unsanitary conditions" (in the canal zone).

Senator Knox immediately demanded the names of the engineers referred to, and Mr. Bigelow after some hesitation gave the names of John R. Freeman, of Boston, and William Barclay Parsons, of New-York. He alleged that there were others, but declined to give their names on the ground that to do so would be to violate confidence and subject these persons to embarrassment. He intimated that the displeasure of the administration would be exhibited in such a manner that their "reputations would be worth nothing after the official replies had been concluded." The committee declared that refusal to answer its questions would place the witness in contempt, but he persisted in his refusal. This afternoon the committee, in executive session, discussed the advisability of placing Mr. Bigelow under arrest, and he was finally given into the custody of the assistant sergeant at arms. While under arrest, Mr. Bigelow said to a Tribune correspondent that neither Mr. Freeman nor Mr. Parsons had told him they were unwilling or had declined to serve on the isthmus, but he had "gathered that impression from conversation with them."

At the afternoon session of the committee a difference of opinion arose regarding the proper procedure; whether further testimony should be taken now and the committee content itself with reporting the contempt to the Vice-President, or the witness be held in arrest. It was finally determined to release the witness for the present, and the question of hearing further evidence from him was deferred until to-morrow. That Mr. Bigelow will be imprisoned for contempt is not generally believed. It is said by some members of the committee that his whole testimony gave little evidence of being founded on more than hearsay evidence, and it is thought likely that he will appear again and acknowledge that he has no confidential sources of information which he is concealing.

REFUSES TO GIVE NAMES.

Mr. Bigelow was interrogated by Senator Morgan. His attention was called to his statement that Mr. Freeman had declined to accept a place with the government on canal work. The witness said he had not been told personally by Mr. Freeman that he would not take the place. He was asked to name others, but declined. He said, however, that he had had conversations with Mr. Dunlap, Editor of "The Mining Journal"; William Barclay Parsons and Mr. Freeman as well as others.

"Have any of these gentlemen said they would not be willing to go to the isthmus to undertake engineering work because of physical conditions or other reasons of that character?" asked Mr. Morgan.

"It would be very unfair to these gentlemen for me to answer that question," replied Mr. Bigelow. Continuing, he declared that he would not quote any of them, and he declined to disclose any conversations with persons who had not given him authority to do so. He said that Tracey Robinson and others he had mentioned in his article had been so "covered with mud by administration officials" that he would not think of embarrassing others. He offered to quote parts of a letter from Mr. Robinson, but would not put in the entire letter.

Mr. Morgan's questions were severe in holding Mr. Bigelow closely to facts and in demanding details concerning the generalities of his early testimony.

"I would like to withdraw the names I have already given," said Mr. Bigelow, but he was told that he could not withdraw anything; that he had been called to tell the truth and would be expected to tell it on all matters on which he said he had knowledge.

"The law requires that you answer any questions put to you by this committee," explained Mr. Morgan. "It requires you to answer, even though it might violate private conversations or incriminate you. Should you refuse it is our duty to report your conduct to the President of the Senate and for him to proceed against you in a court of justice. Do you want any further authority on that point of law?"

"I accept your word on law questions," replied the witness, "but I should like to state"——

His statement was cut short by Mr. Morgan, who instructed the stenographer to read the question, which was whether the witness would name any engineers who had declined to go to the isthmus on account of physical or other conditions.

"Do you refuse to answer without their consent?" asked Mr. Morgan.

"I should like to appeal to the chairman. I was invited here to make a statement concerning my experiences."

Again the witness was cut short. Mr. Morgan demanded an answer to the question.

"Do you refuse to answer?" he asked with great severity of tone.

"Of course I do, for the reasons I have stated," replied the witness. He was not permitted to make any explanation. Mr. Hopkins then inquired if he refused to give the names of any other engineers than the ones he had mentioned as declining to go to the isthmus. Mr. Bigelow replied that he had not said that any engineers had told him personally that they were unwilling to take a government position on the isthmus, but that he had given information he had gathered in various places. "I have no names of engineers that have told me they would not go to the isthmus," he said, "and neither will I say that either of the gentlemen mentioned has told others that he would not go."

On being questioned further he said that while he would not say they had made statements, neither would he say that they had not. Getting no satisfaction whatever from the witness, Mr. Morgan moved that the room be cleared that the committee might again consider the case.

CONTROVERSY IN COMMITTEE.

In executive session it developed that the committee was agreed that the offence of Mr. Bigelow was of such a nature that there could be no doubt of the committee's power to have him dealt with summarily. Senators Knox, Hopkins and Morgan favored a certification of his recalcitrancy to the Vice-President for submission of the case to United States Attorney Baker for the District of Columbia. This course met with opposition from Senators Gorman and Simmons on the ground that it would prevent further examination of the witness on other subjects contained in the article making charges against the canal management. Several members of the committee said that Mr. Bigelow's usefulness as a witness was at an end, and argued so vehemently against any delay in proceeding against him that Senators Gorman and Simmons declared that their purpose seemed to be to interfere with the thorough investigation of canal affairs which was ordered by the Senate.

When it was apparent that there could be no action to-day, a motion to adjourn until to-morrow at 11 o'clock was carried. It was the understanding that the records of to-day's hearings should be printed and in the hands of the committee at to-morrow's meeting. Mr. Bigelow was commanded to hold himself ready to appear to-morrow if wanted.

CONTRADICTS MR. BIGELOW.

J. R. Freeman Says He Never Declined a Canal Appointment.

Providence, R. I., Jan. 18.—Regarding Poultney Bigelow's assertion before the Senate Committee on Interoceanic Canals to-day, that among prominent engineers who have declined appointments to assist in the construction of the Panama Isthmian Canal was John R. Freeman, Mr. Freeman said to-night that Mr. Bigelow was mistaken. He had declined no appointment of the kind. Mr. Freeman added that while he might have said that the work on the isthmus would be a thankless task, Mr. Bigelow's assertion must have been caused by a misunderstanding.

NO EIGHT HOUR LAW IN PANAMA.

Canal Appropriation Carried in Urgent Deficiency Bill.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The House Committee on Appropriation to-day reported an urgent deficiency bill. A provision directs that the eight-hour law shall not apply in the construction of the Panama Canal or in the canal zone. The provision of the last deficiency act to prevent the incurring of deficiencies has been amended so as to prevent such deficiencies, unless in case of emergencies that could not have been reasonably anticipated. The bill carries $15,215,503. This includes $5,340,796 to carry on canal work until June 30, 1906; also $1,500,000 for the collection of revenue from customs for 1906; for pensions, $3,500,000; for the naval establishment, $1,914,565.

URGES A CABLE TO PANAMA.

Would Be Indispensable in Case of War, Says Secretary Taft.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Secretary Taft, in response to a request from the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, has sent a communication to that committee relative to the House bill for the construction of a cable connecting the mainland of the United States with the canal zone. The Secretary incloses a resolution of the Board of Canal Defence, which he says shows that a cable is indispensable to the military control of the Gulf of Mexico and the surrounding regions in time of war. The Secretary adds:

This is possible on this side of the Atlantic only by a single system extending from Galveston via the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and San Juan del Sure, Nicaragua, to Panama. The maintenance-and-operation of this system depend in time of peace on the good will of two nations, Mexico and Nicaragua, while its exposed conditions are such that its maintenance in time of war would be practically impossible.

The Secretary recommends that the chief signal officer be authorized to construct and operate a military cable, to be opened for commercial purposes, with a maximum rate of 40 cents a word, between Key West, Guantanamo and the canal zone at Panama. The estimated cost is $1,000,000.

SANITARY CONDITIONS ON ISTHMUS.

Panama, Jan. 18.—The December report of Dr. W. C. Gorgas, the chief sanitary officer of the Panama Canal Zone, says the sanitary conditions here are excellent. The yearly death rate among the white employes is eight a thousand and among the negroes forty-two. Dr. Gorgas says that the whites observe the sanitary regulations better than the negroes. The sanitary chief defends his methods from the attacks recently made on them.

WOULD SEE PRESIDENT.

New-York Woman Detained in Washington.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Mrs. Elizabeth M. Holmes, of New-York, is at the House of Detention here, having been arrested last night on a telegram signed by William M. Holmes, of No. 29 Gold-st., New-York. The telegram read: "Arrest my wife; believed demented."

When Mrs. Holmes was taken into custody she stated that she had some papers for President Roosevelt and Secretary Taft that would reveal startling things to them.

"I propose to unmask at least three traitors," said Mrs. Holmes. "I represent Mrs. Elizabeth Grannis, president of the National Purity Congress and an exponent of women's rights. I intend seeing the President as soon as possible, and then will return home. I don't propose to be ejected from the White House, as was Mrs. Morris. Recently I wrote to Dr. Minor Morris. He knows something about the secret of my mission."

Relatives of Mrs. Holmes called at Police Headquarters this morning and discussed the case with Captain Boardmann. Later in the day, at the instance of Chief Wilkie of the Secret Service, one of his officers filed a specific charge of insanity against Mrs. Holmes, and she will be examined by the Board of Police Surgeons.

William M. Holmes, a nickel plater, at No. 29 Gold-st., said yesterday that he had sent a telegram to Washington for the arrest of his wife. Holmes said his wife had been acting strangely for about eighteen months. Some time ago she was committed to the Rivercrest Sanatorium by Judge Aspinall, but she escaped and made her home in Jersey. Mr. Holmes said his wife had been talking about a trip to Washington for nearly a month, and had communicated with Mrs. Minor Morris, who was made to leave the White House recently. He said his wife had relatives in Washington who would take care of her until she started for New-York. Mrs. Holmes formerly lived at No. 570 9th-st., Brooklyn.

Mrs. Elizabeth Grannis, at her home, No. 5 East 12th-st., said that Mrs. Holmes could not by any means be considered an insane woman, although her mind at times appeared to be slightly affected.

DISCREDIT WIRELESS REPORT.

Navy Department Inclined to Doubt 3,000 Mile Communication.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 18.—No dependence is placed in the report which comes from Portland, Me., that wireless communication has been accomplished between the naval station at Cape Elizabeth and the floating drydock three thousand miles distant. That would locate the dock, and the towing expedition under Commander Hosley somewhere near the centre of the Mediterranean Sea. It is figured out in the Navy Department that the dock must be now about 1,500 miles distant from Cape Elizabeth.

There is nothing in the Navy Department up to the time of closing to-day to show that Rear Admiral Brownson's ships have succeeded in connecting with the dock towing expedition, and it is hardly likely, the naval wire experts here believe, that wireless communication through Brownson's ships would be received at Portland. It is expected the first information will come from the station at San Juan.

WOULD DOUBLE PRESIDENT'S SALARY.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Representative Sulzer, of New-York, introduced a bill to-day to increase the President's salary to $100,000 and the Vice-President's salary to $25,000.

PLEA FOR ARMENIANS.

Prominent Europeans Send a Petition to the President.

Washington, Jan. 18.—European statesmen, educators, publicists and citizens have joined in a petition to President Roosevelt to endeavor, in the interests of humanity and civilization, by such means as may seem proper to him, to bring about "the concert of the powers of Europe with the view of securing for the subjects of the Ottoman Empire that condition of public peace and order of which the absence has already drawn down upon that empire so many disasters, menacing it with the catastrophe of its total annihilation."

The appeal was presented to President Roosevelt to-day by James B. Reynolds, of New-York. The petition was prepared by M. Berthelot, formerly Senator and Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, and is signed by scores of public men of every country in Europe.

The President made no response to the appeal, but promised Mr. Reynolds to give it the most careful consideration, expressing his appreciation of the honor done him as President and to America in having the petition presented to him.

The text of the petition follows:

To the President of the United States.

Sir: We take the liberty of addressing ourselves to you and of invoking, in favor of a generous cause, the high moral and political influence which you possess as chief of the great Republic of the United States, and of the personal authority which you have acquired through your constant efforts to maintain or to restore peace between nations.

We do not doubt that, like ourselves, you are profoundly moved by the tragic fate of the Armenian people, whose origin is the same as our own, and who have played an important part in the development of civilization since ancient times. This people is now reduced to despair and threatened with destruction through the cruelty and violence inflicted upon them with impunity by the barbarous Mussulman tribes surrounding them, who for more than ten years have sought their extermination.

The testimony of Europeans and Americans who inhabit or who pass through these unhappy regions and the official reports of the diplomatic agents accredited to them are unanimous upon the matter, and bear witness to the most definite and heartrending details. There does not at this moment exist for the Armenian people security either for possessions, for life or for the honor of man, woman or child, perpetually threatened as they are by pillage, outrage and massacre at the hands of the organized brigands who infest Asia.

It is a disgrace for Europe and, we may add, for America, to permit the continuance of such a condition of crime and anarchy which, let it be remembered, involves our own fellow countrymen. More than one European and American has been plundered, illtreated and murdered by Hamidian Kurdish or Tartar bands. In the regions abandoned to the brutal ferocity of these hordes of brigands chronic danger threatens alike the material interests of commerce and industry and human life, to whatever nation the inhabitants may belong.

These, sir, are our reasons for addressing you with the entreaty that you will approach, by such means and in such measure as may seem proper to you, and as the authorized exponent of the opinion of civilized nations, the governments in whose territories these scenes of savagery take place.

We venture to hope that your expression of sympathy will be favorably received by the Czar of Russia, who has so emphatically proclaimed his humanitarian intentions and expressed his desire to have them sanctioned by international agreement. We appeal to you to take steps to bring about the concert of the powers of Europe, with the view of securing for the subjects of the Ottoman Empire that condition of public peace and order of which the absence has already drawn down upon that empire so many disasters, meancing it with the catastrophe of its total annihilation.

We are men of peace, and we are convinced that we do not appeal in vain to you in the name of outraged humanity. By such means our common humanity will incur yet another debt to you of gratitude and of admiration.

An explanatory letter from Mr. Reynolds accompanied the petition.

TILLMAN SUPPRESSED.

Senate Tables Morris Resolution of Inquiry.

Washington, Jan. 18.—There was an echo of yesterday's stormy session in the Senate to-day, when Mr. Tillman presented his resolution calling for investigation into the removal of Mrs. Minor Morris from the White House. The resolution provoked no debate. Mr. Tillman said he would not have introduced it except for the taunts of Mr. Hale. Mr. Daniel moved that the resolution be laid on the table, and this disposition was made of it by a vote of 54 to 8.

The remainder of the day was devoted to speeches on the Pure Food and Merchant Marine bills, Mr. McCumber advocating the food measure and Mr. Mallory opposing the Shipping bill. Mr. Mallory was so frequently interrupted as to cause his speech to take on the aspect of a general debate. Mr. Bacon suggested that American corporations like the Standard Oil Company, engaged in transporting their own goods to market, could take advantage of the subsidy provision of the bill. Mr. Gallinger admitted the force of the objection and promised that the defect would be corrected.

The Senate adjourned until Monday.

The adjournment over three days was taken in order to afford time for the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce to consider the Railroad Rate bill. Mr. Foraker said it was almost impossible to give due attention in committee to that measure with the Senate sitting, and Mr. Allison expressed the hope that a bill could be reported at no distant day.

BOONTON MURDERER STILL LIVES.

Boonton, N. J., Jan. 18.—Samuel Monage, who shot and killed Mrs. Harriet Decker last evening and then shot himself, is still alive. Father Schotthoefer went to the police station early this morning to administer the last rites of the Church, but the man did not recover consciousness, and he had not revived when taken to the hospital at Morristown this morning. He remains in a semi-conscious state.

Monage is a butcher. He called last night at the Kayhart farm, where Mrs. Decker lived with her father.

Mrs. Decker, who had been at the barn, was met by Monage as she was returning to the house. Members of the household heard three shots, and on rushing out, found Mrs. Decker lying on the ground.

SAYS NEW-YORKER BROKE CONTRACT.

Alfred L. Sweeney Accused by Lawyer in Bay Shore Bond Case.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 18.—At the Bay Shore Railway receivership proceedings here to-day in the federal court, J. Edward Cole, an attorney of Norfolk, following the discovery that Charles H. Burr, of Philadelphia, had obtained control of $250,000 of the Bay Shore's $500,000 bonds, brought suit in the State court against Burr, asking $20,000 damages.

Cole alleges that Burr and Alfred L. Sweeney, of New-York, entered into a contract with him to sell the Bay Shore at private sale in Philadelphia and that Burr broke the contract, afterward buying bonds of the Bay Shore to seek its control for himself.

Burr is the senior member of the Philadelphia firm of Burr, Brown & Lloyd.

GRAIN MEN FOR RATE LEGISLATION.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 18.—The Association of Grain Dealers of Nebraska, representing two hundred grain buying firms, asked Senator Millard to-day to stand by President Roosevelt on railroad rate legislation or resign.

POSTAL COMPANY TO PAY DAMAGES.

A verdict of $2,200 was awarded E. S. Halstead & Co. in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, yesterday in a suit against the Postal Telegraph Company for the wrong transmission of a message, the mistake having cost that amount. The question at issue was whether a receiver of a telegram is bound by the restrictions printed on the back, which relieve the company from liability for damages unless the telegram is repeated.

NEW DEMOCRATIC TRIUMVIRATE.

Proof that McClellan, Grout and Littleton are in a combination to reorganize the local Democracy seemed to be furnished yesterday, when Dock Commissioner Bensel, after consulting with the men named, appointed Denis A. Judge, of No. 1,138 Pacific-st., Brooklyn, as deputy dock commissioner. He displaces Joseph A. Bill, a McCarren man. Mr. Judge was formerly private secretary to former Borough President Littleton of Brooklyn.

HITS CROP REPORTS.

REFORMS SUGGESTED.

Findings of Keep Commission Submitted to the President.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Charles Hallam Keep, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury and chairman of the so-called Keep commission on department methods, has submitted to the President the commission's report of its investigation of the methods employed by the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Agriculture in estimating crops, and especially the cotton crop.

In referring this subject to the Keep commission the President called particular attention to a resolution, which in September last was adopted by the New-England Cotton Manufacturers' Association, bringing into serious question the trustworthiness of the government crop reports, and asking that the matter be investigated by a competent commission. The suggestion that the subject be referred to the commission of which Mr. Keep is chairman was made by the Secretary of Agriculture, who, in his letter to the President, spoke of the steady improvement in the methods of estimating crops, and said that, notwithstanding these improvements, it was not unlikely that if an outside commission should look over the system with care it might be able to make recommendations of value. The improvements already made are fully recognized by the commission, and in the report it is stated that a reorganization of the Bureau of Statistics has been begun by the department, and that some of the changes suggested in this report were either contemplated or actually begun before the investigation was undertaken.

METHODS OF MAKING ESTIMATES.

The report describes in detail the method followed by the Bureau of Statistics in making its crop estimates of acreage, condition and yield. For the cotton crop alone the bureau has on its list of correspondents nearly 65,000 persons, classified as follows: Travelling agents, 3; State agents and their sub-correspondents, 4,000; county correspondents, 800; township correspondents, 12,000; individual farmers, 32,000; special correspondents, 16,000. The report refers to the safeguards to prevent leaks, which have been improved and materially changed since the cotton leak of last July and since the establishment of the new board of crop estimates organized by Assistant Secretary Hays. The report says it is difficult to see how the system now in force can be improved in this respect, and no suggestions are offered. The report describes in detail the final process in the making of a crop estimate. The four members of the crop estimating beard meet in a closed room, and to them are brought the reports of the travelling and State agents, which have been sealed and unopened in the safe of the Secretary of Agriculture. The tabulated reports from the other classes of correspondents are also brought before the board. Each of the four members of the crop estimating board, with the percentage figure given by each class of correspondents for each State, exercises his own judgment separately, and without consultation with his associates, and adopts a crop condition figure for each State, expressing such judgment. If any member of the board differs materially on any State from the three other members, he is asked to give his reasons, and the board as a whole, presided over by the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, then adopts, after discussion, a figure for each State. The report emphasizes the fact that the figure thus reached is not the result of a mathematical computation, but is reached by the exercise of judgment.

The report says that great stress has been laid in the past on the number of independent sources from which the Bureau of Statistics has obtained its information. In the judgment of the committee it does not add authority to the estimates on the cotton crop by the bureau to state that information has been sought from 65,000 different persons. The immense number of correspondents raises a presumption against care in selection and knowledge by the Bureau of Statistics of the persons from whom it receives its reports. Inspection of the tabulated results, as laid before the committee in its investigations, leads to the conclusion that the sending out of blank forms to all these persons, the receipt of their replies and the immense labor of tabulating, the replies involve expense from which no equivalent benefit is received. The information principally relied upon is contained in the reports of the travelling field agents and State agents. If these two sources of information agree, little attention is paid to divergent opinion on the part of the other correspondents. In other words, the bureau relies upon the reports made to it by persons in its employ and to whom it pays salaries. These reports are much less affected by biassed error and are made under a feeling of responsibility to the government which the unpaid observer does not have.

The report contains many tables comparing the estimates of acreage and production of various crops, as made by the Bureau of Statistics, with the results reached in decennial years by the Census Bureau in which the wide divergence of the results reached by the two government offices, is clearly brought out. In making these comparisons between the figures of the Bureau of Statistics and the Census Bureau, it is considered that as between an estimate and the result of an enumeration greater authority attaches to the enumeration. This does not mean that the census figures are not in some cases inaccurate, but simply that no other standard of comparison exists. The divergencies between the results found are so great that considerable errors in the returns from the census would not affect the conclusions of the report.

NEED OF GREAT IMPROVEMENT.

The report says that in every instance, except in the case of three cotton reports in the last six years, the Bureau of Statistics figures have been underestimates. The underestimating has been especially great in the case of cereal crops and livestock. The conclusion of the commission is that the methods of the Bureau of Statistics must be greatly improved or the service discontinued.

In the case of cotton, although the Bureau of Statistics has underestimated the crop in every instance, if judged by its reports expressed in number of bales, nevertheless, if the bales are reduced to pounds of lint cotton, it appears that out of the last six reports on cotton yield the Bureau of Statistics has overestimated the crop in three cases and underestimated it in three cases. The much criticised cotton crop report of 1904 shows a variation from the ginning returns obtained by the Census Bureau of 9 per cent in number of bales, but this variation is reduced to 4.26 per cent when the bales are converted into pounds of lint cotton. The Bureau of Statistics cannot avoid responsibility for the larger variation, since it announced its result in bales, and not in pounds, and by adopting a weight of bale greater than in any previous year it thereby reduced the number of bales in its published estimate.

REFORMS RECOMMENDED.

The report makes various suggestions looking to improvement of the service. It says that crop conditions should be expressed in percentages without fractions, since the use of fractions implies a larger measure of accuracy than can be expected of a mere estimate, and since all the figures on which the crop estimating board exercises its judgment are in percentages without fractions. It recommends that in the case of cotton, the percentage figure of condition be converted into bales of indicated weight by a well known commercial formula. It recommends the transfer of the determination of the cotton acreage planted from the Bureau of Statistics to the Bureau of the Census. A large diminution in the number of correspondents of the bureau is also recommended. The committee urges that no further returns on cotton be asked for from township correspondents, individual farmers and ginners, and that the money thus saved be utilized in improving the State organizations. The State agents' salaries should be increased, and they should receive travelling expenses, so as to select their sub-correspondents by personal contract, instead of by a system of letters and seed distribution. The State agencies should be inspected by an inspector from the Washington office, so that their methods of doing the work can be carefully observed. There is no such inspection service, and the need thereof has been recently brought out with clearness. The number of travelling field agents of the department should be sufficient to cover every part of their territory each month. All these recommendations express the conclusion of the committee that the Bureau of Statistics should have personal knowledge of its correspondents, and that much better results can be obtained from a smaller service, better paid and thoroughly inspected, than from a large number of correspondents of whom the bureau has little or no knowledge.

An important recommendation of the report is that the Bureau of Statistics in the case of cotton confine its work to its monthly reports expressing the condition of the growing crop in the growing season. Not only should the acreage planted be determined by the Census Bureau, by a process of enumeration, but the ginning statistics of the Census Bureau should be the only government reports on yield of cotton. The Bureau of Statistics now puts out its report on cotton yield about December 3. By December 20 the ginning statistics cover 90 per cent of the crop, and a more authoritative estimate of the total crop can be made from these statistics than from the estimates of the bureau.

Discussing the ginning statistics of the Census Bureau, the report reaches the conclusion that the earlier reports of ginning cover so small a proportion of the crop as to be without value. It recommends that no ginning report be issued before the middle of October, when the amount of the crop ginned is between 40 and 50 per cent. The expense saved by abandoning the earlier ginning reports will go far toward meeting the expense involved in the determination of the cotton acreage planted.

The report is signed by Charles Hallam Keep, Lawrence O. Murray, James R. Garfield and Gifford Pinchot. Owing to pressure of business, Mr. Hitchcock, First Assistant Postmaster General, a member of the commission, did not take part in the investigation. He therefore did not feel called on to sign the report.

FOR TORRENS SYSTEM.

Mr. Prentice Introduces Measure—Other Legislative Bills.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, Jan. 18.—A bill was introduced to-day by Assemblyman Prentice, of New-York, to provide for the Torrens system of registering titles to real estate, which, he says, would simplify greatly the present costly and complicated system. The measure provides that any owner can register his title by having the title searched and an order entered confirming it. A certificate of title is issued to him, with all liens against the title entered thereon.

"The advantages of the system are its cheapness, expedition and immunity from fraud," said Mr. Prentice to-day. "The average cost of the initial registration in Illinois is $24, and once registered no further search is needed. An ordinary sale or mortgage costs only $3. By this system, instead of a laborious search, it is necessary to examine only a single page in a single book to get all the facts about a title."

Among other bills in the Assembly was one by Mr. Francis, authorizing the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to pay the cost of acquiring title to additional land for Riverside Park in New-York City. Mr. Agnew reintroduced his bill of last year, providing for a commission to devise means for protecting the Bronx River from pollution, from the Kensico reservoir in Westchester County to Bronx Park, and for making the lands along its banks a public park.

Assemblyman Hammond introduced a measure providing for the repeal of the Mortgage Tax law, substituting therefor a recording tax. There was no change in this bill from the one he introduced last year.

Assemblyman Hammond reintroduced his bill of last year providing for a recording tax of one-half of 1 per cent and a subsequent annual tax of the same amount on real estate mortgages.

Assemblyman Thompson, of Kings, put in a bill amending the lien law so as to provide that every owner of a building on which labor is being done and every person or corporation who as mortgagee is advancing money on a building loan or mortgage for the construction or improvement of a building on the property covered by said mortgage shall be individually liable to workmen actually employed on said building for all wages actually earned by the workmen in the ten days immediately preceding the filing with the person or corporation of a notice of claim for such wages.

HURRY STATE PRINTERS.

The Armstrong Committee Forces Prompt Printing of Report.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, Jan. 18.—By holding over the heads of the State printers the threat that they would take the printing of the insurance report to an outside firm, the Armstrong committee has succeeded in forcing action in the printing of the testimony. This is progressing well now, according to a member of the committee, and it is likely that the printed testimony and report will be ready when the report is presented to the legislature.

Much trouble has been experienced with the public printers—the Brandow Company, of this city, recently consolidated with the Wynkoop-Hallenbeck-Crawford Company, of New-York. The Armstrong committee originally made a contract with the Brandow Company for the copies of the testimony—some ten volumes in each copy. The contract price was to be about 34 cents a volume. The Brandow Company, realizing the great commercial value of the printed testimony, sent around circulars soliciting orders at $150 a set. The Armstrong committee protested. There was delay in getting out the contract order, due, the members thought, to the rushing of work on the outside orders. They made an additional order of 1,000 sets, resolved to checkmate the Brandow people by distributing the printed testimony free.

The public printers at first absolutely declined to fill this order, declaring that they were not sure of their pay, as no contract existed for this additional number. The State Controller, however, gave his assurance that the money would be forthcoming. Delay followed delay. The Armstrong committee had the insurance testimony copyrighted, hoping to prevent the sale of the volume in that way. More trouble with the Brandow people resulted from that move. Finally the threat was made that if the work was not hurried it would be taken away entirely, regardless of the contract. The printers came to terms.

HAMILTON REPLIES TO BRACKETT.

Senator Refuses to Divulge "Judge's" Dispatch—"Yellow Dog" Inquiry Wanted.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, Jan. 18.—A cable message was received to-day from Andy Hamilton by Senator Brackett, probably in reply to his recent message asking that the "judge" come home and help trail the "yellow dog" to his lair. Various conjectures were made as to its contents, but Senator Brackett would not confirm any of them. He seemed rather amused at the message.

Senator Brackett and Senator Elsberg both have announced that they wanted to know what had become of all the money which, according to the testimony before the insurance investigating committee, was used to "influence legislation." Particularly they want the uses of the Equitable's much-discussed $685,000 fund disclosed. It is expected that resolutions will soon be introduced by one or the other, or possibly both, calling for a supplemental investigation, to prove whether any legislator received money from the various funds for "influencing legislation."

TO REGISTER MASTER ELECTRICIANS.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, Jan. 18.—Senator Davis presented a bill to-day providing for a commission in each county to register "master electricians." It is designed to safeguard the public from inefficiency of workmen by compelling them to obtain a license, as plumbers now are licensed. Many of the electricians who will come under its provisions, however, wil raise a protest against the necessity for examination and the payment of fees.

MR. BRUCE IS ACTING GOVERNOR.

Albany, Jan. 18.—Lieutenant Governor M. Linn Bruce is Acting Governor of the State in the absence of Governor Higgins, who went to Wisconsin to accompany the body of Mrs. Higgins's mother. Being Acting Governor, Mr. Bruce did not preside in the Senate to-day, nor will he until the Governor's return to the State, which is expected Sunday morning.

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NO OTHER WHISKEY HAS EVER MAINTAINED such a HIGH STANDARD of PURITY & EXCELLENCE
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IMPORTANT
PIANO SALE
AT AEOLIAN HALL, THIS WEEK
Pianos of well-known manufacturers—some scarcely showing use—are offered at material reductions from regular prices. The reason, and the only reason, that pianos of such high character come into the market is the fact that people owning valuable instruments are exchanging them for the Pianola Piano.
Uprights from $115 upwards.
Grands from $375 upwards.
The AEOLIAN COMPANY
AEOLIAN HALL,
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DEUEL WATCHED LIST.

Continued from first page.

violated the law by his services as legal adviser to the publication while he was a magistrate.

Q.—Have you ever practised as an attorney at law in court while a magistrate? A.—I have not. Q.—Did you devote the whole of your time to your respective offices so far as public interests demanded? A.—Absolutely.

Q.—As Editor of "Town Topics" was that paper, in your opinion, dealing in the promulgation of scandal? A.—Absolutely no.

In answer to Mr. Jerome's questions Justice Deuel went into a long recital of reforms he instituted in court methods while he was a city magistrate.

"Was there any endeavor to shake down anybody in regard to 'Fads and Fancies?'" asked Mr. Jerome finally.

"Absolutely none," replied the witness.

"Your work for it was done when?"

"Outside of court hours."

One of the jurors asked if Justice Deuel had any acquaintance with Hapgood, the defendant, and the reply was in the negative.

Justice Deuel was excused, subject to future recall, and Colonel William D. Mann was called to the stand by Mr. Jerome. he witness said he acquired controlling interest in "Town Topics" in 1894.

Q.—Was Joseph M. Deuel an editor of that paper? A.—No.

Q.—Was its business publishing scandal? A.—It was not.

Q.—Did it ever engage in blackmail? A.—Never.

Mr. Jerome closed direct examination, and Mr. Osborne began his cross-examination.

Q.—Who had the power to sign checks while you were in Europe? A.—The treasurer and the acting president, Judge Deuel.

Q.—Beyond that did the acting president have authority to act? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Judge Deuel, being a lawyer, you accepted his views on legal matters? A.—Presumably.

Q.—You knew your name had been signed while you were away? A.—Yes.

Q.—You did not repudiate that? A.—No.

Being asked to read an article in "Town Topics," Colonel Mann indorsed that part of it which read: "Are the facts true? Is the person of sufficient importance to be criticised?"

Q.—Is it correct that no one can buy his name into "Town Topics" except by legitimate advertising? A.—Absolutely.

Q.—Did you instruct Mr. Wayne to say things unpleasant about any particular persons? A.—Never. Q.—Did you ever tell him to let up on anybody? A.—Never.

Q.—Did you ever try to assist any one in his social ambitions in your paper? A.—Never.

Q.—Did you ever discuss with him the list of people to be pleasantly treated in your paper? A.—Never.

Mr. Osborne read the following letter of Colonel Mann to Mr. Wayne, dated June 30, 1905:

Use enclosed notes. I have especial reason to be nice to McCormick and Mrs. McC., and I also wish to show that Perry and Mrs. Belmont go to the best affairs here. All well!

Another letter, dated May 15, 1905, and signed "W. D. M.," read:

T. T. will be very careful of anything said about Mrs. Inman, of Atlanta, nothing unpleasant. Let up on Henry T. Sloane.

The reading of this letter caused a stir, and Justice Fitzgerald rapped for order and instructed the court officers to eject any one who laughed.

When Mr. Osborne attempted to offer in evidence a paragraph in "Town Topics" Mr. Jerome had it shut out.

"Your honor," Mr. Osborne said, "I want to show that a man was abused in the paper and then had pleasant things said of him, and that the consideration was money, and I want to impeach this witness."

"Get the article identified and then proceed," said Justice Fitzgerald.

"That I will undoubtedly do," replied Mr. Osborne. "I propose to show a document showing a money consideration for pleasant articles."

A letter of Colonel Mann to Wooster, written on January 27, 1904, was the following:

Count Reginald Ward informs me that you have 5,000 shares more of the Rico Syndicate for me. I had hoped to have seen you in here to talk over several matters, and will be glad if you will drop in and bring the stock or send it by registered letter.

Colonel Mann repudiated a paragraph in "Town Topics" which said something about Mr. Ward, and Charles Stokes Wayne was placed on the stand to identify the paragraph. Mr. Ward said it was published in "Town Topics." Colonel Mann, at the suggestion of Mr. Jerome, was asked if the pencil marks in the Wooster letter were his, and he replied that they were not.

After adjournment, Mr. Osborne said that a second letter, referring to Ward, which Colonel Mann repudiated, had been admitted it would have proved damaging to the prosecution.

Justice Deuel late in the afternoon contradicted a report that he intended to retire from the bench in consequence of the developments in the Hapgood trial.

"You may say that there is absolutely no foundation for such a report," he said.

There was another report that charges would be preferred against Justice Deuel. District Attorney Jerome declined to talk about it."

SLUGGISH DEPRESSION
Proper Food Removes It.
"Before using Postum Food Coffee my wife and I were prejudiced against it," writes an Iowa man, "but now we would not be induced to give it up.
"My wife was suffering from various nervous ailments and was especially afflicted with black spots before the eyes, with an accompanying feeling of faintness. These spells grew in frequency and at last we came to suspect that possibly coffee was the cause of them.
"We therefore determined to give up the old coffee and use Postum for awhile, to see if it would help her. The result was more than satisfactory. In a very short time, only long enough to get the coffee poison out of her system, and give the Postum a chance to build up her strength, she began and continued to improve rapidly. Several weeks have elapsed since she has had an attack of blind spells or faintness, and her other nervous troubles have disappeared.
"I had been greatly troubled from a sluggish feeling of depression that made me very miserable, and when I saw how Postum had helped my wife, I determined to see what it would do for me. So I quit the old kind of coffee and began the use of Postum, and from that day to this have been entirely free from the old depression, sluggishness and despondency.
"Our little 8-year old daughter had grown quite cross and peevish, and we put her, also, on the Postum diet. It has made such a change in her that the teacher of the school which she attends remarked upon it without knowing the cause till we told her.
"We have all been made brighter and stronger, mentally and physically, and life seems actually more worth living, since we quit coffee and began to drink Postum Food Coffee." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.
Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs.

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