TO SAVE ILLINOIS CENTRAL.

A CHANCE FOR STOCKHOLDERS TO ASSERT THEIR RIGHTS.

Fish and Harriman to be Placed Upon Record at the Annual Meeting of the Company Next Week—Send on Your Proxies.

The first of the Western railroad companies to feel the effects of awakening interest on the part of its stockholders is the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul. The foreign stockholders of that company—and they are now in the majority—made themselves felt in the management a few months ago, and it is understood that they will obtain direct representation in the Board at its next meeting on March 13 in the person of Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, and possibly others. The report is currently credited in Wall street that the financial needs of the company first compelled the management to yield to the demands of the stockholders.

Next week two other companies will give their stockholders an opportunity to assert themselves, the Missouri Pacific and the Illinois Central. In both companies minority stockholders, or rather stockholders not identified with the management, labor under certain disadvantages. Mr. Jay Gould and his friends hold or control a majority of the stock, so that to the average outside stockholder the prospect of obtaining an independent representative in the directory seems dubious, although the Constitution of Missouri provides for the representation of the minority stockholders in a corporation by means of cumulative voting. The Illinois Central stockholders will have to contend with the disadvantages of a classified Board of Directors. The terms of only three of them expire each year. Besides, it has been the practice of the management to procure from the stockholders, or from all who would sign such a paper, a perpetual proxy; consequently a good many stockholders who have had enough of the Fish-Harriman branch line policy, but are undecided as to how to get on the records as opposed to them, will think they are weakening the position of the present management by withholding their proxies from it this year. But they may fail to accomplish their purpose by contenting themselves with a negative position, for they may have been so careless in signing last year's proxy as to give Fish and Harriman perpetual powers to vote upon their stock. A large number of the foreign stockholders are withholding their proxies from Fish and Harriman, but a good many of the domestic holders are not going to be deterred by the disadvantages referred to from exercising their rights at the stockholders' meeting.

As noted in last SUNDAY'S SUN a stockholders' movement of a good deal of importance has been started at Hartford, Conn., which is one of the largest centres of wealth in New England. Its financial institutions alone own many millions of Western railroad securities. The work has been stimulated by the Hartford *Courant*, and has finally taken definite shape by the selection of two prominent business men of the town to act as proxies or attorneys for all who are interested in the Chicago, Milwaukee and Southwestern companies, nearly all of which hold their annual meetings during the spring and early summer months. The movement has the sanction and cooperation of the following among others of the prominent men of Hartford: Mr. William R. Clark, Vice-President of the Ætna Insurance Company; Col. J. L. Greene, President of the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company; J. D. Browne, President of the Connecticut Fire Insurance Company; George L. Chase, President of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company; D. W. C. Skinner, Vice-President of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company; C. B. Whiting, President of the Orient Insurance Company; J. F. Morris, President of the Charter Oak National Bank, and Roland Mather.

The gentlemen who have been selected to represent the fellow stockholders are Messrs. Francis B. Cooley and Daniel R. Howe. They are described as follows by the *Courant*: "Mr. Cooley is widely known throughout the State, and everywhere trusted and respected. He is a gentleman of large property of his own, having heavy interests in the West; he is a Director of the Ætna Insurance Company, and of the National Exchange Bank, of which for many years he was President, and he is trustee of various estates and institutions. Mr. Howe, a younger man, is likewise trusted and respected by a large acquaintance. He is a Director in the Exchange Bank, in the Connecticut State and Trust Deposit Company, and in the Connecticut Fire Insurance Company, and besides having large interests of his own to care for, is a trustee of estates and treasurer of institutions."

As there has been as yet no concentration of proxies in this city, independent of the present management of the Illinois Central Railroad, Mr. Cooley visited New York yesterday at the suggestion of a number of bankers and others, who are interested not only in Illinois Central but in railroad reform generally. He was cordially received, and a vigorous cooperation in a number of important quarters was promised. In explaining his position, he said that neither he nor the people he represented had any purpose to serve other than to protect the interests they have in the properties referred to. They have no favors to ask and no candidates for whom they are seeking positions. They have decided that it is best hereafter to show their interest in the properties of which they are part owners by securing direct representation in the management. They have not undertaken their work with a spirit of antagonism or with a desire to turn anybody out simply for the sake of doing so. But they desire and are determined to have more complete and accurate information relative to the management and condition of companies of whose securities they own millions of dollars. If the intentions of the present managers of the Western roads are for the best interests of every owner there can be no conflict between them and Mr. Cooley and those whom he represents.

The largest holdings of railroad stocks in Hartford and vicinity are probably in Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific; Chicago and Northwestern, and Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul. There is practically no Missouri Pacific or Atchison stock held in the neighborhood. There is, however, a fair amount of Illinois Central, and it was with a view of cooperating with New York stockholders that Mr. Cooley visited the city. Instead of joining a movement here, however, he was induced to accept the responsibility of representing at the annual meeting next week those stockholders who are dissatisfied with or believe that the management of the Illinois Central needs overhauling. Mr. Cooley will go to Chicago early next week, and, in order to save time and insure the receipt of proxies by him in time for the meeting, it was suggested that proxies be forwarded to him at Chicago by those who are desirous of participating in the first formal step toward asserting their rights as stockholders. Such proxies should be made out in the names of Francis B. Cooley or Daniel R. Howe and addressed to Mr. Cooley, care of John V. Farwell & Co., Chicago, Ill.

While such proxies will not be voted in favor of the candidates that Messrs. Fish and Harriman may nominate, they will count in reducing the vote polled by the present management, and will be exceedingly valuable as backing such inquiries as it may seem desirable to make and supporting such measures as may be offered looking to the better information of stockholders and recognition of their rights.

It is understood that the most important measure that Mr. Cooley and his associates will present for the approval of the stockholders will be a resolution requiring that hereafter the directors of the company shall, immediately upon the closing of the transfer books for the annual election, prepare a statement of the business, transactions, and propositions that are to be submitted for the consideration, ratification, or approval of such meeting, and forward a copy of the same to each stockholder of record, together with the names of the candidates for directors whom the management proposes to elect.

THE SUN has received a number of letters from stockholders of the Illinois Central Company, asking to whom they could send their proxies in order to express their disapproval of the present management. THE SUN knows of no reason why they should not forward them at once to Mr. Cooley at Chicago. In fact, it seems very desirable that they should do so.

A good deal of interest is expressed down town as to whom the present management of the company will nominate for directors. The three whose terms expire this year are B. F. Ayer, who is also the general counsel of the company, Walter Luttgen and John W. Auchincloss. Mr. Luttgen is considered an important member of the Board, as he is a member of the firm of August Belmont & Co., who are understood to represent a large amount of foreign stock. If he stands for reelection the street will want to know whether his course is to be construed as an endorsement of the Fish-Harriman policy by Messrs. Belmont & Co., or whether he remains in the Board in order to more completely protect the interests that have been jeopardized by the unscrupulousness of Mr. F. H. Harriman and the manifest incompetency of his associates.

A White Cap Captured.

NEWBURGH, March 8.—John Curlew was arrested here on the complaint of Ralph Dearnelly, over 70 years of age, for assault. Curlew attacked Dearnelly in the street and knocked him down, saying the White Caps were after him, and he had better keep away from a certain saloon or he would be killed. One of Curlew's children died last night, and, out of consideration for his family troubles, the Recorder released him on the payment of a fine. The Recorder said, when interviewed: "A lot of idiots in town are carrying on this business of sending White Cap letters and frightening people, for many have complained to me. I am determined to break it up."

JOHN F. PLUMMER RESIGNS.

Says the Newspapers Have Treated Him Unfairly and Made Fun of Him.

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Business Men's Republican Association last evening did not make much progress toward building up an organization like Tammany Hall. Indeed, the members discussed as though of preliminary importance the question how long they could last, and reached the reassuring conclusion that with $1,400 in the treasury and 550 members on the roll they were sure of one, one, one year more. The cause of this discussion was the following letter:

I have determined to resign from the office of President of this association, but beg to be allowed to remain enrolled as a member in the ranks.

I am happy in the thought that the association is on so good a foundation, having accomplished much, and with so great a field waiting its further achievement.

My part in the recent campaign has been one prompted only by the conscientious duty of a citizen and a business man, with no ambitions beyond. The work has been a pleasure to me. The Republican party has won a great victory, and its candidates are now inaugurated and in full possession of the trusts committed to their keeping at the hands and hearts of the people. I am alive to the necessity of the work to be accomplished by this organization, but I cannot afford the time and attention that the office of President will demand, and so ask you to confer the honor upon another.

With heartiest thanks for the cooperation of my fellow business men of this city, I beg to remain, yours, very truly, JOHN F. PLUMMER.

A. R. Whitney, the Chairman of the Committee, E. A. Drake, W. H. T. Hughes, C. D. Sweeney, J. S. Seabury, C. F. Quincy, A. Caldwell, Col. Hart, E. A. Wakeman, Hoffman Miller, and E. H. Mulford formed the little gathering among whom this ponderous shot fell.

Its first effect was all that could have been expected by the gentleman who fired it. The first man to get to his feet characterized the retirement of President Plummer as the severest blow that could fall upon the organization, but reassured himself and the rest by suggesting that there was no reason why the blow should be suffered without an attempt to parry it. Other speakers encouraged each other to bear up, and by and by they cheered each other up. Chairman Whitney expressed the hope that Mr. Plummer could be induced to reconsider. In the mean time the discussion of the matter was getting the meeting into a mood which would prevent anything being done. He suggested that the routine business be proceeded with first. The routine business was to call another meeting of the committee at 27 New street this afternoon, and a public meeting of the general committee at 236 Fifth avenue next Friday evening.

Then the meeting as a committee of the whole went up to 24 East Fifty-sixth street and labored with Mr. Plummer. Mr. Plummer paced up and down in his slippers and dressing gown and his obduracy. He said that he had been treated unfairly by the newspapers, even those whose articles were apparently laudatory allowed a vein of sarcasm to appear. He intimated that he was no office seeker, and that he would not retain a place that would give anybody a chance to attribute such motives to him. At midnight the committee was laboring with Mr. Plummer. The latest news was that he was thinking of reconsidering.

COUNTERFEITING LIVER PILLS.

The Carter Company Swindled Out of Thousands of Dollars in Canada.

MONTREAL, March 8.—About two weeks ago Mr. Goode of Carter's Little Liver Pills Company, with head offices and manufactory in New York and a branch manufactory here, saw Private Detective Grose, late special Customs agent, and informed him that they were being swindled to the extent of hundreds of thousands of dollars in Canada.

He said that their trade mark, which had been registered and advertised at a cost of $175,000 per annum, had been counterfeited, and under its cover the market was being flooded with bogus goods. Grose undertook the case, and after inquiries he concluded that the bogus goods were being sent out from Arnprior, Ont. He visited that town, and soon had his suspicions aroused as to the honesty of a leading druggist, who is a prominent liberal politician and Sunday school and church worker, and is reputed to be doing work between $30,000 and $50,000. The detective assumed the role of a travelling agent of a Northwest drug firm and purchased a big bill of goods from Waite, consisting of druggists' sundries, among which were several dozen boxes of alleged Carter's Little Liver Pills. Grose at once saw that not only the trade mark but the goods were clever counterfeits, and he returned to Montreal to report to the company's representatives the progress he had made.

After consultation a scheme was adopted, and on Tuesday, by prearrangement, Detectives Grose, Goode, T. Falkiner of Belleville, and J. Mason, Q. C., M. P., for North Gray, met in Arnprior on Wednesday. They obtained a search warrant, and on Thursday, when their trap was set, they raided the premises of Druggist Waite. On the premises were found a printing press, with copper plates of the trade, and also an outfit for the manufacture of the company's goods.

Waite was immediately arrested and taken before Police Magistrates Craig and Kenny, and on Friday he was fully committed on the charges of forgery, applying forged trade marks, and having counterfeited goods bearing such trade marks in his possession for sale. He was subsequently bailed in several thousand dollars to appear for trial.

When arrested he took matters coolly, and said that the printing press was very handy one, as when forgery otherwise engaged it was used in the service of the Lord, as he printed all the church tracts and such literature gratis. The company was so pleased with Grose's work that they have appointed him their permanent agent.

The Charges Against Lawyer Baum.

POUGHKEEPSIE, March 8.—The investigation of the charges made to the General Term of the Supreme Court against Peter M. Baum of Red Hook, a member of the Duchess county bar, was begun to-day before Referee Walter Farrington. James L. Williams appeared for Mr. Baum, and Charles Morschauser and William I. Thorn for the prosecution.

Justice Edgar Traver of Red Hook testified that Baum was brought before him once on a charge of larceny, but that the matter was settled during a temporary adjournment of the Justice's court. Some of the charges made against Baum were for retaining moneys collected by him for clients, some of which he afterward settled.

During the proceedings Mr. Thorn said in relation to Baum's settling one claim after he was sued: "You had to pay it or go to jail."

Mr. Baum, becoming excited, said he would have it out with Mr. Thorn if he would go outside.

Mr. Thorn replied, "Come on."

Mr. Baum did not move, whereupon Mr. Thorn said: "You dare not come. You wouldn't be hardly a mess for me."

Then Mr. Thorn charged Baum with stealing a diamond ring from his own wife and giving it to a disreputable character, and said Baum's wife's uncle had to go to New York and get it out of pawn for her. Baum replied vindictively, asking Mr. Thorn what he had done for some money he had given him.

A Meeting of Perfectionists.

NORWICH, March 8.—A great holiness meeting has been begun at Putnam village, to be continued several days, and the people who are in search of a grade of religion superior to common Christianity flock to the hall in Putnam in which it is dispensed. Nine clergymen preside at the dispensation: The Rev. Joshua Gill and the Rev. A. McLean, Boston; the Rev. George A. McLaughlin, Exeter, N. H.; the Rev. Dr. E. M. Levy, Philadelphia; the Rev. George N. Ballantine, Groton, Conn.; the Rev. H. N. Brown of this city; the Rev. H. C. McBride, Brooklyn, N. Y.; the Rev. L. S. Brown, Worcester; the Rev. O. E. Mallory, Lowell, Mass.

The Holiness People, as they term themselves, believe that it is possible, by self-abnegation and the practice of the virtues, to arrive at a condition of self-exaltation and perfection, in which it is impossible for them to sin. As soon as the pilgrim in his progress toward the higher life has reached this saintly stage of perfection, he is known to his brethren as a "Perfectionist." He wears a soft, pure, far-away, and impeccable expression, and sometimes he lets his hair grow long. He speaks in the calm tone of the Buddhist priest, his mood resembling that attained by the devotion of the Oriental creed.

There is a coterie of Perfectionists in this city, and one summer they had meetings in an open-air tent. Not all are Perfectionists who have gathered at Putnam; some are plain sinners, but they hope to better their spiritual condition.

The State Appropriation Bill.

ALBANY, March 8.—The Committee on Appropriations has almost completed the annual appropriation bill, which will be reported next week. Some of the items are:

Executive Department, $38,500; Court of Appeals, $124,700; Court of Appeals, second division, $48,000; Supreme Court, $83,100; public buildings, $160,000; Regents of the University, $72,200; State Library, $24,000; State Cabinet of Natural History, $15,000; promotion of agriculture $30,000; agricultural experimental station, $20,000; Forest Commission, $34,000; Dairy Commission, $75,000; Legislature, $473,000; state printing $10,000; State prisons (for salaries, maintenance, and repairs) $660,000; Indian Affairs, $5,327; National Guard, $40,000; Civil service Commission, $15,200; labor statistics, $30,000; Commissioners of Fisheries and Game, $34,000; oyster Protector, $1,750; soldiers' and Sailors' Home, $110,000; Elmira Reformatory, $80,000; state Board of Health, $25,000; deaf and dumb institutions, $235,000; Washington's head quarters, Newburgh, $1,000; Senate House, Kingston, $900; Game and Fish Protectors, $15,000; Factory Inspector, $25,000; Board of Arbitration, $15,000; support of common schools, $3,250,000; Museum of Natural History, New York city, $15,000; support of normal schools, $192,000.

NEW GLASS FOR TELESCOPES.

A DISCOVERY THAT MAY OPEN UP NEW WONDERS.

Prof. Hastings of Yale Invents a Combination that Does Away with Chromatic Aberration—A Perfect Telescope at Last.

NEW HAVEN, March 8.—A representative of THE SUN called on Prof. Charles S. Hastings, at his home on Bradley street, the other evening, and conversed with him regarding his recently announced discovery of a new combination of glasses for the object glass of a telescope, so that the secondary chromatic aberration is practically eliminated. Prof. Hastings is one of the younger of the Yale professors. He came to the university five years ago from Johns Hopkins University, and is connected with the Sheffield scientific department. He is popular not only among the undergraduates, but also with his associate professors, and, besides being a man of science, is a skilled lawn tennis player. The telescope which he has fitted with the new glasses was completed last Saturday, and as yet Prof. Hastings is unable to make any definite statement regarding the value of his discovery other than that the secondary chromatic aberration will be reduced one-twentieth.

"This cannot," said Prof. Hastings to the reporter, "be called one of the great discoveries of the century. Unlike the discovery of the telephone, no vital principle is involved, and its use to science is as yet indefinable. Perhaps I might illustrate this somewhat as follows: Suppose the microscope were improved twenty per cent., or, in other words, suppose objects under the improved microscope were enlarged one-fifth. It would be impossible to state of how much value a discovery of this kind would be, for perhaps the microscope now shows all that the scientific world can learn or even cares to know."

Prof. Hastings then referred to the fact that he is about to publish a digest of his discovery in a scientific journal, and did not care to have very much said about the matter until a clear night shall have given him the opportunity of examining the celestial bodies through his new telescope. In a general way he said:

"Ever since the acromatic telescope was invented, about the middle of the last century, it has always been subject to the defect of a residual color, which is known as the secondary spectrum. It is the purple color seen around objects viewed through a telescope, and until recently the only effort to do away with this secondary spectrum which met with any degree of success was that made by Prof. Blair, a Scotchman, some fifty years ago. To accomplish it he used a liquid—chloride of antimony—in combination with his glasses, but it proved impracticable, as all telescopes containing a liquid must. I have always experimented with glasses, and have recently been experimenting with glasses the range of which, at the command of opticians, has been greatly increased by the investigations of Scott and Abbe."

"Right here, Professor, let me ask wherein your glass differs from the Abbe glass?"

"Why, it's an Abbe glass of that." I use, but I have combined two of them, and that combination yields practically a perfect color correction, so that all sorts of objects, under all circumstances, appear in their natural colors. Besides the increased beauty of objects as seen through such a telescope, there is a notable improvement in the definition. The exact magnitude of which it is impossible to state accurately, owing to the fact that I have been unable to experiment on celestial bodies with my telescope yet. I am satisfied, however, that the results cannot be otherwise than successful. Besides these advantages already named, an other advantage is this, that my telescope admits of photographing celestial bodies, whereas it is well known that an ordinary telescope adapted for celestial photography is quite useless for purposes of vision.

"You ask me to say in a few words precisely what the discovery amounts to. It is the definitive solution of a problem which has occupied the attention of scientists for a century. The question naturally arises, has it been worth the while to spend all of these years in searching after an improvement which, in valuation, is perhaps fairly expressed by a tenth per cent? If, instead of a perfect telescope, I may say an absolutely perfect telescope, but possibly the telescope was sufficiently perfect before. To any person looking through one of the old telescopes there appears around the edge of the object viewed this rim of purple light. In my new telescope this is all done away with, and the object stands out clearly before the observer. Take the moon, for instance; you observe it through one of the old telescopes, and you see the purple light; when viewed through my telescope the purple light does not appear; in other words, the secondary chromatic aberration is absolutely eliminated. It would be impossible to state of what value my discovery will be to the astronomer, by way of opening to him new fields; it will certainly be a thing of pleasure and a joy forever to any astronomer to work with an instrument which is free from chromatic aberration. Were a telescope as large as the Lick telescope, in California, fitted with glasses combined according to my formula, there is little doubt that some new discoveries would be made. As I said before, it would be absurd to hold this up as one of the great scientific discoveries. It is, however, something which will attract the attention of scientists, and especially of astronomers."

LIVE WASHINGTON TOPICS.

$10,000,000 for Public Buildings—The New Attorney-General in Court.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—During the Fiftieth Congress just ended nearly $10,000,000 were appropriated for public buildings. The appropriations for like purposes by the Congresses immediately preceding the Fiftieth ranged from $6,000,000 to $9,000,000. The public building bills introduced in the House alone during the first session of the Fiftieth Congress proposed appropriations aggregating $42,641,000, and the Committee on Public Buildings gave its sanction to bills carrying appropriations ranging from $50,000 up to several millions, and aggregating $15,714,000. About one-half of these bills passed both Houses of Congress during the first session, while during the second session the aggregate appropriation for public buildings was about $3,000,000.

The Navy Department has postponed from March 15 to April 3 the time for receiving proposals for the construction of an armored coast defence vessel. This order of postponement was Secretary Tracy's first official act.

In the Supreme Court of the United States to-day ex-Attorney-General Garland addressed the Court as follows:

May it please the Court: I ask leave to introduce to the Court Attorney-General William H. H. Miller and present his commission as such signed by the President of the United States, and ask that it be duly noted of record. In doing this the Court will permit me to return my personal thanks for the manner hereof, as well as its officers, for the uniform courtesy and consideration shown me by them during my term of office here, and I ask for my successor the same kindness, as I feel sure he will prove himself in all respects worthy of it.

The Chief Justice replied as follows:

We are happy to make the acquaintance of the Attorney-General. The Court welcomes the coming guest with pleasure, and speeds the parting guest with kindly remembrance. Let the commission be recorded.

Mr. M. F. Morris, of the old law firm of Merrick & Morris of this city, has written to Secretary Fairchild offering his services as counsel in the suit recently brought against the Secretary by Samuel Strong for damages on account of his decision in relation to his award. He says that he does this out of admiration for Mr. Fairchild's "honest administration" and on the condition that he receive no fee or compensation. Mr. Fairchild has accepted the offer, and Mr. Morris will act with one of the Assistant Attorneys-General who has already been assigned to the defence.

Col. Elliott F. Shepard of the New York *Mail and Express* gave a dinner this evening at the Arlington Hotel to the Hon. Benjamin F. Tracy, Secretary of the Navy. The other guests were Secretary Rusk, Attorney-General Miller, Secretary Noble, Secretary Proctor, Post-Master-General Wanamaker, Mr. Justice Blatchford, Senator Chandler, Russell Harrison, J. R. Nickoe, Private Secretary Halford, Anson G. Metcook, Representative Wm. Walter Phelps, John Sanford, Mayor-elect Bev. Joseph C. Jackson, Francis W. Breed, Thomas Dolan, Walker Blaine, Representative J. J. Belden, Gen. Knapp, John F. Baker, Gen. Daniel Butterfield, Gen. Batchelder, Admiral Porter, Rear-Admiral Jouett, Col. Fred Grant, A. T. Britton, Henry C. Bowen, Warner Miller, and G. E. Lemon.

Postmaster-General Wanamaker has purchased from the Freilinghuysen estate the elegant residence 1,731 I street, which has been, until recently, the home of Secretary Whitney. The price paid for the house and a part of the furniture is understood to have been $80,000.

Obituary.

Silas H. Torrey, one of the best-known and prominent public men of Saratoga county, died at his home in Ballston on Thursday, aged 66 years. He was of the law firm of Quackenbush & Torrey, a Democratic leader, and his death is a party loss.

John Waters, who was custodian of Hoffman Island (Quarantine) for forty years, died on Thursday of apoplexy in his 74th year. The funeral will take place to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock from his residence, 23 Tompkins avenue, Stapleton, Staten Island.

News has been received by the American Bible Society here of the death of the Rev. Dr. Isaac G. Bliss at Assiout, Upper Egypt, on Saturday, Feb. 16. Dr. Bliss received his appointment as agent for the Levant in 1857, and reached Constantinople in January, 1858.

William H. Wright, only son of ex-Sheriff William Wright of Newark, died at his father's home in that city yesterday. He was 36 years old and was unmarried.

SIGNS OF SPRING IN CONNECTICUT.

Frogs, Sap, Heavy Babies, Thunder, and a Tremendous Chicken Mill.

NORWICH, March 8.—Jocund spring is tripping through Connecticut. She skips the mud, which has been six inches deep.

Peep frogs opened the season this week.

Robins and bluebirds have been here for two weeks. Flocks of meadow larks stayed all winter. A Preston farmer affirms that he saw a blackbird on Saturday.

Oscar Winchester of Bozrah sowed his spring rye last week.

Butterflies were seen the other day. Phœbe Boardman of Voluntown picked a handful of grasshoppers last week, a lively grasshopper was caught at Norwich town, and N. B. Campbell of North Sterling has one that he got on March 1.

Pussy willows have donned their woolly spring mitts, maples are in bud, and crocuses in blossom.

Wild geese are flying north, the hand organ man came yesterday, and wild ducks are sporting in the open ponds, where two weeks ago "tilts" were tripping on 10-inch ice.

Three big babies were born in the past ten days, Mr. and Mrs. Amos T. Wheeler of Norwich town, Mr. and Mrs. Albert E. Gurley of Spring Hill, and Mr. and Mrs. John Flynn of Norwich town being the gleesome parents of the precocious youths. Each one weighed fourteen pounds.

Thunder has been heard. Stonington saw a wonder in the heavens at midday—a dazzlingly bright scarf, many colored, that was trailed along the zenith, and embossed with curious things that looked like illuminated dumb bells, and not less than six wonderfully big glowing sun dogs have been seen in different parts of the State, all of which portends something timid on the wind. A rainbow was seen. Sap tinkles in the tin pans all day in the maple groves.

Lyman Bennett of Westminster set his spring incubator three weeks ago. It is of his own conception and execution and is the queerest trap for hatching chickens in the world. He got a big round box and bored holes in the bottom, set it on short stilts, put in 150 hens' eggs, fixed a slim kerosene lamp beneath it, touched a match to the lamp wick, and thereupon the incubator and its twelve and a half dozen eggs were off. By merely turning the thumbscrew of the lamp he could produce any climate and pressure in the box he pleased. Turn the blaze away up and you had the hatcher at full speed; turn it half way down and a cool, amiable glow pervaded and suffused the eggs; run the flame away down and the incubator contracted a chill. Mr. Bennett set it going at half speed, and only once or twice thereafter did he meddle with the throttle-valve; but he watched the whole combination with intense interest, some curiosity, and perfect confidence.

His faith in the hatcher was gloriously rewarded. Early in the morning, a day or two ago, he visited the incubator in accordance with his daily custom, and when he approached the dusky room instantly resounded with a shrill "Peep! peep!" and each peep seemed to say: "Take the cover off. Spring is here." Mr. Bennett turned down the lamp a little, he took the cover off, and the tide of chickens within rose at once, overflowed the sides of the incubator, and not less than fifty chicks spilled out on the kitchen floor.

It was a triumphant moment in Bennett's career, but a vein of anxiety was commingled with the current of exultation: the incubator was an unusually small one, while the flow of chickens was astonishingly large, and he saw no way to stop it. The kitchen floor was already ankle keep with running chickens, and the din of their multitudinous peeping notes, while they reminded him of twilight at a frog pond, was bewildering. He could not clap the cover on and stop the chickens, except at the risk of killing a dozen of them, and he wanted to save them all; so he had to let them flow for a full minute, anxiously awaiting a lull, which came after a while, and then he got the drop on what were left in the incubator, after which he spent three-quarters of an hour gathering the overflow and returning it to headquarters. The latest tidings from Mr. Bennett report over 130 chickens alternately and intermittently in the incubator and in the kitchen, and the kerosene lamp is still burning.

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETIES.

A Great Help in Building Up the Membership of the Episcopal Churches.

"No Episcopal church is at all complete now without its St. Andrew's Society," the Rev. William M. Geer, assistant pastor of St. Paul's Church, smilingly said to a reporter of THE SUN. "They are a great help to pastors in the upbuilding of churches. Pastor Rainsford's society in St. George's Church is about the strongest in this neighborhood, and the assistance it has given him in his work in St. George's Church is marvellous indeed. You may not think it, but he would not have been nearly so successful were it not for his St. Andrew's Society. Ours is young yet, but it has started in with a good deal of energy, and already its work is apparent in our church. You know, St. Paul's has run down considerably through the migration of its members up town. All we have left is the few old folks that will attend the church at no matter what inconvenience, the janitors, and the work people in the down-town wards. It is to bring in the longshoremen and the truckmen and the laborers in the First ward that the St. Andrew's Society is for, and I tell you that they are bringing them in, too.

"Our society is over the 300th branch of the organization, which has its headquarters in Chicago. It has its annual conventions, and at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 1886 its work was highly approved. It was formed in St. James's Church in Chicago on St. Andrew's Day on Nov. 30, 1883, by a dozen young men. So highly successful was its work in St. James's that all the neighboring churches formed branches. In 1886 it had twenty chapters, and extended from New Haven, Conn., to Omaha, Neb. Now there are few large cities in which there is not a branch of the society. It has its own paper, the *St. Andrew's Cross*, and issues, besides, books, pamphlets, and articles of devotion. A member can travel and meet everywhere with courteous attention from fellow members. Social gatherings under the auspices of the society are frequent, and some effort is made to draw out the members of the congregation. We have gatherings frequently, and the big hall at the top of the offices of the Trinity Church vestry is given over to the society, while the refectory in the basement is utilized also.

"Our members are mostly young men, and they make it a point to bring into St. Paul's Church one person each day. Hiram Ketchum, a lawyer, who dwells in a down-town hotel, is Chairman of our society. He holds office for one year. The pastor of the church is generally the President of the society, but owing to the advanced age of the Rev. Dr. Muleahey I am the President of our society."

WHOSE PANTHER IS THIS?

Or Whose Terrible Wild Beast is it if it Isn't a Panther?

NORWICH, March 8.—The blood-curdling cry of a strange wild animal after dark has scared country people along the wild frontier of this State and Rhode Island for several weeks. It was heard first among the scraggy hills about North Sterling, sixteen miles northeast of this city, and the ferocity and compass of the yells denoted that the beast was more formidable than a wildcat.

William Card of Flat Rock, R. I., says that he encountered the animal one day recently in driving home from Sterling Hill. It was at dusk. The road was lonely and wooded, and at a point where it dipped into a shadowy hollow among the lonely hills, a savage yell suddenly cut the air, the body of a big wild animal jumped into the road from a ledge, crossed the path at a bound, and crashed into the underbrush on the other side of the thoroughfare, disappearing in the depth of the forest. The horse, terribly frightened, leaped backward on its haunches, and Mr. Card was more scared than was his steed, yet he got a close view of the beast, and he says that it was a full-grown panther. Card avers that he knows a panther when he sees one.

Since that encounter the terrifying yells of the panther were heard after nightfall in various parts of the region about Flat Rock and Sterling, and the bodies of domestic animals were found that unquestionably had been overcome by a beast of unusual power. Later the nocturnal cries were heard at Quonochontaug, along the margin of the ocean in southern Rhode Island, and several hunting parties, heavily armed and with numerous dogs, went out to meet the panther, but did not routinem from his lair in the wilderness. Quonochontaug people say that the cries may be heard for many miles on a still night. The presence of the panther has had a potent effect in regulating the nocturnal habits of the country folks that have been wont to tarry abroad till late.

Negro Giants in Deadly Combat.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 3.—Last night, about six miles from Troy, Ala., two of the largest and most powerful negroes in the State had a fatal encounter. Pink Cawthorne and his brother, John Cawthorne, have been at outs for some time. The former is six feet seven inches high, and the latter was two inches higher. Last night John went to his brother's house and found him alone. A fight ensued. One of the brothers had a gun, and the scuffle was for the weapon. Finally Pink's wife appeared on the scene. With a great effort, the larger brother managed to get the muzzle of the gun on a line with the other, and six slugs were fired into his body, killing him instantly. The murderer escaped.

FOR COMMERCIAL UNION.

THE DEBATE IN THE PARLIAMENT OF CANADA.

Mr. Armstrong Favors Closer Trade Relations with the United States—More Than Half of Canada's Products Sold Here.

OTTAWA, March 8.—The debate on Sir Richard Cartwright's reciprocity resolution was continued in Parliament to-night. Mr. Armstrong, who withdrew his commercial union resolution last session to enable Laurier to bring down his unrestricted reciprocity resolution, stated that he was in favor of commercial union unadulterated as the only practical solution of the question of trade relations between Canada and the United States.

Many who advocated closer commercial intercourse between the two countries were afraid to support the commercial union movement, believing that it was annexation disguised. Others contended that the United States would control the tariff of the Dominion owing to their greater strength, and that Canada would have to submit to anything the authorities at Washington suggested. This would not be the case, for without the consent of Canada negotiations could not proceed. The Dominion could reject or accept any propositions, while at the same time she would have an equal right to suggest tariff rates which the United States might or might not agree to.

Commercial union, Mr. Amstrong said, would result in the abolition of the hundreds of Custom Houses and customs officials extending along the 3,000 miles of frontier, the maintenance of which alone involved an enormous tax upon the Treasury. Recent events at Washington had shown that the Congress of the United States regarded the scheme of commercial union not only as practicable but as desirable.

This opportunity the Government should improve immediately, instead of continuing their aggression policy toward the neighbors to the South. Canada found a free market in Great Britain for the sale of her natural products. Yet over one-half she had to sell was disposed of in the United States despite the high customs barrier with which her exports were met at the border.

With this barrier removed there would be a free and unfettered exchange of natural and manufactured products, for which the people of the country were crying out. It was not to the appeal of the farmer, the lumberman, miner, or fisherman that the Government were listening, but to the demand of the manufacturer, who called for more protection.

Every other interest must be sacrificed to enrich him and assist him in building up monopolies which were already oppressing the people. Was it a matter of surprise that a strong feeling in favor of annexation as the only alternative to ruin was spreading all over the country?

In appealing to the home Government in 1869, Mr. Armstrong continued to open negotiations with the United States with the view to secure a great commercial treaty, Sir John Macdonald, as head of the Dominion Government, had stated that reciprocity would effectually remove the motives which had prompted the annexation movement.

Considering this fact, he was surprised to see the humiliating proposition which Sir John was now the leader, opposing the measure introduced by the Liberals in favor of closer and unrestricted commercial intercourse with the United States.

TWO WAYS TO GOVERN IRELAND.

Let her Govern Herself, Mr. Parnell Says, or Set a Despot Over Her.

LONDON, March 8.- A banquet was given by the Eighty Club this evening in honor of Lord Spencer. Mr. Parnell was present and received an ovation. Lord Spencer, in responding to the toast to his health, congratulated Mr. Parnell upon the vindication of his character against attacks which, in vehemence and wickedness, surpassed any that had ever been made against a living man. They admired Mr. Parnell's forbearance, dignity, and patience, qualities so worthy in a great leader, and they wanted to see full reparation done. He thought the Government would have difficulty in clearing themselves of the charge of complicity with the *Times*. He spoke at length of Irish affairs, and expressed confidence that Mr. Gladstone would live to carry an improved home-rule bill.

In response to loud cries for a speech, Mr. Parnell rose amid his feet and was greeted with enthusiastic cheers. He referred to Lord Spencer as the herald of Mr. Gladstone's policy of conciliation, and said that his opinion was worth more than the judgment of a hundred mushrooms like Balfour, a man who was here to-day and who he goes to-morrow, who brought to the task of governing Ireland not a single characteristic of statesmanship or genius, and whose only object was to remain in office as long as possible. Lord Spencer, after all his experience, had acknowledged the truth of what he himself maintained, that the only way to govern Ireland within the Constitution is to allow her to govern herself in all matters that do not interfere with the well-being of the rest of the empire with which Ireland is indissolubly linked.

"I admit," Mr. Parnell continued, "that another way exists—a way which is untried as yet, and probably never will be tried—in which some present success might, not by Balfour's bastard, semi-constitutional, semi-coercive method, but by a method of pure despotism. You might find among your selves some great Englishman or Scotchman who would go to Ireland, and, by parliamentary representation having been taken from her) and do justice to her people, despite the complaint of Irish landlordism. Such a method must, however, be outside of the constitution altogether, and your Irish Governor must have full power to deal impartially with lord and peasant alike. That, in my judgment, has always been the only alternative concession to our reasonable demands."

Lord Roseberry, in proposing a vote of thanks, also congratulated Mr. Parnell.

Von Moltke 70 Years a Soldier.

BERLIN, March 8.—The seventieth anniversary of the entry of Count von Moltke into the army was celebrated to-day. All the royal families of the empire sent messages of congratulation and presents to the Count. The Emperor gave a bronze bust of himself and the Empress a statuette of William I. These presents were accompanied by flattering letters.

The Panama Canal Company.

PARIS, March 8.—The Court of Appeals has declared that the Panama Canal Company is a civil association, thus reversing the decision of the Tribunal of Commerce that the company was a commercial society.

The Czar Will Let Bulgaria Alone.

VIENNA, March 8.—In an interview here to-day M. Zankoff said that the Czar had emphatically declared that he would not meddle forcibly with Bulgaria, the expulsion of the Prince being an internal affair.

The Opposition Preparing an Attack.

LONDON, March 8.—If the Parnell Commission does not report on the forged letters, the front opposition in the House of Commons will raise a discussion on Monday on the Attorney-General's action.

The Duke d'Aumale to be Recalled from Exile.

PARIS, March 8.—It is officially announced that President Carnot will on Saturday sign the decree revoking the decree of exile against the Duke d'Aumale.

A Bomb Maker Killed by an Explosion.

ZURICH, March 8.—While a party of students were at work making bombs to-day an explosion occurred, killing one and wounding several others. Many arrests were made.

Vereschagin Defends His Pictures.

LONDON, March 8.—The Russian painter, Vereschagin, defends his realistic paintings in an article in the *German Review*. He states that an American collector, Frank Millet, has resulted to the realism of prisoners in the Russo-Turkish war dropping by the roadside frozen to death.

Destructive Snowstorm in Switzerland.

LONDON, March 8.—Advices from Berne say that the damage done by the recent snowstorm is enormous. Thousands of splendid firs were destroy