IS THIS BOAT GOING TO WAR?

THERE'S A STEAM TUG AT STAPLETON THAT LOOKS LOW AND RAKISH.

Said to Have Cannon Aboard for Hayti—Shipping a Crew in Frock Coats and Gold Spectacles—Don't Look Like Pirates.

The fishing steamer Novelty, which left Boston on Tuesday for this city, is at Merritt's dock, Stapleton, and is reported to be loaded with thirty pieces of ordinance of various grades and eight Gatling guns, if not with filibusters for Hayti. She arrived on Thursday night. She is 150 feet long and 291⅝ tons burden. When she got to Stapleton her name was not visible on any of the three places specified by the law. All was quiet on board, but toward noon yesterday it was noticed that an unusually large number of men were aboard her, and that few of them had the appearance of men familiar with life at sea. Soon thereafter some fifteen or so of the men left the craft and boarded a train for St. George at the Stapleton station. All they would say concerning the vessel and themselves was that they had left the vessel because the Captain would give them no information as to what port the craft was bound for. They suspected that she had cleared from Boston for Hayti, and they did not care to risk arrest as filibusters or death by yellow fever.

A survey of the craft showed that she had undergone a thorough renovation. A new spar was reared forward and another aft of the house. The tackle and blocks were also new. The hatchways were tightly closed and made flush with the decks. A painter's scaffold was swung over the stern. A trim-looking steam launch, about thirty-five feet long, stood in a frame upon the starboard side of the forward deck. Two yawl boats, painted white and bearing the name of the old Boston steamship Roman, were upon the after part of the house. Between them lay two dories. The hull had been recently painted black, with white lines.

A young man, who looked like a countryman, was pacing the starboard deck, and he greeted a party of reporters with a look of annoyance. He curtly refused to answer any questions, and disappeared down a companionway. Several other young men, who appeared every now and then on deck, declined to be questioned, on the ground that they knew nothing about the craft, and had shipped for no port in particular. Persistent queries led a middle-aged man who was found aft to say that he believed the craft was bound for Hayti or San Domingo. She had sailed from Boston early this week, and he had shipped during the morning in New York. He understood that the craft had been sold for a gunboat, and that guns were expected aboard. The hold was empty, and outside of the guns no cargo was expected. The bunkers contained about 200 tons of coal. When the craft was delivered to her new owners he expected to return by steamer to New York.

The Captain and chief engineer were away in quest of men to fill the places of those who left in the morning.

During the afternoon it was learned that the chief engineer had endeavored to ship Owen Williams, a well-known citizen of Stapleton, as an assistant engineer. Williams said he was told that the craft was bound for Samana, a seaport of San Domingo. She had been a gunboat, and a crew of twenty-seven men were needed to take her down. He was promised a return passage north on a steamship should he ship.

When the Captain, who says his name is Terry, returned at 7 o'clock last night, he brought with him twelve men and hustled them aboard. Five of them did not like the looks of things and left the vessel. Seven went below. A short man, who had not before been visible, came on deck. He said he was George Bowman, the supercargo. "I sold this steamer," he said, to the Haytian Consul of New York. She is now bound for Samana. She will be used as a gunboat. Her name has been changed to Mercedes. She can steam twelve knots an hour."

Capt. Terry is a stout, ruddy-faced man, of jovial disposition, and wears a heavy moustache. He was jocular. He pointed about the deck and said:

"Isn't this a splendid place for a pivot gun? Look at those low bulwarks. Wouldn't she have a long reach? I wonder whether she would stand the shock from the discharge of a gun?"

The reporter then started down into the forecastle, but the Captain hastily detained him with a heavy hand upon his shoulder.

"You had better not go down there," he said. "Just confine your movements to the deck here."

The reporter then asked him what he had done, that he did and what seen. He replied: "I don't know as there is anything down there except, may be, some stores and 150 tons of coal." The vessel was deeply laden.

The reporter next asked if the Mercedes would sail under the American flag. Capt. Terry replied, "No, we will sail under the Dominican flag, but we have not got it aboard yet. It will be sent aboard later. We will try to get off to-night."

The crew was a motley-looking crowd. None looked like a seaman, and a few of them wore Prince Albert frock coats. One had on goldrimmed spectacles. They were as much perplexed, and did not know the difference between the stem and the stern of the vessel. They declared that they had only been employed to take the vessel down to her destination, and they hoped they would not be seasick on the way. The agreement was to send them back by the first returning steamer as passengers. The entire crew consisted of the Captain, two mates, a chief engineer and two assistants, the supercargo, and twenty men, a big crew for a steam tug. They must have stowed themselves in like sardines.

Minister Preston said last night that it was his understood in Boston that the Novelty was intended for filibustering purposes in Haytian waters.

PRESIDENT COTTERILL IS BACK.

He Declares That the Friends Are Not in Michigan, and Says "Oh, My!

President W. H. Cotterill of the Electric Sugar Refining Company is back from Michigan, and was the first man on hand yesterday morning at the company's offices in Wall street. He is going to make a statement today. He did a little talking yesterday in a suave and bland way.

People with whom Mr. Cotterill disagrees are "wretches," and he uses "Oh, my!" and "How shameful!" in his ecstacies of disapproval. He has a long, white beard, and looks patriarchal.

"It is nonsense to say," Mr. Cotterill said, "that Mrs. Friend and Mr. Howard were in Michigan while I was there. They are not within the jurisdiction of the United States, but detectives are after them."

The uncomfortable statement for the shareholders was made by Mr. Cotterill that the "electric sugar business is a fraud." He had discovered this while in Michigan. "It is a big fraud," he continued, "and that is what it is. There is no denying that now. We have all been deceived. I mean your humble servant, Mr. Robertson, and the managing directors in this country, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Sniffen, and my son. We were first deceived by the professor, and after his death by Mrs. Friend and her relatives, the Howards and the Halsteds."

Of the story published in 1876, and not publicly contradicted, that Mr. Cotterill had disappeared from this city owing a Major Patterson $22,000, Mr. Cotterill said that he had sent a contradiction from England to a friend here, asking him to have it published. The friend did not have it published, and Mr. Cotterill, when he came back to New York years later, did not think it advisable to stir the matter up.

L. Couzen, the coal dealer who supplied the electric sugar "refinery" in Brooklyn, received a certified check from Treasurer Robertson yesterday for $126, being the amount due him for December coal. He further received an order for five tons for the factory, for which he was paid on the spot by the Treasurer. This astonished Mr. Couzen so that he talked of buying stock.

The Boston Deadlock Broken.

BOSTON, Jan. 11.—The deadlock in the Common Council that has existed over the election of President ever since inauguration day was broken at the meeting by the choice of the Republican candidate, Horace G. Allen. At last night's meeting the Democrats demanded a viva voce ballot so that they might find the "traitors" in their ranks, as they called the men who voted for the Republican candidate, and thus overturned the natural Democratic majority. The attempt failed and the meeting broke up in confusion after some very disorderly scenes, but to-night the Democrats carried their point and every one had to stand up and be counted. Some of the Democrats "weakened," but three braved the wrath of the "machine" and voted for Mr. Allen.

Two New Bank Presidents.

ASBURY PARK, Jan. 11.—At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank George Frederick Kroehl was elected President in place of Henry C. Winner. The latter was one of the founders of the bank, which was started after the suspension of the private banking house of Frank Patterson. His retirement has created general surprise here. Mr. Kroehl is the junior member of the firm of Henry Kroehl & Son, large importers of New York, who lives here.

George W. Byram, a young lawyer, has succeeded Water Commissioner Gilhens as President of the Asbury Park National Bank. Mr. Byram is only 23 years old and he said to be the youngest National Bank President in the country.

THE TIE-UP HANGS FIRE.

President Lewis Presents a Bold Front, and the Knights are in Council.

The negotiations between the Executive Board of District Assembly No. 75, K. of L., and President Lewis of the City Railroad Company of Brooklyn were broken off so abruptly and unpleasantly on Wednesday night that by many a strike was expected to be ordered for yesterday morning. The Executive Board, which had been empowered to act for the men without any further consultation with them, remained in session until after midnight. The tie-up was not ordered, but it was resolved not to make any concession to the company, and to insist on the acceptance of the proposition originally presented to Mr. Lewis. The members of the committee professed to believe that the controversy with the City Railroad Company would not be settled without a bitter and perhaps a prolonged fight, but before formally declaring war and ordering a tie-up they resolved to try and arrange contracts with the other companies, and in this work they were engaged all day yesterday. The City Railroad is now in the same condition it was in before its first war with the Knights a few years ago. Although practically the men continue to work under last year's contract, each side virtually regards the document as a dead letter. It was when the Executive Board sent in its ultimatum in the shape of a demand that only union men should be employed on the roads that the negotiations for a peaceable settlement were abandoned. Mr. Lewis said yesterday:

"We emphatically refused to accept this proposition. The Knights would be in a position to decide whom we should and whom we should not employ. We do not intend that our roads shall ever be union roads. We will not force our men to become members of any union nor will we interfere with them if they are Knights of Labor."

The propositions which have been presented on behalf of the men are not by any means satisfactory to Mr. Richardson or his fellow directors. Mr. Richardson said yesterday:

"The new demands of the men, if complied with, would increase the running expenses of the road $40,000 a year. We do not propose to increase the running expenses of the road one dollar. They also demanded that Charles Gallagher, a discharged driver, should be reinstated. This was made for a mischievous purpose, and I told the committee that I could not even consider their other demands until this one had been withdrawn, and I don't propose to do so."

The committee will probably visit Mr. Richardson again to-day.

On Thursday night the Executive Board of No. 75 made satisfactory arrangements with President Partridge of the De Kalb avenue road, and yesterday a contract was also made with President Edwin A. Beers of the Broadway road, which assures peace on the three lines controlled by that company for another year. The conference with President Martin Joost of the Grand and Newtown Railroad proved unsatisfactory and a tie-up was threatened.

The committee also conferred with Dr. Drayton, President of the Smith and Jay street road, and was assured by Dr. Drayton that he had no doubt a satisfactory settlement would be affected. The discussion over the contract, however, was postponed in the absence of Gen. Jourdan, the Chairman of the Executive Board.

At a late hour last night the Executive Board of No. 75 was in secret session, deliberating. It was said, over the advisability of declaring immediate war on President Lewis. Inspector Mackellar, who was in charge at Police Headquarters, did not expect that a tie-up would be ordered this morning.

Mr. F. J. Donovan, of the State Board or Arbitration arrived in Brooklyn from Albany yesterday, so as to be on hand should a strike occur. It is said he has already conferred with some members of the Executive Board of No. 75.

Careful inquiry made by a SUN reporter yesterday in the stables and on the cars in this city indicated to make it certain that there was no expectation among the horse-carmen themselves of either a general tie-up or of an increase of wages. They hope that long hours and suspensions on trivial accusations will be remedied.

TIRED OF THE STRUGGLE.

He Married Because He was Homeless and Killed Himself Because He was Poor.

Frank Astrada, 22 years of age, was found dead on the floor at 25 Bleecker street yesterday. He had swallowed Paris green. On a package of photographs in his pocket was this message, hastily scrawled:

Please give these pictures to my wife. Good-by, Maggie. I am called away.

Mrs. Astrada lived at 25 Bleecker street, which is next door to the Florence Midnight Mission. When she met Astrada and they were married he was a canvasser for a photographer at 815 Broadway until the day before he committed suicide. Mrs. Astrada said yesterday that they were married by the Rev. John Dooley of the Broome Street Tabernacle on Dec. 25, but since that time her husband had not been able to support her, and had become discouraged because he was poor. When his father died his mother married again.

Joseph Estrada, a brother of the suicide, thinks that Frank must have killed himself because he realized the disgrace his manner of living would bring upon his family, who are respectable people. Two years ago Frank married a girl whom he met when he was making $20 a week as collector for the Union Bottling Company. He had trouble with his wife, and they separated. She is now living in Brooklyn with their only child. About two months ago he entered the navy, but he deserted after serving a month. Since then he has been drinking heavily, and, his brother thinks, must have been under the influence of liquor when he took up with the woman who claims to be his wife. Joseph Estrada says the woman has no certificate of marriage.

THE READING DISASTER.

No More Bodies in the Ruins of the Silk Mill—Total Number Killed, 23.

READING, Jan. 11.—No more bodies have been found in the ruins of the silk mill. The bodies of the victims of the disaster have now, it is believed, all been recovered, and the search was consequently abandoned this morning. Some of the injured will die. Arrangements are now being made for the burial of the dead, and a few days will witness the interment of all the victims. The correct list of those killed at the silk mill, or who have since died of their injuries, is as follows:

Emma Nestor, John Reber, Eva Leeds, Laura Kershner, Sallie Harner, Tillie Grow, Mary Fitzpatrick, Sallie Faust, Henry S. Crocker, Amelia Christman, Sallie C. Bickel, Ellen Reichenbach, Sallie A. Schaeffer, Sallie Schaeffer, Barbara A. Spillemer, Sarah Shade, William Snyder, and Sophie F. Winkelman.

These, with the five killed at the railroad paint shop, make the total number of lives lost twenty-three.

A Ten-round Glove Fight.

BOSTON, Jan. 11.—A ten-round light glove fight took place in this city this evening between Mike Dyer, an old favorite with Bostonians, and Joe Mullen of Weymouth. The men fought at about 160 pounds. Pete McCoy acted as referee, and John L. Sullivan was one of the spectators. The fight was give and take from the call of time. Neither man showed much science, but each seemed determined to see which could get in the heaviest blows and the most of them. Dyer used his left with telling effect on Mullen's face, and Mullen made a target of Dyer's stomach with his right, so that while one man's face was covered with blood the other's wind was pretty nearly done before the wind-up came. The fight was finally called a draw by the referee.

High Speed of the Vesuvius.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—A despatch was received at the Navy Department this morning from Lieut. Cowles at Philadelphia stating that the dynamite cruiser Vesuvius at the third official trial yesterday attained a speed of 21.64 knots an hour, an excess of 1.64 knots over the speed required by the contract. The trial took place in deep water in Delaware Bay over a two and one-half mile course, the vessel running back and forth. The vessel will undoubtedly be accepted by the Government.

Columbia Yacht Club Ball.

The jolly yachtsmen of the Columbia Club came from all points of the compass last night to meet at Lexington Avenue Opera House and enjoy their twenty-second annual ball. Commodore Charles T. Wills with Mrs. Wills led the march at 10½ o'clock, and half an hour later 200 couples were dancing in the lanciers. In the sets were Vice-Commodore Albert M. Everett and wife, Secretary George Parkhill with Miss Burns, Charles E. Simms Jr., Vice-President of the Board of Governors, and Miss Hattie Simms, Charles M. Armstrong and wife, Charles H. Kimbel and Miss Ella Miller, Harry Ketchum and his sister Alice, Fleet Surgeon Harry Griswold and Mrs. Griswold.

Rival Physicians Quarrel With Firearms.

HOLDEN, Mo., Jan. 11.—Dr. Starke and Dr. Pitser, rival physicians in the village of Chilhowie, opened fire on each other in a store last night, and Dr. Pitser was killed and Alexander McLin shot in the side. The trouble grew out of a small debt, which Dr. Starke claimed Dr. Pitser owed him. The bill was sent to Dr. Pitser, and afterward the two men met and quarrelled over it, but friends separated them. After supper they met in a store, and their quarrel was renewed, the men coming to blows. It was then that Dr. Starke began shooting.

Knocked Senseless in the Fifth Round.

CHICAGO, Jan. 11.—Thomas Morgan to-night whipped Billy Wade for the amateur featherweight championship of the Northwest and a diamond medal offered by the First regiment. Five rounds were fought with small gloves. Wade was knocked senseless by a right hand blow on the jaw that started blood from his ears.

TAMMANY IN HER GLORY.

WILL HAVE TO GET A NEW HALL OR A SMALLER COMMITTEE.

She Takes all the Responsibility for Running this Town and Invites the Purroy Democracy to Come to Her in a Body.

The organization of the new mammoth Tammany Hall General Committee crowded the Fourteenth street wigwam to its doors last evening. The hall is too small, and Tammany will have to get another or get a smaller committee. Only half could sit down, and half had barely standing room. The old familiar faces were to be seen on every hand, and with them not a few phizzes out of the County Democracy, and some that would be recognized at a Republican gathering.

Despite the jam the business worked smoothly. The proper resolutions in the proper hands popped up at the proper times. Popular district leaders in the act of handing up credentials were properly applauded by enthusiastic adherents. Gen. John Cochrane as Chairman and Thomas F. Gilroy and Joel O. Stevens as Secretaries were made permanent officers, with the addition of Percy Rockwell as a Secretary, John J. Gorman as Treasurer, and Robert E. Kelly as Sergeant-at-Arms.

The only contest was from the Sixteenth district. Credentials were handed up by John H. Spellman for the Hagan faction, while the inspectors for Coughlin, Caulfield, Reilly, and Downing, who were in front seats, handed up a protest, which stated that no primary had been held, as they had been obliged to leave the designated premises without opening the polls. The Committee on Contested Seats couldn't settle the dispute, and it was left to the Committee on Organization.

The Committee on Resolutions reported some, which Secretary Gilroy read so impressively that Secretary Stevens declared that they seemed second only to the Declaration of Independence. They regret the defeat of Cleveland and glory in the triumph of Hill, congratulate the people of this county on the election of a tried and practical reformer to the office of Mayor, and commend the Mayor's message as proof of his capacity to deal with all the difficult questions which are likely to arise during his administration. They approve the proposed conversion of the East River islands into parks and the removal of the institutions to "the almost useless lands now owned by the city at Pelham Bay," and regard the courage of the Mayor in advocating this improvement as a happy indication that the new administration will be controlled by a firm purpose to administer the Government in the interests of the great body of our population. They congratulate the people on the progress of the agitation against trusts and praise Judge Barrett's decision. They say:

We hold secrecy to be an essential feature of the ballot, and we earnestly protest against the enactment of any law which would substitute for secrecy a mere promise of secrecy. We protest against the adoption of any system which will permit the ballot of the voter to be marked by any person or even touched, except for the use of the voter himself when he prepares his ballot, and we earnestly condemn any legislation which will prohibit any citizen from declaring himself a candidate before the people at any time before the close of the polls on election day. The system which stood the crucial test of '84, and recorded so accurately the verdict of the people that the votes of a thousand electors decided a Presidential election without disorder or dispute, should not be lightly disturbed or made the subject of misdirected or ignorant experiment.

They want a census and want it now. They

Regard the right of the citizens to peaceably assemble for the discussion of measures to better their condition as an essential feature of a free republic, which it has advocated for many years. The promises which we have made to the people in the past we now earnestly pledge ourselves to redeem. We recognize the obligations imposed upon us by this success to act justly.

We are responsible for the administration of the local Government. That responsibility cannot be denied, and should not be evaded. It will be our abiding purpose to prove that Democratic ascendancy means purity of administration, economy in expenditures, wisdom in the application of the public moneys, and vigilance in securing to the body of the people the fullest measure of benefit that can flow from an enlightened and well-ordered government.

Bourke Cockran added some further denunciation of the ballot reform agitation, saying that the people were neither corrupt nor corruptible, and that Tammany Hall had won its biggest victories when she had scarcely money enough to pay for printing election tickets.

The resolutions were cordially approved, as was also a resolution of thanks to the Purroy people moved by Commissioner Croker. It invited the whole Purroy party to "join the ranks of the organization and become members of this committee."

A YOUNG WIFE SHOOTS HERSELF.

Her Husband Had Accused Her of Deceiving Him and Left Her.

Myra Boorhen, 20 years old, a bride of only two months, tried to kill herself at her residence, 214 West Fiftieth street, last night by a shot from a single barrelled pistol.

For the past few days, she says, her husband had accused her of having deceived him into marrying her. Yesterday morning he said he would never live with her again, and left the house. He did not come back last night. About 10 o'clock the neighbors heard the report of a pistol, and found Mrs. Boorhen lying in a pool of blood, bleeding from a wound in the left breast. She was taken to Roosevelt Hospital.

A friend of her husband had written to her yesterday asking for her husband's clothes and pistol. She answered by the following letter, which was found in her room:

My husband, Charles Boorhen formerly of New Jersey, has deserted me. I am almost without means. I cannot bear this disgrace. This is Roosevelt Hospital station. I will be through with it soon, and hope you will receive it. I forgive all, as I hope all will forgive me for this rash act. MYRA HOORHEN.

P. S.—Do not tell my mother, because it will kill her, too. Good-by, friends and enemies.

The young woman will recover. Her husband drives a street sprinkler.

SHE COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED.

Miss Schwindle's Death Attributed to her Mother's Neglect.

The Coroner's jury in the case of Miss Annie Schwindle, the young woman who died during child birth three weeks ago in Jersey City, as it was alleged, of malpractice, rendered a verdict last night that death was due to the cruel treatment and neglect of her mother. It exonerated Dr. Pottigrew, who attended the woman in her last sickness, and censured City Physician Morris for not going to attend the case when he was called, although it was not strictly his duty to do so. Coroner Brackner was not satisfied with the verdict and he censured the jury.

County Physician Converse and Dr. Shane testified at the inquest that both the mother's and child's lives could have been saved. There was a good deal of contradictory testimony. The young man who caused Miss Schwindle's trouble has fled the city.

White Caps in Delaware.

WILMINGTON, Jan. 11.—Several young men of Newcastle, who have been idle for the past few weeks, have received notice by post that unless they obtain work at once they will be severely dealt with or within five days driven from the city. The notices bore the skull and crossbones and were signed, "By Order of the Delaware Organization of White Caps." The recipients of the threatening missives felt considerable alarm, and armed themselves to resist any attack. One of them went out last night to make a call and carried a heavily loaded fowling piece. On his returning home, and when in a dark portion of the city, he was set upon by seven men wearing white masks. He endeavored to discharge his weapon, but it missed fire, and the piece was wrested from his hands. The young man then supplicated his assailants, who agreed as the condition of his release that he should either seek employment or quit the town. Constellman Dougherty, who was attracted to the scene by the victim's cries, fired several shots at the White Caps, who dispersed under the shower of lead.

County Democracy Leaders.

The County Democracy primaries for the selection of election district representatives to the Assembly district committees were held all over the city last evening. The Assembly district committees will organize at different dates between to-day and the first of the month. The leaders of the districts will be changed in only a few instances. In the Eighth there is some chance that ex-Alderman Philip E. Benjamin may beat Daniel Patterson. In the Thirteenth C. S. Beardsley's strength may yield before the assaults of Judge John Jerolemon. Congressman-elect John Quinn will probably be put in the place of Justice Henry Murray in the seventeenth. Alston G. Culver, who took Andrew J. White's place in the Twenty-third, will be continued in. Col. E. T. Wood will take the place of H. D. Purroy in the Twenty-fourth ward.

Missionary Convention of Church Students.

The second annual Convention of the Church Students' Missionary Association began a two days' session yesterday afternoon in the Sunday school room of the Church of the Holy Communion. Thirty-seven delegates were present, representing thirteen schools and seminaries mostly Protestant Episcopal. There were services in the evening at Calvary Church, Fourth avenue and Twenty-first street, at which addresses were delivered by the Rev. F. A. Hoffman, D. D., Dean of the General Theological Seminary, the Rev. Edward Osborne, S. S. J. E., assistant minister at St. John the Evangelist's Church, Boston, the Rev. William Kirkus, L. L. D., rector of St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Baltimore, and the Rev. A. Toombs Porter, D. D., rector of St. Mark's Church, Charleston, S. C.

BULGER STILL BLOCKS THE WAY.

He Won't Let Lieut.-Gov. Robertson Into the Indiana Senate Chamber.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 11.—Lieut.-Gov. Robertson came this morning within six inches of getting past the burly Bulger, who guards the Senate chamber door and playing hob with the Democratic majority and its President inside. Robertson walked up to the State House with Senator De Motte, a Republican, and followed him up to the door. The doorkeeper opened it to admit De Motte without noticing Robertson, and just at that moment some one calling his attention he turned his head aside and Robertson stepped forward into the door. Bulger turned his head just in time to thrust his arm out and catch the knob of the door, making a bar to the further progress of the Lieutenant-Governor.

"I want to come in," said Robertson. "I am the Lieutenant-Governor and it is my business to enter and preside over the Senate."

"You can't come in; them's orders and that's all there is about it," replied Bulger, pushing him back.

Robertson turned away, and soon afterward left the State House without having made any further effort to assert his rights. The Republicans are disgusted with Robertson's lack of grit in not attempting to effect a forcible entrance yesterday, and the Republican Senators will pay no more attention to him, except to place on file their formal protest against the proceedings attending the organization of the Senate. There was trouble over the journal reporting these proceedings when it came to be read this morning. The attempt of the Secretary to straighten out the remarkable parliamentary procedure that attended the organization had been a lamentable failure. The Republicans declared that it was not a true record, and the Democrats were afraid that it was too true to be creditable, so a committee was appointed to fix it into some shape that would do to become official.

Gov. Gray appeared before the joint meeting of the two Houses this afternoon and personally read his message after the fashion that prevails among the Hoosiers. It was a short and not a notable document, dealing altogether with State affairs. As to the White Caps he said:

During the past year a number of outrages upon the personal rights of citizens were committed in one or two counties of the State by persons banded together under the name of White Caps. They excited such terror by their unlawful practices that for a time no evidence could be procured implicating any person engaged in such outrages. Evidence was, however, finally procured against the principal participants, who were indicted and their trial set for Dec. 24, 1888. The defendants have taken a change of venue, and the time of trial is now fixed for March 26. Additional evidence has been obtained which will lead to the indictment of several others, and some who would have been arrested have fled from the State. The lawlessness has been completely suppressed. Intimations have been given by persons implicated that they desired to arrange with the State, agreeing that no further outrages would be committed if prosecutions on the part of the State would cease. I felt that the State could not afford to compromise with perpetrators of such offences, and have instructed the authorities and the counsel employed by the State to prosecute all against whom evidence can be obtained to the full extent of the law.

On the subject of reform in the election laws the Governor said:

I earnestly invite your attention to the imperative necessity for a revision of the election laws, so as to guard more effectually the exercise of the elective franchise and secure to the people fair and honest elections. It is manifest that public faith in the purity of our elections has become shaken, and the feeling is widespread that the decision at the ballot box no longer reflects the honest judgment of a majority of the voters. You can render the State no more exalted service than to frame and enact such laws that will, so far as legislation can accomplish, prevent the use of money to procure the secrecy of the ballot, secure pure elections, and punish by the severest penalties all who may be guilty of corrupting in any manner the purity of the people. The ballot should be printed by the State and procured by the voter only at the polling places under such restrictions as will give every voter the opportunity to select and vote the ticket of his choice without interference by others, and congregating and electioneering about the polling places should be strictly prohibited.

TOM BILLINGS AND HIS CHURCH.

The Owner Annoys People by an Undue Interest in His Property.

SANTA FÉ, Jan. 11.—The mass meetings which the people of Dark Valley, N. M., have been holding of late are due to the fact that one Tom Billings, a queer character, who was once a stage driver, but who has been of late a schemer, as he calls it, has obtained possession of the only church in town, and has set himself up as a sort of ecclesiastical authority. Tom sleeps and eats in the church, and everything that goes on there must be according to his way of thinking. He says he has had a good many schemes in his day, but he never yet had one that paid better or gave his mind a better chance to disport itself than the one which he is now working.

The church is used by travelling preachers of all denominations, by local politicians and societies, and by the town itself when the authorities assemble to discuss matters of importance. It came into Tom's possession by reason of his loyalty with the souls of a good man who died holding a mortgage on the property. Tom saw a scheme in it, and as the son was anxious to close up his affairs and remove to the East, he disposed of his claim for a fair price. Tom immediately foreclosed, bid the edifice in at auction, and now owns it with as clear a title as that enjoyed by anybody in the Territory.

Some of Tom's exploits are peculiarly exasperating. He will rent the house for a reasonable sum per day or per week, but, being the owner, he claims a certain responsibility for all that takes place beneath its roof, and it is stipulated in every lease that he is to sit in the pulpit along with the officiating clergyman. This bargain is always carried out, and Tom may be seen at any service there sitting in state on the platform and nodding or waving his hand with a prodigious flourish to each of his acquaintances as they come in for the congregation. Of late he has shown a disposition to take undue liberties with his tenants, and this is what has caused the disturbance. Long familiarity with the arguments of the preachers has given him the assurance to interrupt the brethren occasionally with a question or with a suggestion, such as:

"Wouldn't it be better, Brother Bones, to state that proposition thus and so?"

The fatherly interest that he takes in all that goes on, and the dignity which he assumes as the owner of the church, have made him well nigh unbearable, and the people have laid down the ultimatum that he must sell the church or get ready to see another one erected in the same vicinity. At last accounts Tom was trying to effect a compromise by agreeing to reduce the rent. The privilege of sitting in the pulpit he will not forego.

Pawnee Bill's Expedition.

WICHITA, Jan. 11.—The real name of Pawnee Bill, who proposes to lead a motley crew of adventurers from southern Kansas into the Oklahoma country, is George Washington Lillie. He is not a dangerous character, and some of the people on the border are disposed to resent his use of a name which they regard as too high sounding for a man who has never killed anybody to speak of. It is not a difficult job to recruit two or three thousand Oklahoma boomers at any given time and point on the southern border of Kansas. The country is full of them. They are ready to move at a minute's notice, and if they ever reach the promised land they will still be ready to move. Every crude device which the ingenuity of man can suggest in the way of portable houses, portable barns, portable pumps, portable haystacks, and portable camps is already in their possession. In some places the boomers have their houses, barns, and haystacks on a contrivance which supplies both wheels and runners, so that good time can be made in any sort of weather. The officers and men of the army whose duty it will be to chase these marauders around the country are not pleased with the prospect. It is no hardship for the boomers to move, for that is right in their line. If the soldiers are to be effective they must be on the move continually, and this is a hardship to them.

Idaho's Weather Prophet.

OGDEN, Jan. 11.—Old Man Wiggs, a well-known weather prophet of northern Idaho, announces that the winter yet to come will be the severest ever known. He bases his prediction on the assertion that the moon is away out of its place in the heavens, being several degrees further north than usual, which, in his opinion, is an unfailing sign of cold weather. "I never knew it to fail," he said the other day, in discussing the matter. "If the moon had gone only a little out of its way I wouldn't say a word, but here it is at least 5,000 miles further north than it has any business to be. Three times now since I have lived here this thing has happened, and there has always been a rising weather. One time I was so cold that the earth cracked and men were frozen stiff standing up. I never saw the moon so far north before though, and I tell you to look out for what's a-coming."

Passaic Water is of Some Use, Anyway.

Chief Farrin of the Jersey City Fire Department made his annual report yesterday. During the year only $70,000 damage was done by fire. This is less than one-third of the damage done in 1887. Passaic water was used at all the fires, and the Chief says it worked very effectively. He does not know whether or not this is due to the large amount of chemical matter it holds in solution.

The Right of the Conqueror.

Victor Mangore, a boarder in Nicholas Mayer's house at 153 West Twenty-sixth street, cut Mayer over the head with a big knife last night, laying him out on the floor, and went off with Mrs. Mayer on his arm. Nicholas says they eloped. He is in the New York Hospital.

NOW THAT M'MULLEN IS GONE

A CONGRESS OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS TO SIT ON HIS STORES.

It is Said that There Will Be Many Heads Off Before March 4, and the Earth is Already Quaking in Laight Street.

When Albert B. Stearns, the Boston Appraiser, took the place of Mr. McMullen as Appraiser of the Port on Thursday, one of Secretary Fairchild's intimates said that a cyclone was at hand. The same friend of the Secretary said yesterday that the first low barometer had got here already, and that to-day the storm would be turned on at full sweep. So far as violent apprehension among the customs servants at the Laight street stores goes, the whole business is already here. They are scared.

Appraiser Stearns was at his desk early. It was remarked that he was not particularly chummy with any of his immediate cabinet, the assistant appraisers, Democrats or Republicans. The special Treasury agents were closer to him. This evening or early to-morrow morning Secretary Fairchild himself will be in town, and by Monday the new Appraiser and his methods will be humming at full speed.

Just before noon Appraiser Stearns with Chief Holahan and Special Treasury Agent Tichenor went to the Custom House for a consultation with Collector Magone. It was learned that Mr. Tichenor "believed that official rottenness" had been the chief feature of the Laight street building for any number of years and still existed in all its vigor.

Col. Jewell, Chief Treasury Agent, has, it was said, ordered many of the prominent special Treasury agents of the service to join him here to-day. Special Treasury Agents Simmons, Ayer, and Phœnix will represent the New York office. Col. Montgomery will arrive from Washington this morning to represent the Boston office, and A. K. Tingle, Supervising Special Agent, will attend the conference also. Then there will be Customs and Treasury Department representatives from Philadelphia, Chicago, and Cincinnati, and other big Western cities, and altogether it will be the biggest convention of Treasury and customs officials New York has had in many a year.

A plan for the reorganization of all the divisions at the Appraiser's Stores will be considered. Each department will be taken up separately, on complaints of importers and reports of investigations. First the assistant appraisers, then the examiners, then the samplers, and after them the openers and packers will have a turn.

Assistant Appraiser Moore of the damage allowance and sugar division is interested in the reports on the alleged sugar frauds and the recent alleged irregularities in the damage allowance bureau. Mr. Moore is a Tammany man, but Tammany has given notice that it will not lift its finger to protect him.

The reports on the alleged discriminations on Sumatra tobacco affect assistant Appraiser Sturgis and his examiner Hartnill of the tobacco, grocery, and whiskey division. It was said on good authority yesterday that Secretary Fairchild would have their official heads off within forty-eight hours.

There are charges of discrimination that will interest Assistant Appraiser Halsted of the hardware division. Assistant Appraiser Birdsall will have a chance to give his side of the reports concerning undervaluations of cottons and linens.

Assistant Appraiser Stevens of the jewelry division is not affected by the reports. Dr. Stott, assistant appraiser of the drug division has no marks against him, but his assistants will catch it if the reports against them can be substantiated.

Examiner Moore of the damage allowance and Examiner Bardwell of the wool divisions have reports against them, charging discrimination and violations of the Treasury regulations. It was asserted by officials yesterday that they would also be rung in the service.

Charges of discriminations and undervaluations and overvaluations in the woollen goods department will demand the attendance of ex-Special Treasury Agent B. H. Hinds, whose salary of $6,000 a year as the representative of the American Woollen Goods Association has made him especially prominent at the Appraiser's stores. The close relations of Mr. Hinds and Mr. McMullen will go under the official microscope.

There are likely to be many removals before March 4.

Appraiser Stearns backed up yesterday his statement that the Government had been robbed of millions. He said the methods of the sugar division were responsible for several of these millions. An investigation of the alleged sugar frauds at this port was prompted by Daniel Manning in almost the first week of his administration of the Treasury Department.

The Gas Explosion was Caused by the Tornado.

The loss to the Citizens' Gas Light Company by the blowing up of their works in Brooklyn on Wednesday night will not reach $100,000, and all of it is covered by insurance. Fire Marshal Lewis has made an investigation as to the origin of the fire. He says:

"It was evidently the result of the tornado twisting the large tank and wrenching it in such a manner as to cause a rent in the holder, causing the gas to escape. This gas was waffted towards a furnace, and the moment that it came in contact with the flame ignition followed ignition. In my twenty-two years' experience in fire insurance I never heard of a gas tank being destroyed by explosion or fire. Gas tanks are considered good risks by the insurance companies, on account of the extra precautions enjoined upon all employed near them."

The Elizabeth Deadlock Broken.

ELIZABETH, Jan. 11.—The deadlock in the Board of Aldermen was broken to-night. Aldermen Smith, McCandless, and Williams, Democrats, abandoned their colleagues and joined forces with the Republicans, dividing the offices and electing the following slate: President of the Board, John J. Smith, Dem.; City Clerk, E. L. P. Coleman, Rep.; Street Commissioner, Henry J. Stratemeyer, Dem.; City Attorney, Frank Dorizen, Rep.; City Surveyor, Ernest Meyer, Rep.; Overseer of the Poor, John B. Lutz, Rep.; Police Judge, Morris Hetfeld, Dem.; Clerk of Market and Janitor of City Hall, Morris Matson, Rep.; City Physicians, Dr. E. B. Grier, Dem., Dr. E. R. O'Reilly, Dem.; Keeper of Station House, J. H. Fadde, Rep.; Sealer of Weights and Measures, Mark D. Wilson, Dem.

Lightning Typewriting.

Miss M. E. Orr of this city, a pale, delicate-looking young girl, and Mr. Frank E. McGurrin of Salt Lake City, a sinewy man of middle age, gave a remarkable exhibition of rapid work on the typewriter last evening in the assembly room of Packard's Business College. First there was an exhibition of typewriting by Charles Clinton, a blind pupil of New York Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, who did not know a word of the English language three years ago. Then Miss Orr and Mr. McGurrin gave their exhibition. Miss Orr printed sixty six characters in five seconds, or an average of over thirteen characters a second. Then she printed from memory 137 words in one minute correctly. Upon a second trial she printed 153 words in a minute. Miss Orr holds the gold medal for the championship, which she won last August by writing ninety-eight words a minute for two consecutive minutes.

Mr. McGurrin is an official stenographer in Salt Lake City. He wrote from dictation blindfolded and correctly. He wrote 140 memorized words in one minute after several trials.

Women Differ, Carolin Says.

Ferdinand Carolin, under sentence of death for killing his wife, sent this letter to Coroner Levy yesterday:

NEW YORK Tombs prison Jan 10 1889

Dear Sir. You will kindly excuse me for not writing to you a few lines the reason is why I like to know Sir off you would be so kindly to me and will spent a few hours to come her once in the tombs to me. My name is F. Carolin than I like to have a conversation with you about my case. I think you will remember it what it was, the question is I have to tell you about them doctors who was at present at my trial and I have to say that this Dr John Fraser been spoiling my whole case because he said the woman is quite broken and he said it was not possible for her to kill herself and why shall it not be possible for a crazy drunken woman to do the same as on the time to kill herself. I like to know that, because she was a woman for these doctors minds, and he think a woman cannot be able to do such a thing. Well, I'll find this out very soon what rights I'll have because I am an honest and innocent man and they got