MR. RANDALL AT THE HELM.

PILOTING THE SUNDRY CIVIL BILL THROUGH THE HOUSE.

He First Cleared Away the Obstructions by Shoving Aside the Regular Order—The Appropriation for the Irrigation of Arid Lands Increased to $250,000—An Appropriation for an Inquiry Into the Condition of Alaska Defeated after a Long Debate.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—The day was devoted to the further consideration of the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill. It was a day set apart for the consideration of bills reported from the District Committee. The Hon. S. Jackson Randall had hard work in clearing away the obstructions. Mr. Hemphill, Chairman of the District Committee, fought determinedly against it, and was finally forced to give way. The House has now considered 61 of the 94 pages of the Sundry Civil bill. It looks as though it would take at least two days to finish the remaining 33 pages.

The day was chilly and cloudy. Only two of the candidates for Speaker were at prayers, and both remained in their seats. The Chaplain prayed that the members would take more rest and sleep, and do what they could to repress their baser passions. The Clerk read the minutes, and nobody had any corrections to make in the *Record*. The Speaker laid before the House a letter from Gen. Wm. B. Franklin, President of the Board of Managers of Soldiers' Homes. A report of the inspection of State homes to which national aid has been extended accompanied it. It went to the Committee on Military Affairs.

The Speaker then said that as this was Monday the regular order was the call of the States and Territories for the introduction of bills and resolutions. Mr. Hemphill got unanimous consent to dispense with the call. It was the first time that this has been given since the opening of the Fiftieth Congress. Members who desired to introduce bills got leave to file them. Mr. Hemphill's success apparently gave Mr. Randall great satisfaction. The Palmetto member had cleared the road for his District business, and Mr. Randall in his turn began to shove aside the District business so as to get at his Sundry Civil bill.

Meantime Gov. Long succeeded in passing a bill increasing pensions to soldiers who have lost both hands from $72 to $100 a month. As originally framed it included those who had lost the use of both hands. The latter were knocked out by an amendment adopted in committee. A courtesy extended to a Republican member at such times usually carries with it a similar courtesy to a Democrat. Mr. Landes of Illinois asked unanimous consent to consider a bill allowing the Mount Carmel Development Company to draw water from the Wabash River, provided it was not detrimental to navigation. Watchdog Holman pulled off his glasses and insisted upon knowing all about it. After he got the information the bill was passed.

Mr. Brumm, Chairman of the Committee on the Election of President and Vice-President, then shoved through the Senate concurrent resolution providing for the joint meeting of the two Houses of Congress on Feb. 13 for the counting of the electoral votes. The President of the Senate will preside. Two tellers from each House will count the votes, and the Hon. John James Ingalls will then declare the result, and it will be entered upon the journals of both Houses. When the Speaker put the question half a dozen members voted aye and none no. Very few seemed to know and no one seemed to care about what was going on.

Mr. Randall then promptly moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole for consideration of appropriation bills. In answer to a question from Mr. Hemphill the Speaker said the regular order was the consideration of bills from the District Committee. Mr. Hemphill rolled up a bill concerning the Fire Department in the District of Columbia. Failing to cut off the District bills in a lump, Mr. Randall began to fight them separately. He raised the question of consideration, alleging that the passage of the Sundry Civil bill was an urgent public necessity. The House refused to consider the District bill.

Mr. Hemphill, who is an exceedingly courteous gentleman, after saying that it was hardly treating his committee right, urged that Saturday be set apart for the consideration of its bills in lieu of to-day. He asked unanimous consent to this proposition. Mr. Blount of Georgia bluntly objected. He said that there were other appropriation bills upon the calendar of far more importance. Without being ruffled in temper, Mr. Hemphill held the right of way. He called up a bill relating to a building association in the District. The Speaker ruled that the bill was in Committee of the Whole on the private calendar. Mr. Hemphill then moved to go into committee to consider it.

"I hope that will be voted down," Mr. Randall said.

It was voted down. Mr. Hemphill then tried to make an explanation. "I object," snapped Mr. Randall. The Pennsylvanian would not yield an inch. With the utmost good humor, Mr. Hemphill went for the next bill on his roll. It was for the relief of Christ Church. Mr. Randall raised the point of consideration, and on a division the House refused to consider it.

Mr. Hemphill then asked unanimous consent that Wednesday night be given to the District Committee. Mr. Blount inquired where the Chairman of the committee intended to take up either the Rock Creek Park bill or the Trust bill. Mr. Hemphill replied that he could not give a definite answer, and Mr. Blount again bluntly objected. Mr. Hemphill then urged that Tuesday night be set apart for work from this committee. Mr. Blount objected, unless the bills specified were excepted. With the utmost placidity, Mr. Hemphill then called up a bill concerning District pawnbrokers. Mr. Randall raised the question of consideration, and won, but the South Carolinian put in the point of no quorum. The Speaker designated Messrs. Blount and Hemphill as tellers. Before the members began to pass between them, Mr. Hemphill turned to the Georgian, saying:

"Let us have a fight. If the questions brought up don't suit you, you can raise the point of no quorum."

Mr. Blount, however, clung to his objection, and after a quorum was secured the House refused to consider the Pawnbrokers' bill. Mr. Hemphill then moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole for the consideration of the District Park bill. The great Pennsylvanian once more raised the question of consideration.

Here, Mr. Enloe of Tennessee appealed to Mr. Blount to withdraw his objection to specifying a night for the District Committee. He guaranteed that neither of the objectionable bills should be passed. "If Mr. Kilgore of Texas is not here to raise the point of no quorum, I, myself, will do it," he said.

Upon this Mr. Blount withdrew his objection. With quiet dignity, however, Mr. Hemphill refused to ask the favor of the House. Tellers were appointed, and the vote was being taken upon the consideration of the Park bill. Seeing that his persistence would only result in loss of time without accruing benefits, Mr. Hemphill then gracefully withdrew his motion. In doing so he said that he would not further interrupt business, and contented himself by hoping that at some future day the House would be more considerate toward him.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on appropriation bills. The Sundry Civil bill came up as unfinished business. The pending question was the Symes amendment, raising the appropriation for the irrigation of arid lands from $150,000 to $250,000. This amendment had been carried, and the vote was on the clause as amended. Mr. Kilgore sought more time for debate. Mr. Dockery (Chairman of the Committee of the Whole) said that the debate had closed. The Texan regretted this. "We could talk right smart about it to-day," he added. He raised the point of no quorum, but it vain. The appropriation was raised to $250,000.

The Clerk continued the reading of the bill. The clause providing for the current expenses of the Columbian Institution for the Deaf and Dumb excited an animated discussion. There was a proviso that no more than $25,000 should be expended for salaries and wages in the institution. Mr. Hitt made the point of order that this was a departure from existing law. Mr. Randall insisted that it was necessary to restrict the salaries of the professors in the interests of the pupils.

During the discussion Mr. McMillin of Tennessee had a lively bout with Mr. Hemphill. McMillin roared until his voice could almost be heard at the White House. Gen. Pat Collins remarked that it might be a bill for the relief of the deaf and dumb, but it was hardly a deaf and dumb discussion. Meantime Watchdog Holman became extravagant. He went out and got his boots blacked.

Mr. Peters of Kansas stood by Mr. Randall. He said that both the army and navy were top heavy with officers, and that was the trouble with this institution. It was top heavy with professors. Mr. Hitt's point of order was overruled. He then moved to strike out the clause. The debate was continued, and the House sustained Mr. Randall.

Mr. Hitt next raised the same point of order on the following clause:

> That deaf mutes hereafter admitted to this institution from the several States and Territories, as provided in section 4,865 of the Revised Statutes, shall only have the expenses of their instruction in the collegiate department, exclusive of support, paid from the appropriation made for the support of the institution.

The discussion that followed revealed the fact that the provision was in accordance with existing law, and that the violation of the law was in the institution itself. Many students were receiving support as well as tuition. Mr. Clements of Georgia, who ably seconded Mr. Randall in his day's work, said that the law expressly stated that they should receive the benefits of the institution "free of expense for tuition." The Chair sustained the point of order, however, on the ground that the word "hereafter," used in the clause above, did conflict with existing law. Thereupon the word "hereafter" was stricken out. The Chair then overruled Mr. Hitt's point.

Mr. McRee of Arkansas next put in an amendment providing that the pupils shall be apportioned to the States and Territories according to the number of deaf mutes in each, as shown by the census. It seems that the number of pupils from the States and Territories is limited to forty. Mr. McRee said that there were no pupils from his State, and they could not get there because the number was filled up. Mr. Hitt raised the point that the McRee amendment would violate existing law, and the Chair sustained him.

The next amendment was offered by John J. O'Neill of St. Louis. It amended the clause so as to allow a support to students when absolutely indigent. Mr. Randall said that he had no objection to this, and the amendment was carried. Mr. Hitt then tried to increase the appropriation for the institution from $52,500 to $57,500. This was lost. As passed, the clause limits the aggregate salaries of professors and others to $25,000. Mr. Randall said that the salaries were eating up the appropriations, thus keeping students out of the institution.

The Clerk resumed the reading of the bill. Not long afterward he reached a clause appropriating $7,500 to pay the expense of an inquiry concerning Alaska. It provided that the Speaker should appoint a committee consisting of seven members elect to the House of Representatives to the Fifty-first Congress to visit Alaska and report the result of their investigations to the next Congress. Mr. Kilgore raised the point of order that this was an expenditure not previously provided for by law, and the Chair sustained him. So the clause went out.

Mr. McComas of Maryland offered a substitute appropriating $50,000 for the industrial education of children in Alaska. Mr. Kilgore made the same point of order, but was overruled. Mr. McComas said that this appropriation was authorized by law under the treaty by which we acquired Alaska.

Mr. Randall said that while he didn't favor in committee the clause providing for a committee of inquiry, he could see that great good might result from its adoption. The appropriation for schools was not made, under the assumption that there would be a committee of inquiry. As the inquiry was cut off, he thought that $40,000 ought to be appropriated for the schools, the same as last year.

Mr. McComas got fifteen minutes for a speech. He said that the Territory of Alaska was equal to a sixth of the whole Union. We were too tame and careless as to our colonial and fishing rights. It was our duty to take care of the Territory. Our fisheries there would now supply the whole world with salmon, codfish, and whale oil. If we did not protect them they would be destroyed. There was coal enough in the Territory to warm the whole Arctic region. The mines could not be developed because no one could secure title to them. Fifteen thousand of the 45,000 inhabitants of the Territory were civilized, and without this substitute there would be no provision for the education of the children. Congress was refusing to extend to them even ordinary school facilities. Russia was to-day giving out of her own treasury $45,000 yearly for the support of schools in Alaska, and our Government last year spent only $40,000. We have received in money from the Territory since its purchase $5,700,000, and we were not willing to appropriate even the interest of this sum to teach girls how to cook and sew, and to instruct boys in the mechanical arts. Such neglect disgraced the country. We violated treaty obligations by our treatment of these people. The Secretary of the Interior, the Superintendent of Education, the School Board, and other officials urged this appropriation. The investigation of the condition of this vast empire ought no longer to be delayed.

Gen. Cutcheon of Michigan next offered an amendment extending to all missionary stations the same privileges in the occupation of lands in Alaska. It also provided for giving the Mettlakahala Indians a title to the island which they inhabit. It further provided that persons occupying 160 acres of land or less in that Territory for five years should be entitled to a patent. Gen. Cutcheon urged that they have an opportunity of acquiring a title under the United States law. In his speech Gen. Cutcheon told in brief the romantic story of the Mettlakahala Indians. They were cannibals in British Columbia who were converted to Christianity by William Duncan, an English missionary, 20 years ago. There are about a thousand of them. They are thoroughly civilized, and understand agriculture and many of the arts and sciences. Failing to secure title to their lands in British Columbia, they emigrated to a little island in south Alaska. This was done after British officials had visited Washington and had an interview with the President. Gen. Cutcheon urged that they be treated considerately, and that a title to the land be given to them.

Mr. Rogers of Arkansas, against the earnest protest of many members, raised the point that the amendment conflicted with existing law, and the Chair sustained the point. The ruling knocked out all the clauses of the General's amendment.

Mr. Randall again appealed to the House. He said that the condition of affairs in Alaska must soon be investigated. If what is alleged is partially true, the situation was a disgrace to humanity and to the nation. If true, it should be remedied, and if not true we ought to know it.

Mr. Reed—Hadn't the people there ought to have the benefit of education, whether the reports are true or not?

Mr. Randall—I am willing to appropriate $40,000 for such a purpose. We gave that sum last year.

Mr. Reed—But it is not in your bill.

Mr. Randall—It was left out pending the proposed investigation.

Meantime Mr. Dockery called Mr. Springer to the chair. The Missourian then asked unanimous consent to offer in order the clause in regard to the investigation knocked out by his own ruling on a point of order.

Mr. Dunham of Illinois objected, and that ended it. So there will probably be no investigation of affairs in Alaska until after the meeting of the Fifty-first Congress.

Mr. Cannon of Illinois regretted that the objection had been made. He believed that the best interests of the Government would be served by such an inquiry. The contract with the Alaska Fur Company would soon expire, and they would wipe the Pribyloff Islands off the earth. No man in this House had the necessary information to enable him to legislate for Alaska.

Meantime Mr. Randall had slipped over to the Republican side of the House. He saw that the discussion was wasting time to no purpose, and he wanted to limit debate.

Mr. Laird of Pennsylvania got in a ringing speech in favor of the proposed educational appropriation. It ought to be ten times as much, he said. The people there were in a deplorable state. They were without titles to their land, and without power to frame laws to govern themselves.

Poindexter Dunn, Chairman of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, now conducting an investigation into affairs in Alaska, said that his committee would report this week. If gentlemen would read the report they would gain much information. It would give the bottom facts relative to the interests under investigation. He advised members to read public documents bearing upon Alaska, and they would learn more than they could learn by going to Alaska and making investigations without reading them. No committee of this House would ever push a voyage into Behring's Sea, or go to the interior of that vast empire. No land titles would be wanted for regions eternally covered with snow and ice. The only land they would visit would be the little slip running from Mount St. Elias down to the British boundary. He said that the moral situation in the Territory was not so bad as had been represented. It was not worse than in places much nearer home. He advocated the educational allowance, because he thought it was needed, but no thorough investigation of Alaska could ever be made by a Congressional committee. In response to questions, he said that the schools on the Aleutian Islands were supported by the fur company.

Here Mr. Randall succeeded in confining debate to six minutes, five of which went to Gov. Dingley of Maine. The Governor said that unless our seal fisheries were promptly protected they would be quickly ruined. He learned from an Ottawa despatch that a hundred British sealing vessels were now fitting out for work in Behring's Sea. Last year the seal fisheries in those waters had no protection from our revenue cutters. Unless protected now our fur trade would be extinguished. They were threatened now as they never had been threatened before. In answer to a question from Gov. Dingley, Mr. Dunn said that at the expiration of the lease of the Alaska Commercial Company, two years from now, the Government would have received nearly nine millions of dollars from that Territory since its purchase. Here the time for discussion ran out.

"Does the gentleman from Pennsylvania," asked the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, "raise a point of order against the amendment of the gentleman from Maryland?"

"Well," replied Mr. Randall, "I want to save it, and I'll say nothing."

Mr. McComas's amendment appropriating $50,000 for educational purposes in Alaska was then adopted. The question had hardly been put before Mr. Randall shouted to the Clerk: "Read." He was anxious to press the bill forward. The Clerk resumed his reading. The appropriation for operating the draw of the Rock Island bridge was $9,500. An amendment was offered by a fine-looking gentleman away off in the extreme Republican corner. It was the first time he had made himself known. He was William H. Gest of Rock Island. He wanted the appropriation increased to $15,556. He evidently made an elaborate speech in favor of it. When he sat down Mr. Randall replied that he had not been able to hear a word that the gentleman had said, but he had read the estimate and was satisfied to increase the amount to $11,550. Mr. Gest replied that from his seat in the House he had never been able to hear what was being said "over there," waving his hand toward the Democrats. Mr. Randall replied that the estimate called for only $12,000. He would agree to $11,550, because the provisions of the Eight-hour law made that increase necessary. Mr. Gest begged for $12,000, and wanted Mr. Randall to come out to Rock Island and look at the bridge. The appropriation was fixed at $11,550.

On Mr. Randall's own motion an appropriation for repairs at the Springfield Arsenal was raised from $5,000 to $15,000. This was done at the request of Gov. Long. Gen. Tracey succeeded in getting an amendment appropriating $82,500 for paving Broadway with granite block to the extent of the front of Watervliet Arsenal at West Troy. Mr. Randall, however, hampered it with a proviso that not more than one-half the expense should be paid by a horse railroad company, whose track ran through the grounds. Gen. Tracey also succeeded in securing an appropriation of $5,000 for repairing the building and walls.

The next clause was one relating to buildings and grounds in and around Washington. With kindly consideration for Mr. Randall, Mr. Dunham asked unanimous consent to waive its reading. The great Pennsylvanian raised his hand and moved a few feet toward the Speaker.

"Oh, no bill ought to pass this House without being read," he said.

The Clerk next waded through nearly five pages without interruption. Gen. Runy Lee then offered an amendment looking toward the building of a national road from Washington to Mt. Vernon. Mr. Kilgore raised the point that this was new legislation, and the Chair sustained it.

The next clause was an appropriation of $500,000 for the Library Building. Tom Reed reserved a point of order. The clause appropriates $500,000. It is understood that Mr. Reed wants a million.

By this time the chamber was flooded with gaslight. Mr. Randall was anxious to continue legislation until 6 o'clock, but several members urged him to stop. He looked worn and weary, and finally gave way.

"Mr. Chairman," he said, "I now move that the committee rise. Members seem to be tired. I am sure I am."

The committee then arose, and the House adjourned. AMOS J. CUMMINGS.

LIVE WASHINGTON TOPICS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—The Senate spent nearly the entire day in a would-be serious, but intensely amusing, discussion of the standing of our diplomatic agents abroad, and whether any of them should be raised to the rank of ambassador. It was proposed to give this title to the Ministers to England, France, Germany, and Russia, in order that their standing at court might be improved. Mr. Plumb of Kansas, "a Senator from the wild and woolly West," as a colleague remarked while he was speaking, appeared as the opponent of what he calls arrant nonsense, and he made a series of his characteristic, rough-shod, ungrammatical, intensely American, and highly amusing speeches in defence of his position. He referred to former Ministers to the court of St. James as excrescences and snobs, and pleaded for the recognition of the true American. There is nothing in a name, according to the Kansas Senator, and an Ambassador would smell just as sweet if called simply Minister, or Consul, or agent. Power is what foreign governments respect, he said, and they judge an American representative not by the "cut of his jib," but according to the standing of his country among the powers of the globe. Messrs. Evarts, Hoar, Hale, and others attempted to instil into Mr. Plumb's mind some appreciation of what is due to rank and social customs and the etiquette of court society, but the Senator from Emporia, Kansas, refused to be instructed. He held out for the power of simple, unadorned Americanism, and said that any American representative who should be given a back seat at the table of foreign potentates, no matter whether he be called an Ambassador, or a plain Consul, should take his credentials and come home. In vain did the smooth-tongued and venerable Mr. Hoar read to him authorities upon matters of official precedence, in vain did Mr. Evarts unroll his Lackawanna and Coal Creek eloquence, in vain did the carpet knight Hale unfold the true rules by social etiquette. Plumb would not be enlightened, and insisted that all that is necessary for a United States official to do in order to receive respect and homage and fair treatment is to report at all times the simple statement, "I am an American." The Senate adjourned without having settled the question of whether the Ministers should hereafter be called Ambassadors.

James G. Blaine has been in Washington several weeks, but he visited the Capitol for the first time to-day. He did not call at the Senate chamber or the hall of Representatives, and in fact did not go above the basement floor. He entered the building at the lower entrance of the Senate wing and left it by the same door. "I wish the Maine man was here," said a Senator calls in Washington lately, a purely social one, and it is safe to say that for two hours at least the subject of politics was not referred to. The only room in the Capitol which Mr. Blaine entered was that of the Committee on Naval Affairs, where a reception was given in his honor by Mrs. Senator Hale. The guests invited to meet Mr. Blaine included Senators Frye, Cameron, Butler, Gray, Palmer, Manderson, Hoar, Farwell, Ingalls, Chandler, Hampton, and Hiscock; Gen. McCook, Secretary of the Senate; Miss Blaine, Mrs. Mack Palmer, Mrs. Chandler, John F. Rodgers, Mrs. Hale's guest, Miss Wiswell, and the Misses Cameron and Chandler. The Naval Committee room is one of the finest in the Senate wing: indeed, in the whole Capitol. It is large, well lighted, elegantly furnished, and its walls are decorated with the best work of the Italian artist, Brumidi, who did the greater part of the Capitol frescoing. Don Cameron is Chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs, but gladly gives the use of his room when Senators desire to entertain their friends at the Capitol. Many social but quiet receptions have been given in this beautiful dining hall, and the one to-day was not an exception. During its progress the Senate was in session, and Mr. Hale, who happened to be in charge of the Consular and Diplomatic bill, did not get a chance to participate in the festivities down stairs. The guests were about ready to leave. There was an interesting rumor early in the day that Senator Edmunds would attend the lunch and shake hands with Mr. Blaine over the punch bowl. A close watch upon the Vermont Senator, however, developed the fact that he remained in his chair until Mr. Blaine had left the building. The hand of ice, which the magnetic man refused to shake at the funeral of President Arthur, therefore still remains unshaken by him.

The War Department was closed at 1 o'clock to-day out of respect to the memory of Inspector-General Roger Jones, U. S. A. The funeral took place at 2 o'clock from St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, and the remains were buried at Arlington Cemetery with military honors. The pall bearers were Gen. Hunt of the Soldiers' Home; Gen. Casey, Chief of Engineers; Col. Kelton, Assistant Adjutant-General; Col. Breckinridge, Inspector-General; Col. Hodges, Deputy Quartermaster-General; Lieut.-Col. Sawtelle, Deputy Quartermaster-General; Gen. O. B. Wilcox, retired, and Gen. C. S. Wilcox.

There is a strange fatality connected with the Oklahoma bill that is very discouraging to Mr. Springer and its numerous other friends who have made such a fight for its consideration and enactment. The strange fact about this measure is that it has been made a special order for three different days, and each time its consideration has been prevented by the adjournment of the House owing to the death of a public officer. The bill was first set down for the day upon which Chief Justice Waite died. Then a second date was arranged and the programme broken by the death of Gen. Sheridan and the consequent adjournment of the House. Then came the big fight and the long deadlock that resulted in a compromise agreement, by which the much-talked of bill was given a special order for Thursday last. For the third time its friends were disappointed, as the House suddenly adjourned that day on receipt of the news of Representative Burnes's death. The outlook for the future is uncertain. Many Congressmen are now saying that it is beginning to think that it would be a wise policy on the part of the House to let the unlucky bill severely alone. It has been fixed for consideration to-morrow, and may get a hearing if some public man does not unfortunately die during the night.

The Senate to-day passed the Army Nurses Pension bill. It allows a pension of $25 a month to all women nurses during the late war (prior to August, 1865), who were approved by Miss Dix, superintendent of women nurses, or her authorized agent, or who were specially appointed by the Surgeon-General or other proper United States authority, who performed six months' service, or were disabled and honorably discharged. Those who are now receiving a less pension under special acts are to be entitled to the benefits of this act.

Jack McMasters's Benefit.

Jack McMasters, the trainer of the Brooklyn Base Ball Club, had a benefit last night in Temperance Hall, Brooklyn. There was a large attendance. Ed Steffins and Mike Donovan, two feather weights from the Pastime Athletic Club, had a three-round set-to. Prof. Watson and his pupil, Jimmy Culvert, sparred three rounds, in which the pupil was entirely smothered. M. J. Boland of the S. A. A. C. and Billy Kenny of the Olympic Athletic Club gave a good bout of three rounds.

Cal McCarthy, who defeated Harry Walton for the feather-weight championship last week, had a set-to with his club mate, John Carey, of the Scottish-American Athletic Club.

The Ross-Dufur Wrestling Match.

WORCESTER, Jan. 28.—In the Ross-Dufur wrestling match to-night Ross won 4 to 3. The conditions were: One hour collar-and-elbow and one hour catch-as-catch-can. In the collar-and-elbow Ross was thrown three times, and in the catch-as-catch-can Dufur went down four times, the last fall being won less than 2 minutes before the time expired. The stakes were $200 a side. It was "a match for blood." Ross showed a good deal of bad temper.

The Sun Building Association.

THE SUN and EVENING SUN Building and Loan Association took in over $700 at its weekly meeting for receiving subscriptions yesterday. It has had a large number of subscriptions for one and two weeks

IN AND OUT DOOR SPORTS.

A MOVEMENT ON FOOT TO FORM A NEW BASE BALL LEAGUE.

Connecticut Clubs on the Move—What the Bowling Men are Doing—Latest Turf News—About the Fighters—Other News.

The scheme to form a new league of clubs from the Central and New England Leagues or to strengthen the Central League is slowly taking form. The managers of the Newark and Jersey City clubs are the prime movers in the scheme. It is not a new idea of theirs, and was even considered before they were refused admission to the International League. Several days ago the managers of these two clubs sent notices to a number of different clubs to send representatives to a meeting to be held in this city to-day, with a view to forming a new base ball league. In sending out these notices only the stronger clubs of the Central and New England leagues were asked to attend.

Among the representatives who answered the call were: Walter Burnham of the Worcester Club, ex-Manager Clinton of the Manchester Club, J. W. Collins and G. H. Shoemaker of Newark, and P. J. Powers of Jersey City. The meeting yesterday was only an informal one, as so few of the clubs were represented, and it was decided to postpone the meeting until later in the week, when delegates from Hartford, New Haven, Lowell, Wilkesbarre, and Scranton will be here to attend the meeting.

The idea is to form a league with four clubs in New England in the East and four clubs in the West, comprising Jersey City and Newark and two Pennsylvania towns. All of the delegates were enthusiastic over the formation of such a league and all thought it would be a paying one. It is not known what city Jimmie Clinton will represent, but there is no doubt that he has a scheme for a club on foot. Senator Howe will come on to represent the Lowell Club.

There was no definite move outlined yesterday, and the meeting amounted to talk alone. Before the week is over, however, there will be some surprising news about the new league.

Sheffler, who was signed by the Detroit Club and then turned over to the Clevelands when that club bought the Detroit franchise, lives in this city. He was seen by THE SUN reporter yesterday, to whom he complained bitterly of the actions of the Cleveland Club. He says that he has heard nothing from the Cleveland people and that the two letters which he wrote them remain unanswered. He says that he would like to play with the Cleveland Club, but if they do not want him he would like his release. He has had several good offers from minor league clubs, and could get nearly as much money from them as he could from the Cleveland Club. He cannot understand why he does not hear from the new League club.

SCRANTON, Jan. 28.—Scranton base ball men are not enthusiastic over the prospects for ball here during the coming season. Some of them declare that there will be no club in Scranton this year, and the men who put their money in ball last season are not showing an inclination to do so again right away. The Forest City Railroad Company is trying to buy the field where the grounds are now, and the indications are that the railroad people will get it. The only other available plots are owned by the Lackawanna and Coal Creek Railroads, and the managers of that wealthy corporation will not lease their land to any ball club, so that it looks as if there would be no professional club here this year. The fact that Scranton sent no representative to the Central League meeting in Elmira last week also goes to show that interest in base ball is at a pretty low ebb in Scranton just now. A majority of last year's players have notified the late management that they would like to play here at salaries somewhat below last season's figures, but no encouragement has been given them so far.

DANBURY, Jan. 28.—The base ball question is looming up thus early in Connecticut, and the self-appointed committee on ways and means are trying to organize a State league again, or, failing in that, they will try to get a league of Connecticut, New York, and Massachusetts clubs. In this town there is much enthusiasm, and there is as strong a base ball fever here as in any town in Connecticut. Hartford not excepted. In that city the papers are full of it, and unless the enthusiasm dies out with the blooming of the flowers in spring a strong club will be formed there. In New Haven there is also a strong tendency toward organizing a club. The game in New Haven didn't pay well last season, and it never will until a club can be got together that is not subordinated to the college nine.

Waterbury wants a team, too, and will work hard to get it. Ansonia is the only city in the State that has kept a team in the field four successive seasons, though last year the backers of the club threw up the sponge before the season was over, and the nine finished on a cooperative basis. Bridgeport will not take any stock in base ball this summer. The experiences of the backers of the game in that city have not been such as to make them enthusiastic, and when Robert Webber was asked about it by THE SUN representative he sat down on the project with a strong emphasis. It is said that Mr. Webber is out two or three thousand dollars on account of his love for the game, and that is a little more than he can afford to pay for his whistle. Ansonia is a good ball town, but it cannot support high-priced professional teams. Meriden, another city where base ball has always been popular, will probably follow Ansonia's example and substitute a good amature nine. South Norwalk will be organized in time for next season and will soon begin practising.

The salary question is being agitated early, as it was this rock on which the clubs split last summer. The New Haveners advocate a salary list not to exceed $1,000 or $1,200 a month, and think that at this rate players can be secured to wipe the floor with Boston next season, which is the height of New Haven's ambition. New Haven will undoubtedly organize, and with Hartford, Springfield, Holyoke, and Worcester on the north, and Danbury, Newburgh, and Poughkeepsie on the west, will try and form a league. If the Hudson River towns will not come in, the league will be extended further into Massachusetts and take in Lynn, Salem, Brockton, New Bedford, and Fall River. Such a league, the New Havens say, would be a profitable one and the season's end would find them with each team in the field and in a close race for the pennant.

BASE BALL NOTES.

Bob Henrich will captain the Hanovers this season.

Corrigan, who pitched wonderful games for the Atlas last season, is still open for engagement.

The writers who think that the Australian trip has been a failure should read some of the Australian papers.

Catcher Donahue has signed a Kansas City contract. His salary will be $2,000. Porter has not yet come to time.

William Michaels of 2,361 Eighth avenue is about to organize a ball team, and would like to secure a few good players.

Will the manager of the Central Park League please send his address to Manager Kell of the Alerts, 284 Hewes street, Brooklyn?

It don't take long for a ball player to make up his mind to get married after he once becomes a member of the Brooklyn team.

Kimber, who once pitched for Brooklyn, has been offered the management of the Wheeling Club, but he had not yet accepted the offer.

Samuel J. Randall, Jr., son of the well-known Congressman, is a good base ball pitcher, and a great favorite among the Washington players.

Among the veterans who are on the market with their services are Hotaling, Burdock, Hoibert, Beasley, Gehardt, Jack Lynch, Roseman, Mathews, Hackett, Gardner, Force, McGuire, and Hornung.

This is the way the *Hartford Times* puts it: "Whoop her up, boys! Base ball sure to come, New Haven in the project. Talk of stirring up the New England League and getting in shape for the season's work."

The Buttermilk Base Ball Club have reorganized, with improved accommodations for visiting clubs. All clubs wishing to arrange games can communicate with Patrick H. Keating, manager, 311 Water street, city.

The Central Park Amateur Association will hold several meetings during the coming month for the selection of clubs to fill vacancies. All amateur clubs with players under 16 years old desirous of admission to this league should make application at once. R. L. Hecht, Post Office box 2,452, city.

The Planet Base Ball Club has organized for the coming season, with William R. Eck, captain; J. J. Cashem, assistant captain; George Gehrung, Secretary, and William McKenna, J. Cowell, George Connely, P. Devany, Robert Shoonemaun, and M. E. Kenny, directors. Address W. R. Eck, 184 Forsyth street, city.

WILMINGTON, Jan. 28.—The announcement that Manager Foster would probably drop out of the Middle States League and become a member of the new league which Norristown intends organizing is entirely without foundation. Mr. Foster says he is perfectly satisfied with the Middle States League, and will stick.

Manager Phillips of the Pittsburgh Club offers the suggestion to the revolting players: "If Rowe and White do not play next season they need not expect to resume playing in the League as first-class men. Depend upon it, if they drop out for a season they will not be classed in Class A when they resume. There is no reason why they should. They cannot certainly expect to be classed with players who have done first-class work while they have been doing nothing."

Thomas Gillen, the new catcher of the Detroit Club, died on Saturday at his father's residence, in Philadelphia, of kidney disease. Gillen, who was counted one of the best catchers in the country, was 27 years old and was not married. He had been in the base ball profession for about six years. The first big club he played with was the Keystone. During the past summer he acted as umpire through the State. For nearly two years he was connected with the Meadowbrook club, and the Detroits bought him some two months ago. He was to receive a salary of $2,000

NEWS OF THE TURF.

Boodle Pays the Best Dividend—Taxgatherer and No More Go Down.

The attendance was large at Clifton yesterday, the air raw and penetrating, and the track fetlock deep in holding mud. The filly No More fell in the third race, and the aged gelding Taxgatherer went down in the Pompton Handicap, leaving Alan Archer and Nita to fight for the $500 purse. Boodle paid the best dividend in the five races, $10.75. Results follow:

First Race—Purse $250; selling allowances; six and a half furlongs. Souvenir won, Bass Viol second, and Walker third. Time, 1:38¼. Mutuals paid $8.35, $4.05, and $4.90.

Second Race—Purse $250; seven furlongs. Capolin won, Courtier second, and Littlefellow II. third. Time, 1:43. Mutuals paid $3.60, $2.80 and $3.10.

Third Race—Purse $250; to carry 10 pounds above the scale; selling allowances; six and a half furlongs. Frian won, Sam Parker second, and John Arkins third. Time, 1:38¾. Mutuals paid $8.90, $2.60, and $4.40.

Fourth Race—The Pompton Handicap; purse $500; one mile. Alan Archer won, Nita second. Time, 2:03. Mutuals paid $4.60, $2.80, and $3.45.

Fifth Race—Purse $250; six and a half furlongs. Boodle won, Palatka second, and Woodstock third. Time, 1:30. Mutuals paid $10.75, $4.15, and $3.20.

At Work on the New Track.

Work has begun on the new race course at Elizabeth purchased by Michael F. Dwyer, F. C. O'Reilly, the railroad contractor, and other members of the New Jersey Jockey Club. Engineers were laying out the course yesterday. One hundred and twenty acres of land has been purchased on Meadow and Spring streets, with a frontage of half a mile. The land runs back to Woodruff's Creek on the edge of the salt meadows, and is what was known as the Thorn, Frazee, and Hurt farms. The ground is well adapted for a race course. A first-class grand stand, to hold 5,000 people, and stables for 400 horses will be built at once. The Central road will construct a track from their Newark and Elizabeth tracks direct to the race course. From 250 to 300 men will be steadily employed on the grounds. The expense of fitting up the grounds, together with the cost of the land, is estimated at about $100,000.

The New Orleans Races.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 28.—To-day's races were run over a very heavy track. First Race—A half mile; selling. Dudley Oaks won by three lengths, Electricity second, four lengths ahead of Los Webster, third. Time, 58 seconds. Post odds—Against Dudley Oaks, 3 to 5; Los Webster, 3 to 1; Electricity, 5 to 1; Breakdown, 6 to 1; Gabe C., 20 to 1.

Second Race—Six furlongs; selling. St. Albans won by two lengths, Kensington second, four lengths ahead of Jim Jordan, third. Time, 1:30¾. Post odds—Against St. Albans, 6 to 5; Fred Wesley, 3 to 1; Jim Jordan, 8 to 1; Kensington, 10 to 1; St. Albans, 10 to 1; Iris and Benton, each 25 to 1.

Third Race—Five furlongs; selling. Lida L. won by a length, Florine second, and lengths ahead of Trance, third. Time, 1:14. Post odds—Against Trance, even; Lida L., 2 to 1; Florine, 3 to 1.

Fourth Race—Seven furlongs; handicap. Castilian won by four lengths, Mirth second, a length ahead of Red Leaf, third. Time, 1:47. Post odds—Against Red Leaf, 3 to 2; Mirth and Duhme, each 3 to 1; Castilian, 5 to 1; Wild Boy, 6 to 1; Monocrat, 50 to 1.

Mr. Steel Pays $30,000 for Antevolo.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

Mr. Robert Steel has received a telegram from Mr. Eckstein, who went to San Francisco to close the purchase of the trotting stallion Antevolo. Mr. Eckstein stated that he had had the horse thoroughly examined, and he would not buy him. Mr. Steel accordingly telegraphed to pay the money, $30,000 and take possession of the horse. Mr. Eckstein will probably leave San Francisco this week, and before the middle of next month Antevolo will be quartered at Cedar Park stud farm.

Rattling Cocking Main.

PITTSTON, Pa., Jan. 28.—A great cocking main came off on Friday between Honesdale and Hawley, in which money to the extent of $2,000 or $3,000 changed hands. The rendezvous was in a barn about midway between the two places, and the representatives of the rival towns were present in about equal numbers. The contest was originally best seven out of thirteen, but six of the Honesdale birds being too heavy, a main of nine battles was finally agreed upon. Hawley was accedded the first choice of birds, and the strongest and light-weight bird that was to represent Honesdale had been knocked silly by one of its comrades, through the negligence of their keeper.

The first battle was begun by two black-reds, weighing six pounds. Time, 7 minutes. Honesdale bird laid to rest. Next, Honesdale led out a black-red weighing five pounds, thirteen ounces, the pride of Honesdale sports, which was met, and after a hard fight sent to grass by a Hawley Irish-gray, same weight. The third battle between black-reds was awarded to Honesdale. In the fourth, which lasted ten minutes and was exceptionally vicious, the Honesdale fowl was put to flight. The fifth opened up with a terrific onset from a Honesdale black-red, which Hawley met and overcame, laying the Honesdale fowl out in less than five minutes. These four victories, with the one conceded at the outset, gave Hawley the day.

News of the Wheelmen.

Although last year was not distinguished by any long trips by the oarsmen of Hudson county, the season was, nevertheless, prolific of a good many short jaunts made by the different crews. This was especially the case with the Orions, Rosedales, Actives, Valencias, Atlantics, and Hillsides. If the scheme that is now on foot of consolidating the clubs into one organization comes to anything, it will create quite a boom on the Jersey side of the water. Let the boys work for the success of the scheme, for if the undertaking comes to a head it will boom boating in Hudson county to where it was a few years ago.

H. F. Wilson has been elected