The Sun.

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A JUDGE UP FOR JUDGMENT.

THE CONDUCT OF JUDGE WESTBROOK TO BE INVESTIGATED.

A Great Majority in the Assembly Yesterday for the Resolution—In the Matter of the Receiverships and the Elevated Railway Suits—A Debate in which Nearly all the Speakers were on One Side—The Result.

ALBANY, April 12.—By an almost unanimous vote the Assembly passed to-day Mr. Roosevelt's resolutions directing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the official conduct of Judge Westbrook and ex-Attorney-General Ward. The scope of the resolution was broadened by an amendment which permits an inquiry into Judge Westbrook's connection with the insurance receiverships, and any other matters that the committee may think it worth while to consider. The votes to-day showed that Judge Westbrook's friends, who have been trying heretofore to shield him from investigation, had become convinced that they were acting unwisely. With two or three exceptions they voted to-day for an investigation. Even the Tammany Assemblymen changed front and, with one exception, voted for the inquiry. With this change of front on the part of the opposition, Mr. Roosevelt had no difficult in getting his resolution from the table out of the regular order. The vote stood 99 to 14. The fourteen negative votes were cast by Messrs. Ahearn, Alvord, Campbell, Cleary, Cooper, J. J. Costello, Harris, Keyes, Moses, Murphy, Parker, Shanley, Sweet, and Van Orsdale.

As soon as the vote was announced Old Salt, who has led the fight against Mr. Roosevelt from the first, got the floor again, and tried to fight off the investigation. He said that he did not know the gentlemen against whom the charges were brought, and had no interest in the matter. He opposed the resolutions on the ground that a step of this kind should not be taken on newspaper statements. Only two papers had been pushing this investigation—the *Times* and *Herald*. Who and what are they? The *Times*, under the control and administration of an unnaturalized foreigner in the pay of the British Government, pretending to be in favor, but really against Americans. That was the beginning and end of the *Times*. What was the animus of the *Herald*? It was simply that they think they can get a wipe at John Kelly by this operation. He said the time was coming in the history of the State when the corrupt press would be exposed. He did not believe there was any necessity for this investigation, and he predicted that the gentlemen who had gone after wool would come home shorn.

a Mr. Sprague of New York, a young Republican of independent proclivities, supported Mr. Roosevelt's charges in a carefully prepared speech. He asserted that the charges against Judges Barnard, Cardozo, and McCunn, against whom articles of impeachment had been prepared, were less specific than those made against Messrs. Westbrook and Ward. He had himself examined the records in the County Clerk's office, in Albany, and was satisfied that there had been a base and corrupt conspiracy in the Manhattan matter, and that these men were the easy and facile tools of the men engaged in it. He did not mean to say that Judge Westbrook had profited pecuniarily by his actions in these cases, but he believed him to be amenable to the charge of corrupt influence. He then reviewed the various operations in the Manhattan Elevated cases from the first suits to the discharge of the receivers. If the orders were made in good faith the receivers should have wound up the affairs of the Manhattan Company. Judge Westbrook appointed a cousin preferred to pass upon the accounts of the receivers. There is no evidence that he did the slightest amount of work, yet he received a fee of $1,000 from the Manhattan Company. The order granted for the winding up of the receiver's affairs is a curiosity in judicial literature. He held that the gravity of the charges demanded that the Legislature should make an investigation for the purity of the ermine of the judiciary and the good of the public. Ulster County was ably represented on this floor, and yet they had not said one word in defence of the accused parties; nor, as might have been expected, did they come here demanding an investigation. He held that the regularity of the proceedings was amply established, that there were sufficient grounds to believe that if Judge Westbrook had not received pecuniary benefits he had been improperly influenced in other ways, and that all the facts and circumstances demanded an investigation.

Mr. Brodsky, the young New York Stalwart, spoke particularly in defence of ex-Attorney-General Ward, who, he said, was his political and personal friend. He had gone, when in New York recently, to see if it was in Jay Gould's office, as had been alleged, that the court was held. He found the facts to be these: That at the request of the lawyers on both sides Judge Westbrook went from Kingston to New York and instead of compelling thirteen or fourteen lawyers to go to Kingston, and had sat in the office of ex-Judge Dillon, one of the receivers. There were so many persons present that the court was adjourned to the directors' room of the Western Union Telegraph Company. All motions were made after due notice to all parties. No one has made a complaint against the decisions except a few people who had lost on Manhattan stock. When Attorney-General Ward moved to discontinue the suit a new agreement had made the company solvent and taken the bottom out of his action. He was confined to his room for days by Delevan House by sickness, and the Judge held court in his room. He held that the Judge should not have asked for an investigation against charges like these. The Legislature had no power to reach Mr. Ward now. He was out of office. There was not enough in the charges to warrant investigation.

Mr. Bagley of Ulster said he was a personal and political friend of Judge Westbrook, and a citizen of the same county. He had voted at every stage for the investigation because he believed that Judge Westbrook would be vindicated by an inquiry into the Manhattan suits. The Judge was a very timid man—a moral coward—in such an exigency as this, and he regretted that his conduct, in not coming forward to demand an investigation, had cast a cloud upon him. The Judge might have been guilty of judicial impropriety in some of his acts, but that was all. If he had been a used, it had been as thousands of others had been used—by friends and relatives.

Mr. Hickman of Erie wanted an investigation in the interests of a pure judiciary. If there were cowards and ignoramuses and imbeciles on the Supreme bench, as had been said on the floor here, it was time something was done about it.

Mr. Hunt of Jefferson recited the facts that had been alleged and not denied, and said that such allegations could not be ignored. He wanted a searching investigation.

Mr. Amasa J. Parker, Jr., of Albany opposed the resolution. As one who had known Judge Westbrook long and intimately, he believed in his innocence. He wanted to know why it was that Mr. Roosevelt had waited until within six or eight weeks of the adjournment of the Legislature before moving in the matter.

Mr. J. W. Higgins of Niagara did not take much stock in the charges. He was not willing to put Judge Westbrook on the gridiron of public condemnation on the case presented against him. He was satisfied that if there was wrong doing in the Manhattan suits, Hamilton Ward was the wrong sinner.

Mr. Roosevelt offered an amendment to the resolutions extending their scope to all other cases worthy of attention, especially in respect to receiverships.

Major Haggerty said he was profoundly impressed with the idea that Judge Westbrook had reached a bad eminence. If not another man in this Chamber was in favor of the resolution, he should feel bound in honor and in conscience to vote for it, after hearing facts that had come to his knowledge as to Judge Westbrook's conduct in other cases.

Gen. Sharpe, who had refused to vote on the motion to take the resolution from the table, explained that he desired to appear neither as prosecutor nor defender of Judge Westbrook. He thought it would have been better if the charges had been formulated and signed by citizens, as was done in the cases of Judges Barnard, McCunn, and Cardozo. He regarded the investigation as a proper one, and would vote for it, but he wanted it understood that he did not appear as a public accuser. Judge Westbrook was a man whose simple life, frugality, temperance, and industry were commended by all. As to Judge Westbrook's appointment of relatives, he regretted it, but it was no unusual thing, where confidential and close relations were necessary. State officers frequently appointed their sons or other relations as deputies.

Speaker Patterson called Col. Murphy to the chair toward the close of the discussion, and took the floor to oppose an amendment offered by Mr. Higgins of Niagara providing for the appointment of a select committee of five to investigate the charges. He said that, from a personal and intimate acquaintance with Judge Westbrook, he believed he had a wealth of character to carry him through any investigation. He hoped he would not be asked to name a special committee, but that the inquiry would be made by the standing Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Moses of Allegany, the home of Hamilton Ward, read a telegram from the ex-Attorney-General, which was as follows:

> If the Assembly is of the opinion that they have the power to investigate the acts of ex-officers of the State, and think it wise to blacken my character and subject me to the expense of a legislative investigation, they will do so, and I shall have to submit, not doubting my triumphant vindication.

It was drawing toward 2 o'clock, and Mr. Roosevelt, profiting by his defeat the other day, determined to force a vote. In his closing speech he said, in reply to Mr. Brodsky's assertion that Judge Westbrook did not sit in Gould's private office; that Jay Gould's name was over the door of the room. Mr. Roosevelt said he had the names of two witnesses in his pocket to substantiate his charges.

There was a murmur of dissent on all sides, and a growl from Old Salt when Mr. Roosevelt moved the previous question and cut off debate. Two or three members wanted him to give way, but the young New Yorker was wary. There was only three minutes to adjournment, and unless the roll call was begun Mr. Roosevelt knew that he would lose all the ground he had gained. Old Salt and his followers had to take the gag.

Mr. Higgins's amendment for a special committee was lost.

Mr. Roosevelt's amendment enlarging the scope of the inquiry was carried.

Clerk Johnson then called the names on the main resolution. The youthful Ahearn of New York was the first to respond. He voted "no" in a feeble voice, but when, later on, he saw that he had little company, he jumped on to the other side. Old Salt saw that the tide had turned and asked consent to explain his vote. He said if Mr. Ward's name was eliminated he would vote for the resolution, perhaps, but there was no power to investigate an ex-officer. He therefore voted no. Half a dozen members dodged the vote, and others who had opposed the investigation at every step scrambled over to the majority when the roll-call came. Mr. Brodsky, who dodged the first vote, faced the music at last, and voted no. Col. Parker, who was the only member of the Judiciary Committee to vote, said that his duty as an Assemblyman was to pass upon this question, and he voted no. Chairman Poucher of the Judiciary Committee gave Col. Parker a quiet thrust by declining to vote on the ground that it would be indelicate if not improper for him to do so. The other members of the committee were excused from voting. There were 104 votes for the investigation and 6 against it. The negatives were cast by Messrs. Alvord, Brodsky, Cleary, Harris, Parker, and Van Arsdale—four Republicans and two Democrats. The resolution as adopted is as follows:

> *Whereas*, Charges have been made from time to time by the public press against the late Attorney-General Hamilton Ward, and T. R. Westbrook, a Justice of the Supreme Court of this State, on account of their official conduct in relation to suits brought against the Manhattan Railway; and
>
> *Whereas*, These charges have, in the opinion of many persons, never been explained nor fairly refuted; and
>
> *Whereas*, It is of vital importance that the Judiciary of this State should be beyond reproach and suspicion; therefore
>
> *Resolved*, That the Judiciary Committee be and it is hereby empowered and directed to investigate the conduct of the late Attorney-General, Hamilton Ward, and Justice T. R. Westbrook, in relation to the suits against the Manhattan Elevated Railroad, and report at the earliest day practicable to this Legislature.

The Judiciary Committee, which will have charge of the investigation, is composed of eleven members: Poucher of Oswego, Chapin of Kings, Morrison of New York, Smith of Broome, Parker of Albany, Searle of Steuben, McClelland of New York, Potter of Saratoga, Chamberlain of St. Lawrence, Livingston of Putnam, and Armstrong of Washington. The first seven are Democrats. Tammany has no representative on the committee.

Attorney-General Russell, in reply to an Assembly resolution inquiring whether a part of the fees retained by receivers of insolvent corporations might not be recovered, says that the fees of receivers are referred to have been, he believes without exception, allowed by orders of the Court. These orders, he is informed, have been obtained upon notice to the Attorney-General, or to special counsel representing the Attorney-General, and upon like notice to counsel representing policy holders, where such counsel have been allowed to intervene. If these notices were regular and formal, and the orders were made by Court, or if opposition was made to the allowances and no appeal was taken within proper time, ordinarily it would be impossible to maintain any legal proceedings to recover back any portion, on the ground that it is too late according to the rules and practice of the court. But in extreme cases the courts will allow the rehearing of motions upon leave granted for that purpose, and will reconsider the allowances, and, if proper, reduce them. The causes for such rehearing are either the disappointment of a state of facts which was not presented to the court at the original hearing, or considerations which tend to show that it would be grossly improper to suffer the allowance to remain as fixed. The Court of Appeals has decided that the Attorney-General had no power to broadly authorize the special counsel to represent him upon the conduct of these litigations, and therefore it impliedly follows that the service of papers on such special counsel and his various appearances for the Attorney-General were unauthorized by law. Under this decision, he is of opinion that the Attorney-General may ask the courts with propriety to review the various orders granted, on the ground that the State has not been legally represented on the hearing in those cases where the action was brought by the Attorney-General.

In conclusion, he says that in no case can suits be instituted on behalf of the people of the State to recover fees improperly allowed receivers, for the reasons that the courts provide a more summary remedy for the reconsideration of such allowances and the repayment of the same, even if necessary to the imposition of punishment for contempt, in case an order for repayment should be disobeyed; except that, should a receiver, directed to repay any portion of an allowance formerly granted, refuse to comply, in addition to the authority which the Court has to punish, an action might be maintained upon a bond given by him upon the commencement of his receivership to recover against him and his sureties any such deficiency.

HOW THE EVIDENCE WAS DISCOVERED.

From the Evening Post.

Gentlemen here who have made a careful investigation into the documentary evidence against Judge Westbrook think that if the Judiciary Committee push the inquiry as they may do, the investigation can scarcely fail short of resulting in bringing in articles of impeachment. The discovery of crookedness in connection with the Manhattan litigation on which Mr. Roosevelt's resolution was based, did not come from the newspaper charges. The attention of two or three members of the Assembly was first drawn to it in examining papers when they were looking up evidence on which to base an investigation of the insurance receiverships. While looking for the latter where they suspected that it existed, they found the evidence on which the Ward-Westbrook resolution was founded.

JERSEY CITY'S ELECTION.

The Board of Aldermen Tied—The Police and Fire Boards Republican.

It was not until a late hour yesterday afternoon that all of the votes cast at Tuesday's charter election in Jersey City had been counted. It was then shown that John Brennan (R.) had been elected Fire Commissioner in the First District instead of Robert Davis (D.); John M. Keeney (R.), a member of the Board of Public Works in the Third District, instead of James N. Davis (D.), and R. Hilliard (R.), Alderman in the Sixth District, instead of Wm. J. Ritter (D.). The Democrats claim that there was fraud committed in the Fourth Precinct of the First District, and it is likely that Robert Davis will demand a recount.

The majority of Mayor Taussig (D.) is 1,237, with several Democratic precincts in the Second District yet to hear from. The Board of Aldermen, which consists of twelve members, is tied, as is also the Board of Education. The Police and Fire Boards are Republican, remaining the same as they were.

The Republicans have secured for the first time in a number of years a majority in the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The names of the members elected are: First District, Henry A. Greene (R.) and George Blakey (R.); Second District, Michael Neeley (D.) and John F. Lynch (D.); Third District, David Shea (R.) and Richard Nichols (R.); Fourth District, William G. Wilson (R.) and Henry Lewis (R.); Fifth District, John Hondeden, Jr., (R.) and John Schrope (R.); Sixth District, Michael Sheffel (R.), and John Mann (R.); Seventh District, Henry Snyder (D.), and Patrick Govern (D.); Eighth District, James Little (D.); Ninth District, William H. Letts (R.), and George P. Schmizel (R.)

In Hoboken the complete returns show that A. S. Benson (R.) is elected Mayor; John R. Wiggins (R.), Assessor; Charles Clay (D.), Water Commissioner; August Bente (R.), City Treasurer. The Common Council and the Board of Education are Republican.

When Police Commissioner Lally and the Judge, who are Democrats, learned that Benson had been elected Mayor, they immediately resigned. Benson may now appoint two Republicans in their place, and thus secure control of that department.

Sale of Trotters.

CINCINNATI, April 12.—A special from Lexington, Ky., to the *Gazette* says: "The sale of trotters by Capt. Phil Kidd aggregated $19,575 for fifty three head. The stallion Voltaire, record 2 20¾, sold for $4,000."

THE COLD SNAP AND THE CROPS.

Damage to Fruit and to Wheat in Illinois, Indiana, and Other States.

CHICAGO, April 12.—General consternation has prevailed among farmers and fruit growers in the Western States since the present remarkably cold weather came upon them. The winter had been mild, and the spring, up to Saturday last, was as warm and pleasant as could have been desired. Fruit and grain made rapid progress under the bright sun, and vegetation was coming rapidly forward. On Sunday night the temperature fell to a point below freezing, followed by still colder weather on Monday and Tuesday night. Throughout central and southern Indiana and Illinois, where fruit growing is a leading industry, the damage to fruit of all kinds was very great. The orchards were in the worst possible condition to resist cold, the peaches, pears, and apricots being already formed, and the apple trees in full bloom. The most damage is apprehended to peaches, which some horticulturists think are badly thinned out. Others are more hopeful, and all unite in saying that the damage cannot be ascertained as yet. Before the cold snap the prospect for bountiful crops was never better. The damage in Illinois is believed to be mainly to fruit, although wheat suffered some.

In Indiana the frost proved very disastrous. The ground this morning was frozen, and ice formed a quarter of an inch thick in exposed places. One gentleman estimated the damage to growing crops in the State at $2,000,000. The temperature fell to 24°. The peach and cherry trees were ablaze with blossoms and promised a fine crop, but the prospect now is that it will be small. It is thought the apples are not damaged, nor the grapes very severely, most of the buds not having yet burst. The flowers were in almost all instances killed. The views of farmers differ as to the effect of the frost on the wheat crop, some thinking that when the plant has pointed it will be materially damaged, while others believe the damage will be slight.

In Nebraska and Iowa the mercury has ranged at about freezing point for two or three days. The advanced season had started the fruit trees into budding, and reports from all portions indicate that the frost has severely nipped them. Large orchards are planted in the Missouri River counties, and it is apprehended that the fruit crop will prove a very light one in consequence of the cold snap. Ploughing for corn is in progress, and much small grain is up; but it is not believed that this will suffer.

WILMINGTON, Del., April 12.—The *Every Evening's* dispatches received this morning indicate that the unseasonable weather of the last two nights has injured the peach buds to some extent. New Castle County, where the buds are not well advanced and the Eastern shore counties most exposed to salt air, suffer the least. The most damage is reported from the centre of the Peninsula.

LOUISVILLE, April 12.—The present cold spell is remarkable. On Sunday the mercury approached 80°, while this morning it had fallen to 24°. Ice was formed both in the city and vicinity. No heavy frost has been observed. The market people report that the young vegetation has been very seriously damaged all through the country. The strawberries have been killed outright and the peaches and apples have been greatly injured. The smaller fruits of all kinds have generally been killed.

POISONED BY HER SERVANTS.

A Former Resident of Port Jervis Murdered at her Home in Virginia.

PORT JERVIS, April 12.—The noon express train to-day brought a funeral party to this village with the body of Mrs. R. O. Gray of Surrey County, Virginia. The husband and Mrs. B. F. Winfield, a sister of Mrs. Gray, accompanied the remains. Mrs. Gray was murdered by servants, who poisoned her coffee. She was formerly a resident of this village. Her husband is a well-to-do farmer, living near Dispertanta. On Friday morning last Mr. and Mrs. Gray and Travis Jones, the manager of Mr. Gray's farm, breakfasted together at Mr. Gray's house. Mrs. Gray and Mr. Jones both drank coffee, and Mr. Jones also drank a goblet of milk. Several hours afterward Mrs. Gray and Mr. Jones were taken violently ill, and it was decided that they had been poisoned. All means taken to relieve them were unsuccessful, and after intense suffering they died on Friday night. Meanwhile it was discovered that Mary Booth and Martha Jones, two of the servants, were missing. They had caused much trouble among the servants, and had been sharply reprimanded, and it was at once suspected that they were concerned in the poisoning. Pursuit was made, and on Monday they were captured, several miles distant, in the house of an old negro. When told that they were arrested they protested innocence, and said that they knew nothing about it. They were locked up, however, and had to wait the Grand Jury's action. Since their incarceration Mary Booth has made a clear breast of the affair. She said that she put the arsenic in the coffee, and implicates Martha Jones and other servants. Mary Booth is only fourteen years old. The funeral of Mrs. Gray will occur here to-morrow morning.

VOGEL & CO.'S VICTIMS.

Debating Whether the Bankers or the Importers Must Bear the Losses.

The general opinion of importers engaged in the China trade is that the extent of Vogel & Co.'s fraudulent transactions is now approximately known. The exact amount cannot be ascertained until the cargo of the Richard Robinson has been thoroughly inspected and its market value determined. Snow & Burgess, the agents of the ship, have begun to collect the freight charges due them. Some of the importers protested against paying, but were informed that if they believed they had a grievance they could bring actions to recover and libel the ship.

The main point of interest at present is to determine who shall sustain the losses. Some of the importers hold that the bankers who issued the credits upon which the cargo was purchased are responsible, because their agents in Hong Kong practically certified to the correctness of the bills of lading by advancing the money upon them according to the letter of credit. The bankers deny any such responsibility. It is asserted that if the letters of credit were written in the ordinary form there is no ground for holding the bankers responsible, their business being simply to instruct their agents to pay the importer's agent the amount mentioned in the credit. If the credit, however, read that the banker's agent was to pay the money only upon a bill of lading of a certain kind and quality of goods, then it was the duty of the banker's agent to ascertain the nature of the goods upon which he advanced the money. It is said that some of the importers who were deceived by Vogel & Co. claim to have obtained credits of the latter description.

While it is possible that legal steps may be resorted to to determine the responsibility, the opinion is rather general that in most cases there will be an amicable settlement.

Why Jesse James Was Not Taken Prisoner.

Ex-Marshal Enos Craig, who was the Chief of Police of St. Joseph, Mo., when Jesse James was murdered there, last week, was in this city yesterday. He is a man of sixty, with white hair and moustache, bushy white eyebrows, and a square chin. He has a reputation for coolness and courage. He said that he was called to the house of Jesse James immediately after the shooting. The Ford boys would have taken James prisoner had they not been afraid Mrs. James would shoot with her pistol. All of the James women are good shots, and shoot as quickly as the men. Since the funeral relic hunters, Mr. Craig said, have cut up the blood stained carpet and chipped splinters from the floring, and even cut twigs from the fruit trees in the yard. At Mrs. James's request the Marshal sent several policemen to drive them away.

Mr. Craig said he had in his possession all of the arms of Jesse James, and he exhibited a large cartridge which he had taken from James's revolver.

Cigarettes and Public School Children.

There is so much cigarette smoking among the pupils of the Brooklyn schools that the Committees upon Teachers and Health will shortly begin the consideration of some means of stopping it. J. Y. Cuyler, an ex-member of the Board of Education, who smokes only the cheapest cigars, says in a communication sent to the Board on Tuesday and referred to the committees named above, that there is a great increase in the use of tobacco in the form of cigarettes and cigarettes, made up of vitiated, adulterated, and refuse tobacco. Much of this smoking is done clandestinely.

A Surrogate's Hat Kicked About.

At Ridgewood station, on the Erie Railroad, Tuesday morning, Surrogate Knapp of Bergen county and Justice of the Peace Hunter had a misunderstanding during which the Surrogate called the Justice a liar. The Justice struck the Surrogate a blow on the head that knocked his hat about the room. The trouble grew out of politics.

Cornell's Freshmen to Issue a Challenge.

The freshmen of Cornell University on Monday resolved to send challenges to one college or more for a race to be rowed in the summer, the details to be arranged hereafter. At a mass meeting of the upper classmen this proposed action was approved.

A Centenarian Changing Politics.

At the charter election in Paterson, N. J., on Monday Albert C. Bogart, who recently celebrated his total abstinence, voted the Democratic ticket for the first time in his life.

DEMANDS FOR BETTER PAY.

FALL RIVER IRON WORKERS IN TURN THREATENING A STRIKE.

A Strike in the Building Trade Expected on Monday—Clearfield Miners Ready to Go Out—Trow's Printers Get an Advance.

FALL RIVER, April 12.—Affairs at the Sagamore Mill remain unchanged. The strikers are gradually leaving the city, seeking employment in other places. Representatives of cotton factories in the South arrived here to-day, and are inducing a number of families to go with them. Many have already consented, as there is no indication of immediate settlement of the trouble, and every probability of its spreading. Workmen in the Fall River Iron Works to-night notified the managers that unless an increase of twenty-five cents per day was immediately granted they would stop work. The employees in the pottery works at South Somerset have also made a demand for an increase in wages. There is no probability of either of the requests being granted, and the outlook is very discouraging. The advance requested by the masons, plasterers, and bricklayers last week has not been given, and a strike among them is expected to be instituted on Monday.

LAWRENCE, Mass., April 12.—To-day the Pacific Mills gained thirty-two operatives, three of whom were strikers. In the spinning department only thirteen spinners were engaged, three of them being employed to-day. There are 10,000 spindles in operation. Yesterday three striking spinners worked at the mills, but to-day were bought off. Three new hands were employed in their places. The overseer of the spinning department says that seventeen new hands, in addition to those already employed, will go to work on Monday. This afternoon the strikers held a secret meeting. It has been learned that speeches were made by several of the strikers, counselling all to join the union and remain away from the mills. About fifty joined the Weavers' Union. A letter was read stating that $500 had been received from Fall River. Another meeting will be held to-morrow evening.

CONOES, April 12.—All indications point to a general strike at the Harmony Mills in this city. Over three-fourths of the spinners and weavers are working out their notices, and as soon as the time expires will suspend work. Inquiry among the operatives reveals a purpose to seek work elsewhere rather than submit to a reduction of wages. They claim that by hard work through long hours they can earn scarce enough at present prices to support themselves, and that instead of prices being higher than at Lawrence or Fall River, as is claimed, the average is lower. A general strike will be a serious blow to this city.

PHILADELPHIA, April 12.—Bituminous miners in the Clearfield region have issued a circular to the operators demanding an advance in wages of 15 cents per day on and after Saturday next. If refused, between 2,000 and 3,000 men will go out on a strike, like those of the Cumberland region. Unless the latter, who number 3,000, resume work on Saturday, foreign labor will be introduced, and the companies will build houses for the new comers, who will be mostly Negroes. The Governor of Maryland will be applied to for their protection. The Clearfield coal operators having offices in this city express the opinion that there will be no strike. The latter receive 50 cents per ton, and although they intimate a desire for an increase no attention will be paid to it.

NEW BEDFORD, April 12.—The strike of the shipwrights for thirty cents an hour is ended, all the employers conceding the advance.

CHICAGO, April 12.—The engineers of the Anchor, Union, Western Transportation, Commercial, and Lehigh Valley lines of steamers between Chicago and Buffalo have been notified that their wages have been placed on the basis of 1880, $15, $10, and $5 less than in 1881, for first, second, and third engineers.

The Anchor line men quit work to-night, the Union line men will quit at Buffalo, and the others will probably follow. The agents say that the reduction is because of the poor prospects for lake freights, and assert that they have instructions to lay up the vessels if the terms are not acceded to.

All the compositors engaged in setting up the "Business Directory" at Trow's printing office, East Twelfth street, numbering about forty, struck for higher wages yesterday afternoon. They had received 10 cents per 1,000 ems, but complained of the quality of the work, and asked 12 cents more. After some discussion Mr. Leverich, the foreman, proposed a compromise, which was effected by the allowance of 3 cents extra per 1,000 ems.

THE FLAGSHIP RICHMOND.

A Generally Discredited Rumor that She has Foundered at Sea.

A rumor of the loss of the United States flagship Richmond with all on board, while on her way from Yokohama to Panama, was published yesterday in London among some of Lloyd's advices by mail, evidently of a very old date. The agent of the Associated Press in London telegraphs that it is probable that the rumor is the same which originated in this city several weeks ago in a misconstruction of an offi al paragraph about the non arrival of the Richmond at Panama.

At the Navy Department in Washington, the rumor is dismissed as idle. The Department has advices of the Richmond's arrival at Yokohama on March 1.

The officers at the Navy Yard in Brooklyn also discredit the report. The Richmond, they say, was to sail from Yokohama on March 18 for Kobe, a Japanese port some 500 miles from Yokohama, probably to repair sails and cordage. It was suggested at the Navy Yard that perhaps a merchant vessel named the Richmond may have been lost.

The Richmond is the flagship of the Asiatic station, Rear Admiral J. M. R. Closs commanding. Her commander is Capt. Joseph Sherrett. Her other officers are Lieut. Commanders O. R. Glidden and C. S. Houston; Lieutenants John J. Hunker, Wells L. Field, Boutelle Noyes, and Charles F. Barry; Master, C. C. Harrold; Ensign, J. H. Newman, and F. W. Weeder; Ensign, Geo. C. Foulk; Cadet Midshipmen Philip R. Ager, Wm. Truxton, Edward Simpson, R. H. Dean, Wm. Miles, Wm. T. Swift, Wm. Maxwell, Franklin Swift, T. G. Dewey, E. Carroll, F. E. Bunn, C. Lanchheimer, J. F. Mahoney, H. B. Andrews, Gilbert Wilkes, H. L. Palmer, Jr., W. W. Gilmore, C. P. Snow, Ira M. Lunsford, E. H. Harris, W. C. Ford, S. H. Wright, and S. H. Williamson; Surgeon Aaron S. Oberly; Passed Assistant Surgeons, Benjamin F. Rogers and Wm. Lewis; Assistant Paymaster, George Cochran; Chief Engineer, Philip Irish; Passed Assistant Engineers W. H. Benton and George S. Gates; Assistant Engineers, A. M. Bunn and F. M. Bennett; Naval Engineers, T. H. Dinsmore, T. A. Webster, J. B. Thomson, M. A. Anderson, T. J. Hogan, and Robert Stewart; Jr. Chaplain, George A. Crawford; Second Lieutenant of Marines, Charles F. Dunlap; Boatswain, Thomas Quinn; Gunner, George Fouse; Carpenter, David W. Ryan; Sailmaker, John S. Franklin. The Richmond is classed as second rate, and is a screw vessel of some 2,000 tons, carrying fourteen guns.

It was said at the Navy Yard that if the Richmond has gone down, Admiral Closs and his staff are safe for the Admiral's flag has been transferred to the Monocacy. The wife of Admiral Closs resides in Brooklyn.

Catherine Meyerstrauss's Suicide.

Catherine Meyerstrauss, aged 33, a widow residing with Mrs. Moran of 345 Gold street, Brooklyn, took a fatal dose of arsenic yesterday afternoon, which she purchased from Thomas Lewis of 137 Myrtle avenue. She recently gave birth to a child, which she named Charles Otto Meyer. The father, who is said to be a scene painter in a Brooklyn theatre, betrayed her, she said, under a promise of marriage while she was keeping house for him. She recently took the baby to the man's home and left it on a door step where she said she had to impose about it she learned that it had been sent to some asylum, but where he would not tell. This disappointed her greatly, upon her mind a book book was found in her room showing that on March 22 she had deposited in trust for Charles Otto Meyer in the Brooklyn Savings Bank $150, and that on March 30 she drew out $50.

A Hitch in the Shipkerd Examination.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The examination of J. H. Shipkerd by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs was interrupted to-day by the discovery that the official stenographer's report of the proceedings was full of inaccuracies. Shipkerd himself called attention to this fact after looking over the first batch of the report received from the printer. Messrs. Hiss, Belmont, and others agreed that the reports were incorrect. The reporter explained that he was not a regular reporter, but assumed the duties, and that moreover he had had no opportunity to correct the transcript to compare the work, for he was obliged to leave the room. After long discussion it was decided that a reporter should be sent for the use. It was suggested that the reports printed in the New York papers could be used to supplement and correct the official report. The committee adjourned until to-morrow, when the examination will be continued.

Chandler Confirmed.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Wm. E. Chandler's nomination as Secretary of the Navy was confirmed this afternoon by a vote of 14 to 28. There was no organized opposition, and no other action was taken when the nomination was reported to the Senate than to vote upon it. The 14 who were recorded in the negative were all Democrats. Of the 28 affirmative votes 24 were Republican, including David Davis, who has been a member of the Democratic party for the last 8 years. Four Democrats voted for confirmation, two of these being the Florida Senators. No Republican voted against confirmation. The Senate then went into executive session, and Mr. Kellogg made one of his speeches in favor of Mr. Evarts. Subsequently Mr. Chandler was confirmed as Minister to Russia, and J. J. Knox as Comptroller of the Currency.

A Church Quarrel Resulting in Murder.

TROY, April 12.—John G. Lavender owns and occupies a farm of 300 acres in Berkshire, this county, and has been one of the most active supporters of the German Lutheran Church in that village. Mrs. Lavender presented some fancy candies to the church for Easter Sunday last, as they did not fit the candlesticks as some of the church members had expected. The candies were thrown out. Subsequently Lavender met Frederick Brightnot, another member of the church, and the matter of the candies was discussed, and a quarrel arose. Brightnot knocked Lavender down and jumped upon him, inflicting fatal injuries. An officer is searching for Brightnot.

THE BOSTON BANCO GAME.

A Wealthy Maine Banker Relating his Experience with the Sharpers.

BANGOR, Me., April 12.—Since the publication of the extraordinary revelations concerning the swindle by banco thieves of the Hon. Charles Francis Adams of Boston, the Hon. Samuel Blake of Bangor has related to several friends a similar experience, wherein the same parties, as he supposes, were the actors. Mr. Blake is about 75 years old, fine looking, and of commanding appearance. He has amassed a fortune by lending money on first mortgages. Years ago, in anti-slavery times, he had a desire to go to Congress, and obtained the Democratic nomination, although himself a Whig, but was defeated. He has served in the Legislature, was for years a Railroad Commissioner, has been the President and principal stockholder of the Merchants' National Bank in this city for many years. Mr. Blake says:

I was in Boston two years ago this month, and while walking down Washington street was accosted by a young man, finely dressed, suave in manner, who called me by name, and asked if I had recently come from Bangor. He introduced himself as a Mr. Shaw, son of Charles Shaw, Esq., of Dexter, Me., a prominent gentleman with whom I was personally acquainted. The young man said that he had just returned from Europe, and, among other valuable curiosities, he had brought home a splendidly illustrated encyclopædia, and requested me to step into his room, which was on the second floor in the rear of Sears's building, at the head of State street, and examine it. I readily accompanied him to his room, where another man was sitting at a table engaged in writing on slips of paper. Shaw immediately asked his companion, Have they arrived? and the reply was, "Not yet." The man at the table was making figures on a piece of paper, and asked me to guess the number of one of them. I declined; but, as he pressed the matter, I guessed the number 40, and he said it was 60. I guessed again the number 30, when he said it was 50. Shaw was standing close by me during this proceeding, and from that moment I knew nothing more until I was informed by these parties that I had been gambling. I protested that I had not, as I knew no game of chance, nor hardly knew one card from another. They still persisted that I had been gambling, and as evidence produced certain checks, drawn on the Merchants' Bank. One was for $400, and one other was for $3,000. The signatures appeared to be in my own hand, but the body was in another hand. I secured the $400 check and tore it in pieces, which I threw on the floor. The $3,000 check they refused to give up, although I made repeated demands for it. Thereupon I left the room, and as soon as I recovered from my bewilderment I laid the case before the Chief of Police, who found the party who had the check, gave it to me, and I destroyed it. Not desiring public notoriety, and having, as I supposed, secured my checks, I returned to Bangor and kept silence."

About a month ago a person came from Boston to Bangor with a check for $3,000, drawn on the Merchants' National Bank, of which Mr. Blake is President, of even date with the former check for the same amount which Mr. Blake supposed he had destroyed. It bore the signature of Samuel H. Blake. The man did not present it to the bank or to Mr. Blake, but attempted to negotiate it with third parties. In this he failed, and after leaving it with a lawyer for collection, left the city.

THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

A Bill Upon the Subject Prepared by a Committee of the House.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The House Committee on Laws respecting the election of President and Vice President to-day agreed upon a bill to carry into effect the provision of the Constitution on that subject, and directed Chairman Updegraff of Iowa to report it to the House with a favorable recommendation. The bill provides, among other things, that between the day of choosing electors and the day on which they are to vote the title to the office of electors may be determined, and if such determination is made by the highest judicial tribunal of the State having jurisdiction, it shall be conclusive; that upon the reading of certificates the President of the Senate shall call for objections, which, if any, shall be made in writing and be signed by at least one Senator and one member of the House; that in the event of a controversy in any State as to the appointment or eligibility of electors the decision of the highest judicial tribunal having jurisdiction shall be conclusive, and the vote shall be counted in accordance therewith, unless reversed by both Houses; that if there be more than one judicial decision in the State, the last one in chronological order shall be received; that where there has been a controversy in any State, and no certified decision has been transmitted, or where no such controversy has arisen, votes have been transmitted, the contested votes from such States shall not be counted, unless both Houses concur therein; and if there be several sets of certificates from any State, and no such judicial decision, the certificates held by both Houses to be executed by the proper authority shall be conclusive; that, notwithstanding the decision and declarations aforesaid, the title to the office of any person declared to be elected President or Vice President, and the title of any claimant thereof may be tried and determined in an action of quo warranto, and the action may be brought prior to actual entry or usurpation, and must be commenced within ten days after the declaration of the election of the defendant in the United States Court of the United States for the district in which the defendant resides.

Promotions Backward.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The State Department nominations to-day occasioned a good deal of surprise, especially as they seem to be in the nature of promotion backward. Mr. Maney, who is nominated as Minister and Consul-General to Bolivia, has been the Minister at Colombia. He loses $2,500 a year by the change. Mr. Scruggs, who is nominated as Minister to Colombia, has been shifted about in the most remarkable fashion since he has been in the diplomatic service. He was first appointed Minister to Colombia, then was made Consul to Canton, then transferred to Chili Kiang, and is now sent again to Colombia. Andrews displaces Adamson as Minister to Japan, Adamson being booked for a minor consulate. Swords, who was appointed Minister to Peru, did, says that this is a promotion downward, as Trinidad is a most disreputable place, and American consuls have to live there. Mr. Swords, it is said, was offered, but he was offered the Cork consulate, but he declined it on account of the late Consul's conduct, which would make it unpleasant for his successor. These nominations have no political significance, but are said to be due to the manipulations of Chief Clerk Brown of the State Department. Brown is married and petty tyrant, according to the gossip of the place, and it is said that he made the nominations without consulting Secretary Frelinghuysen. Minister to China for furnishing him Seward with private information respecting State Department plans.

The Bishop who was Put Off a Train.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—A delegation of ministers of the African M. E. Church, headed by Bishop Brown and accompanied by Mr. Frederick Douglass, waited upon Attorney-General Br