LIVE WASHINGTON TOPICS.

SHARP TALK BETWEEN SPEAKER CRISP AND THE DEPOSED CZAR.

The Canadian Reciprocity Commissioners in Conference with Secretary Blaine—Rupture Between the President and Senator Washburn—The Latest Republican Presidential Ticket in Morton and Rusk—Utah Pleads for Home Rule.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—The Vice-President laid before the Senate to-day a communication from the Secretary of War transmitting objections of Lieutenants of the army to the proposed change from regimental to lineal promotion as working injustice to the older Lieutenants. A bill providing for the appointment by the President of a Commissioner-General and two assistant Commissioners, to serve without compensation, to represent the United States at the Columbian Historical Exposition of 1892 in Madrid was reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations and passed. When the Virginia and West Virginia contest over the direct tax refund came up again in the morning hour, Mr. Frye of Maine called attention to the disregard of rule 8, under which this discussion was going on, which rule limited debate to five minutes. Knowing the capacity of the Senators from the two Virginias for debate, he anticipated that this discussion might occupy the morning hour for the remainder of the session, and he gave notice that he should object to its continuation after to-day. Mr. Faulkner and Mr. Barbour discussed the question until 2 o'clock, and then Mr. Manderson objected to further debate for this day. The unfinished business, the Printing bill, was then taken up and discussed until adjournment.

The House to-day was engaged in the discussion of the bill for the better control and safety of national banks. Pending a demand for the previous question the morning hour expired, a point of no quorum being made against the demand. A pleasant hypothesis ensued between the Speaker and Mr. Reed, the latter contending that no business could be transacted until a quorum appeared. The Speaker held that the morning hour having expired, all business went over until to-morrow, whether a quorum was voting or not. Mr. Reed maintained that the Speaker had declared bills passed when a quorum had not voted, and his position was, therefore, not consistent. The Speaker retorted that the question of no quorum was not raised, and added: "With the greatest respect to the gentleman from Maine, I would say that he is acting now as he did last Congress—he is dodging the question." Mr. Reed replied that he thought the complaint against him was because he had not dodged any question last year.

The House then, as a Committee of the Whole, proceeded to consider the Military Academy Appropriation bill. Mr. Watson (Alliance) of Georgia deplored the attitude of the Democratic party in asking an increase for the Military Academy of $64,000. If that party endeavored to stand by its pledges, it should begin now, if ever, to retrench. He hoped every penny would be lopped off that could by any possibility be spared. Mr. Ray of New York advocated the liberal support of an institution which educated young men for the military service of the United States and fitted them for the duty of defending their country. Mr. Pendleton of West Virginia thought that if the Democrats intended to make any honorable effort in the direction of economy they should begin to lop off the small items in this bill. Without any action on the bill the House adjourned.

The House Committee on Territories heard arguments to-day advocating the passage of the bill introduced by Delegate Caine to provide for a local government for the Territory of Utah.

Mr. Smith, a lawyer of Ogden, read a memorial, which will be submitted to Congress. The memorial says that the wealth of the people of Utah is more than $2,000,000,000, and that the Territory has nearly a quarter of a million civilized people who are up to the standard of any American community, and that polygamy has yielded to the supremacy of the law. It calls the Governor an autocrat, clothed with the power to veto. It says that the people have no voice in the selection of persons to handle the public funds, and that the most vicious interference with the vestige of local liberties is the maintenance and action of the Utah Commission. The people have no freedom, and the situation is becoming intolerable, and they ask Congress to enact a law for their relief.

Mr. Smith told of alleged corrupt acts of the Governor and the other officers, and of the system of exacting fees for the Governor and Secretary. He said that the Judiciary of the Territory was equally bad, and with one exception only one resident attorney had been appointed to the bench in eleven years. The others are there for the purpose of making money. He said that the son-in-law of one Judge is the Clerk of Court, and in the last four years he has pocketed about $80,000. The instances of extortion, he said, are without number. There were only four places in the Territory where court was held, and people had to come miles to have their cases settled.

Judge Judd, formerly an Associate Justice of the Territory, also spoke in favor of the bill. He compared the condition of Utah to that of Ireland, saying that it was governed by people who do not live there, and characterized the Governor as a carpet-bagger.

A resolution was adopted by the House to-day providing for an investigation of the Pension Office and the Board of Pension Appeals.

Secretary Blaine denies in the most positive terms that he is about to resign from the Cabinet.

A group of Republican Senators discussing the Presidential outlook, evolved a new ticket, which seemed to find much favor. This ticket is Morton and Rusk. As is well known, Mr. Morton is held in high esteem by the Senators on both sides of the chamber, and many Republicans would be glad to see him placed at the head of the ticket, not only for personal reasons but because they recognize that his singularly pure record, his probity, and his extensive circle of friends would make him an available candidate in any section, while his conservatism on financial questions and his success as a business man would attract the commercial centres of the East to him. Secretary Rusk, of course, is popular with the agriculturists, and his name has already been suggested on account of the strength which he would develop in the Northwestern and prairie States.

The House Committee on Militia to-day discussed the bill introduced by Mr. Cutting of California to promote the efficiency of the militia. The bill asks for an appropriation of $1,000,000 per year, but the sub-committee believes that $500,000 is sufficient. There have been no statutory changes of any note in the laws governing the militia since 1792, and the bill of Mr. Cutting will repeal some of the old laws and bring the militia in direct communication with the Government. After making a few amendments to the bill the Committee will report it favorably.

The Canadian Reciprocity Commission—Sir John Thompson, the Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, and the Hon. George E. Foster—accompanied by the British Minister, Sir Julian Pauncefote, called at the State Department at noon to-day. They were immediately shown into the private reception room, where Secretary Blaine gave each a hearty greeting. Gen. J. W. Foster, who has charge of reciprocity, was sent for, and the distinguished party for more than an hour informally discussed the subject of their visit.

Mr. Howard of St. Louis, a member of the Merchants' Exchange of that city, to-day gave the House Committee on Agriculture some of his views on the subject of dealings in futures. There was not, he said, an extenuating circumstance in the practice. It was the most shrewd, the most subtle that ever emanated from the brain of man. Every man who formerly dealt with him and had left him to deal in futures had been ruined. Dealing in futures, he said, was the greatest blight that ever appeared in America. The Chicago stock dealers were a great national ring of gamblers. The question arose above politics and religion. Such politics and religion that allowed the cheated farmer to go to bed hungry and cold should be remedied. Supply and demand, said Mr. Howard, had nothing to do with values. It was gambling that controlled prices. He wanted every deal to be a positive one. If he sold a man a thousand bushels of wheat, he wanted it to be a thousand bushels of wheat, and not a thousand bushels of wind. Wheat, he said, would be worth $1.50 a bushel if it were not for these gamblers.

"We can't prevent gambling," he said, "it will produce a social revolution. Washington's statue will have to be pulled down and the battle of liberty fought over again. I will not live to see it, but I have faith in the great American schoolhouse people to save us."

In conclusion Mr. Howard said that the futures were always higher than the cash. That was the secret of this gambling.

The second Presidential boom of Gen. Russell Alexander Alger of Michigan will be formally launched on Washington's Birthday at the annual meeting of the Michigan Club in Detroit. Prominent Republicans will be present from the East, and a special car will go from Washington carrying the Michigan Senators and Representatives, Senators Dolph and Perkins, ex-Representative Greenhalge, and others. Julius Cæsar Burrows will deliver the address of welcome on behalf of the Michigan Republicans, and the other distinguished guests will make speeches. The club is composed of Republicans from all over the State, who take much pride in the fact that Harrison addressed them in an eloquent speech just before being nominated for the Presidency. J. Sloat Fassett is booked to stir up the Wolverines with a burst of his eloquence, and as Gen. Alger has entire charge of all arrangements for the meeting he will not be apt to miss the opportunity to inflate his boom to the fullest proportions.

There is a serious rupture between President Harrison and Senator Washburn. The Senator has been led by his disappointment over Blaine's withdrawal to make open attacks upon the President. His course ever since he aided in the defeat of the Force bill has been such as to displease the friends of the Administration, but to avoid a breach in the party many favors have been given Mr. Washburn, some of them at the expense of Senator Davis. Administration men declare that Washburn has had more patronage than he was entitled to, and that he has been dictatorial and quarrelsome. After it became known that Blaine's health was so seriously impaired as to render his candidacy doubtful, and when all well-informed persons were expecting his letter of withdrawal, Senator Washburn wanted to start a movement for electing a Blaine delegation in Minnesota. He still openly declares that he favors an anti-Harrison delegation, and he is doing what he can to create sentiment for Gen. Alger. Senator Davis has come out squarely for President Harrison's renomination. The Administration people are particularly anxious that the Minnesota delegation should be for Harrison, inasmuch as the Convention is to be held in that State. Hence they are becoming resentful at what they term Senator Washburn's duplicity. They are better pleased at his open hostility than the covert attacks which he has been making for some time. They accuse Washburn of being responsible for some systematic Western newspaper attacks upon the President during the past two months, the object of which evidently is to secure as many Western delegations against him as possible.

Mr. Ames, superintendent of documents, Interior Department, has just issued to Congress the volume of the Blue Book for 1891. This volume records name and office, State or country of birth, State from which appointed to office, place where employed, and salary of about 70,000 persons, embracing all civil offices and employees of the Government, excepting those in the general postal service. They embrace also military and naval officers and cadets. An analysis of the volume shows the following facts: That the total number of males employed in the service outside the postal branch is 62,863, of females 8,206. Of these there are employed in Washington 17,039 males and 6,105 females, distributed among the departments as follows: State Department, 86; Treasury Department, 4,089; War Department, 2,295; Navy Department, 1,507; Post Office Department, 857; Interior Department, 4,808; Department of Justice, 555; Department of Agriculture, 519; Department of Labor, 58; Government Printing Office, 2,023; Government of District of Columbia, 1,888. The remainder are distributed among other bureaus and offices. The salaries of females, as shown by the volume, range from $100 to $48 per annum, from $125 to $3 per month, and from $9 to 50 cents per day. Two hundred and eighty-seven are paid more than $1,200 each, 1,104 from $1,000 to $1,200 each, 3,257 from $500 to $900 each, 1,326 from $48 to $480 each. The remainder serve without salary.

ANTI-CHINESE BILLS IN CONGRESS.

The Immediate Renewal of the Exclusion Act that Expires in a Few Weeks.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—There is no doubt that one or other of the Chinese Exclusion bills recently introduced into Congress will be adopted before the close of the session. The members from the Pacific States and from the other States lying adjacent to the western Canadian provinces are especially desirous that speedy action be taken on the subject.

Three anti-Chinese bills are now under consideration in Congress, two of them in the Senate, introduced by Senators Sherman and Dolph, and the other in the House, prepared by Representative Stump of Maryland, Chairman of the Select Committee on Immigration and Naturalization.

Senator Dolph's bill, which was reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations a week ago, as a substitute for several other bills before the committee, is both brief and plain. It provides for the continuance in force for ten years, or until 1902, of all existing laws prohibiting or regulating the coming to this country of Chinamen or persons of Chinese descent; and it further provides for the punishment and the banishment of all violators of these laws.

Senator Sherman's bill, which was introduced on Tuesday of this week, was drawn up for him by Chinese Inspector Coon, who is familiar with the subterfuges to which Chinamen resort in their efforts to get into this country. It provides that all Chinamen now here shall be registered under a new system of registration, that they shall be required to obtain a certificate entitling them to live in the United States, and that their certificates may be officially inspected at any time, that unregistered Chinamen shall be sent out of this country, that railroads shall be subjected to certain restrictions in carrying Chinese passengers, and that the fees collected for registry shall constitute a "Chinese Fund," to be used in defraying the expenses incident to the administration of the act. Senator Sherman's bill, with official correspondence relating to its subject, was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. In introducing it he said that it had been prepared at the Treasury Department and was designed to enable that department to enforce existing legislation relative to Chinese immigration.

The bill of Representative Stump is more stringent than any of the other bills on the subject, though many of its provisions are similar to those of Senator Sherman's bill. It provides that, for a period of twenty years, it shall be unlawful for any Chinese laborer, skilled or unskilled, to come within across the boundaries of the United States; that all Chinese other than laborers desiring to pass through or visit this country for any purpose shall obtain a permit from the American Consul at the port of departure, and that any vessel bringing Chinamen here illegally shall be liable to forfeiture. The bill also provides for the registry of all Chinamen here resident, and for the deportation of those of them who do not possess certificates of registration. It prohibits any State or Federal court from admitting any Chinaman to American citizenship. Representative Stump's bill is elaborate and contains many details for the consideration of the House Committee on Immigration.

The probability is that the Sherman bill, after certain amendments are made in it, will meet with the approval of both Houses of Congress and become law. There is no party division on the question of preventing Chinese immigration. Both the Democrats and the Republicans in the Senate and the House are almost unanimous in their opposition to the incoming of the "Mongolian hordes" under any pretext or by any route of travel. There were obstacles in the way of the passage of the original Chinese Exclusion act, but ever since its adoption there has been an overwhelming public sentiment in favor of its rigorous enforcement. The Chinese Government approves of its enforcement. But for that law there would now have been many millions of Chinamen in this country, and they would doubtless have constituted a majority of the population of our Pacific coast. The Exclusion act expires in May next, and it is therefore imperative that it shall be renewed or else be replaced by another of similar tenor.

The State and local authorities of the Chinese-haunted regions of the far West have, in view of the expiration of the existing law, appealed to Congress for protection against the influx of Chinamen from Canada. It is declared in one memorial to Congress that several thousands of them have crossed the Canadian line during the past year and entered Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and the Dakotas. Two months ago Gov. Toole of Montana sent a formal complaint to Secretary Foster of the Treasury Department that the Government had failed to protect his State against the systematic smuggling of Chinamen into it from Canada. Since that time several hundred of the Chinese traders have been captured upon our northern frontier, at places as far east as the State of New York and as far west as the State of Washington. There is a steady immigration of Chinamen to British Columbia, most of whom get into the United States by way of an "underground railroad" resembling that which used to be of service to fugitive slaves in the years before the war.

The adoption by Congress of any one of the anti-Chinese bills now before it that provide for the new method of registration would very surely be effective in preventing the further immigration of Chinamen to the United States and in putting an end to that "cheap Chinese labor" which has long been dreaded by our Caucasian toilers.

Named for Judges by the President.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—The President to-day sent the following nominations to the Senate:

Walter H. Sanborn of Minnesota to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

Joseph Buffington of Pennsylvania to be United States District Judge of the western district of Pennsylvania.

John H. Purford of Oklahoma Territory to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Oklahoma.

Walter H. Sanborn is a resident of St. Paul. He is 43 years of age, and although he has never been in politics, he has always been a straight-out Republican. He has had an extensive practice before the Federal Courts, and it is said that testimony to his abilities by Federal Judges with whom he had come in contact professionally was largely instrumental in causing the President to appoint him.

FREE COINAGE OF GOLD AND SILVER.

The Bland Bill Adopted by the Committee on Coinage and Reported to the House.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—The House Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures to-day disposed of the silver question so far as the committee is concerned by voting to report favorably to the House the bill introduced by Mr. Bland of Missouri for the free coinage of gold and silver and for the issue of coin notes. The vote on the bill was 8 to 5.

As soon as the committee was called to order the consideration of the Bland bill, as previously ordered, was begun. The bill was read section by section and discussed seriatim.

Mr. Williams of Massachusetts moved an amendment increasing the amount of silver in the dollar to 533¾ grains of pure silver. Lost—yeas, 5; nays, 8.

Mr. Stone of Pennsylvania moved to insert in section 1 the following: "Provided that whenever gold and silver coins of the same denomination cease to exchange freely at face value and either metal falls below or rises above par, then the mints shall be closed to the weaker metal until parity shall have been restored." Lost by a vote of 9 to 4.

Mr. Stone moved to insert in section 1 an amendment restricting free coinage to the product of the mines of the United States. Lost—11 to 2. Mr. Stone and Mr. Johnson of North Dakota voted in its favor, and Messrs. Bland, Tracy, Williams of Illinois, Kilgore, Robertson, Pierce, Epes, Williams of Massachusetts, McKeighan, Bartine, and Taylor against it.

Mr. Bartine moved to amend section 1, increasing from $500 to $1,000 the highest denomination of notes to be issued. The amendment was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Taylor offered the following as a substitute for the bill:

That the policy of the United States to use both gold and silver as full legal tender money, and to maintain at all times the parity in the value of its coins of both metals, is hereby reaffirmed, and the President is authorized to invite the Governments of such countries as he may deem advisable to join the United States in a conference, to be held at a time and place to be agreed upon, such conference to be called with a view to securing a permanence in the relative value of gold and silver at a common coinage ratio to be mutually agreed upon through international agreements, providing for the enlarged monetary use of silver and for giving to that metal equal mintage rights with gold.

Mr. Johnson offered as a substitute for Mr. Taylor's substitute the bill introduced in the House by Mr. Bushnell of Wisconsin providing for the free coinage of silver dollars, each containing one ounce troy of pure silver. Both propositions were defeated by votes of 8 to 5.

Mr. Bartine moved that the bill as amended be reported favorably to the House. Agreed to by a vote of 8 to 5, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Bland of Missouri, Williams of Illinois, Kilgore of Texas, Robertson of Louisiana, Pierce of Tennessee, Epes of Virginia, McKeighan of Nebraska, and Bartine of Nevada.

NAYS—Messrs. Weaver of New York, Williams of Massachusetts, Taylor of Illinois, Stone of Pennsylvania, and Johnson of North Dakota.

Mr. Bland, Chairman of the committee, was instructed to report the bill favorably and draw up a report advocating its passage. The minority reserved the right to oppose the measure, and will file a report against it.

Later a resolution was introduced in the House by Chairman Bland asking that the bill be made a special order immediately after the reading of the journal on Wednesday, Feb. 17, 1892, and that it be considered from day to day until disposed of. The bill was referred to the House calendar by the Speaker.

Chairman Bland has made the following statement regarding the bill: "It contemplates the converting of all our silver money, silver certificates, and Treasury notes issued on bullion and gold certificates into coin notes redeemable in coin, thus converting our paper into bimetal paper, instead of keeping up the distinction between gold and silver in our paper issues. This conforms to the idea of coining both metals on an equality, gold and silver free. The coin notes are redeemable in coin, and, of course, in whatever coin it may be most convenient for the Government to redeem them in. The depositors of gold and silver bullion have the privilege of waiting until their bullion is coined and the coin returned to them, or they may deposit the bullion and receive notes at the coin value of the bullion deposited. The bullion then becomes the property of the Government, and is coined as fast as may be necessary for the redemption of any notes presented for redemption. It obviates the expense of coining all the bullion at the time it is deposited. The people seem to be desirous of using paper money instead of the coin itself—to prefer paper to coin—and for that reason coin notes may be issued and bullion held for coinage, to be coined only when necessary for redeeming notes. A man holding a coin note will not know whether he is getting a gold or a silver dollar if he deposits gold bullion or gold coin he gets a coin note, and if he deposits silver bullion or silver coin he gets the same kind of a coin note. It abolishes the present distinction between our coin notes.

"The bill also differs from any other bill that has been introduced, in providing that when France shall resume and maintain the free coinage of silver at her present ratio of 15½ to 1, and the President makes a proclamation to that effect, that ratio shall then become our legal ratio and our coin shall conform to it. It is claimed that France will not resume free coinage now because the difference between our ratio of 16 to 1 would cause all our silver to go to the French mint, which would be embarrassing probably to France to some extent, and very much so to ourselves. We wish to retain our silver money as well as our gold coin, hence there is a very good reason why our ratio and that of European countries should be the same. At any rate there can be no pretext on the part of France for longer refusing to coin silver free because our ratio is different from hers."

Congressman Isidor Rayner (Dem. of Maryland), speaking of the Bland bill, said that he thought if it were possible to enact this measure into law it would wreck the Democratic party. "We would," he said, "go irretrievably to pieces upon such a platform. It would not give us a single State that we could not carry without it, and it would cause us to lose every Eastern Democratic State. Of course, the people do not fully realize what this business means. Very few persons outside of those who have made a study of the subject understand the full import of this pernicious policy. Our business condition now is not bright by any means, and putting the country upon a silver basis simply means panic and bankruptcy. Fortunately this measure cannot become a law, but it is a shame that we should place ourselves in this position before the country, boldly declaring that when we get into power we propose to inflict this legislation upon the people. I cannot understand why the commercial bodies, and especially the labor organizations, do not take this matter up and give it the attention and discussion it deserves. The wage earner is more interested in it than any one else, because a depreciated currency has always meant a reduction of wages. When Mr. Bland talks about France opening her mints at a ratio of 15½ to 1, that simply means nothing. Even if France entered upon such a policy and we agreed to follow her, what would prevent us from changing our mind about it? It all comes back to the proposition that there ought to be and there will be an international conference upon the subject—an international ratio based upon compacts, and not upon legislation that can be changed and repealed. I understand that there will be a joint caucus of Democrats of the Senate and House upon this subject, and I feel confident that a plan will be determined upon that for the present at least, will put an end to this agitation and retire this embarrassing question from the next Presidential contest."

Was Trying Doors in the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Detective McPhillips of the Fifth Avenue Hotel saw a boy trying doors on the second floor yesterday morning. The lad said he was a district messenger, and that a man at Broadway and Twenty-sixth street had given him a quarter to go to the hotel and tell the laundress, Maggie Wilbur, that he wanted to see her. The detective took the boy to Twenty-sixth street and Broadway, but found no man there answering the description given by the boy. He then arrested the boy, who was taken to Jefferson Market. He said he was Solomon Forgotston, 14 years old, and lived at the Uncle Sam House, on the Bowery. He was remanded. The boy wore a district messenger's hat and a Grand Army coat. He also had on a faded blue necktie, around which he wore a ring set with a diamond. In his waistcoat pocket was a gold chain and a chatelaine watch.

Married in Court.

Ole Endressen, mate of the yacht Gloriana during her series of victories last summer, was before Judge Tighe yesterday in the Butler street court in Brooklyn, on the complaint of Inga Marie Knudsen, a pretty Norwegian girl of 561 Clinton street, who charged him with betrayal under promise of marriage. The testimony showed that they had been playmates in Norway, and lovers since their arrival in this country, eleven years ago. Miss Knudsen produced twenty or more love letters from Endressen, in which frequent reference is made to a marriage engagement. When the testimony had been submitted Endressen agreed to marry the girl at once, and the Rev. C. S. Eversen performed the ceremony. Endressen is now in charge of one of the Pennsylvania Railroad tugs.

The Nicaragua's Total Loss.

The Pacific Mail steamship Nicaragua, which ran on the rocks at Punta Remedios, in the Pacific, on Dec. 2, will be a total loss. Merritt wreckers, who arrived from Colon yesterday on the steamship Concho, report that the Nicaragua was hauled off by wrecking tugs, but had another hole stove in her hull and sank in deep water. Her cargo had been saved.

OPEN AIR RAPID TRANSIT.

AN EXPERT'S OPINION ON THE DESIRABILITY OF THE PLAN.

I.

Pleasanter, Safer, More Healthful, Cheaper to Construct, and in Every Way Wiser than the Proposed Hole in the Ground—The Sun's Plan for a Structure Above the Tunnel of the Hudson River Road.

The plan for open air rapid transit proposed in THE SUN last Sunday has achieved an immediate popularity. The underground system of the Rapid Transit Commissioners, on the other hand, meets with as general condemnation. More unanimity of approval from the citizens could not be desired for the open air plan. The design of the Rapid Transit Commissioners to foist on the city a system of rapid transit disagreeable, unhealthy, unclean, dangerous, and unnecessarily costly had aroused the indignation of property owners, but many felt themselves helpless because no other feasible plan was suggested. The plan now suggested—to tear out the top of the New York Central's tunnel and erect over it an improved elevated structure from the Harlem down to the Grand Central station, thence by viaduct across to the centre of the block between Second and Third avenues, and down to the City Hall in as straight a line as possible—was what the people had been looking for.

Few men are more competent to express an opinion on the practicability of the plan than Mr. Walter Katté, the civil engineer who constructed the Third and the Ninth avenue elevated railroads, and who is now the Chief Engineer of the New York Central. He gave his unqualified commendation of the plan last night, and he also had something to say about underground roads.

"There are objections inherent to a tunnel construction," he said. "It makes no difference where you put it or by what method you build it or how well you manage it. The objections are these: a tunnel is one of the last expedients in engineering. Rarely, indeed, will an engineer advise or consent to the building of a tunnel if there is any way out of the difficulty. The difficulty of ventilation and of lighting are two main objections. In spite of everything that has been done to improve the London underground railroads, all the authorities, I believe, concur that it is intensely disagreeable to ride in, disagreeable to work in, and is unhealthy. It is, of course, possible to partially remedy the difficulty of lighting a tunnel by the use of electricity, but not wholly. No artificial light can be like daylight. It would be extremely difficult to commit New York to any idea of an underground system of travel. But if the people ever could be satisfied with such a system the difficulties of construction are tremendous.

"In the construction of a tunnel engineers must of necessity work more or less in the dark. They never know exactly what difficulties they are going to meet with. Added to the difficulty of construction is the danger of endangering the foundation of adjacent buildings. It is pretty nearly impossible, in spite of all that has been said about shields and supports and improved methods of tunnel construction, to make a tunnel safe to adjacent buildings. Praises of these safeguards should be taken with a great deal of discount. Maybe they would keep a building from falling down, but a settlement to some extent is bound to occur. One thing I am very sure of—it is absolutely impossible to construct an underground road through Broadway as is proposed without causing serious damage. The tremendous buildings along the street make the weight of foundation immense, and any lessening of the solidity of the support of these foundations could not, or at least should not, be thought of.

"As against the uncertainty and the engineering difficulties involved in the construction of a tunnel with the viaduct principle the cost and constructive difficulties are generally in plain sight. The engineer can calculate with accuracy what he has got to meet and what it will cost him to meet it. There is no possibility of damage to buildings. Another point about underground roads is the fearful additional expense, and the difficulty of disposing of the excavated matter. Of course it has to be got rid of some how or other. First, it must be brought to the surface. This involves a number of shafts into the street, creating an intolerable nuisance on the surface. Bringing the stuff to the surface is usually done by steam, horse power creating an extremely disagreeable condition of affairs for all the people in the neighborhood while it is going on. The head houses of the aqueduct were a sample of just how bad this would be. Imagine a lot of those houses in the heart of the city. When the material gets to the surface it has to be taken somewhere. It must be carted to the river. That seems to be the only place for dumping. This carting creates an additional nuisance in the streets, many of which are so crowded now that the addition of a line of carts to the traffic would be a serious matter. This may appear trivial, but I can assure you that it is not. It has not been seriously considered, apparently, though it is one of the really great difficulties, on account of the continent disagreeable effect on citizens. Of course, to an extent, this matter would be encountered in the construction of a viaduct, but nothing like as great as compared with the tunnel.

"The plan for a new road sketched in Sunday's SUN is entirely feasible. There is nothing impracticable about it. If New York wants it, and I believe she wants something of the kind at once, there is certainly nothing in the way of her having it. The building of the road would not only satisfy the demand for rapid transit, but the tearing out of the top of the present New York Central tunnel to accommodate it would be an improvement of almost inestimable advantage to the travelling public. It would be entirely in the interest of the travelling public. There is no mechanical or engineering difficulty in the way of carrying out the plan suggested in THE SUN, and a perfectly safe and beautiful structure could be built."

"Could a structure be built that would be free from the noise now complained of on the elevated railroads?" I asked.

"One certainly could be," said Mr. Katté, "by adopting recent improvements in bridge flooring. By making a solid flooring of metal for the tracks, with metal ties embedded in sand or gravel ballast, the minimum of noise is produced. I can point to two notable examples in this city. The New York Central's bridges at 112th and 113th streets have just been rebuilt with this solid floors and the metal ties. The difference in the noise made by the train passing over them and the noise made on the solid earth is remarkable. The sound is practically dead. Standing under the bridge even little is heard until the train strikes the other side of the bridge. The company has experimented with steel ties this season at Garrison's with such gratifying results that to-day an order was placed with a steel manufacturer for a sufficient number to lay all four tracks from the Grand Central Station to the Harlem River. If you will go to Garrison's you will observe that the sound of the trains going over the tracks there is very much less than on other parts of the road. I am pretty sure that with the experience gained from the building of our present elevated structures and with the improvements I have mentioned, the noise of the new structure would be reduced to a minimum. When the Central gets its steel ties in the tunnel, the running of trains there and the running of trains on an elevated road over it would not make the noise that is now made by the Central's trains alone. Of course, there would be a little sound from the vibration, but it would amount to nothing. I don't suppose it would be possible to make the running of a train absolutely noiseless.

"The idea of the viaduct from the Central Depot to the City Hall, with storehouses under it, is exactly the right one. It is hard to tell about the cost of this structure, but it could without doubt be built in the very best manner at a cost that would insure a good profit when it was in operation. It could be built for a great deal less than a tunnel. There is hardly any comparison between the two. The viaduct is the cheapest all the time. One thing that was not mentioned in THE SUN'S sketch is the possibility of carrying the road right down into the Central Station before the curve. The depot is high enough for such a road to come into the station on the second floor. It could be done without any trouble.

"I want to say one more thing. That is regarding the flings that are made at 'railroads on stilts.' They are made with the idea of giving the impression that viaduct and elevated structures are flimsy. Of all the materials of which railroads are built, the mechanically safest by all odds is the metallic. There is no safer material than iron or steel. It combines elasticity with high-tension strength. It is cheaper and more durable than any other material."

That the people demand just this structure that was proposed in THE SUN and not the disagreeable, disgraceful underground scheme is proved by the letters that have been received commending the plan. Some of those letters will be printed from time to time in THE SUN. They show the spirit of the people and should certainly be heeded by the Rapid Transit Commissioners. Money cannot be obtained for the underground scheme, and the Commissioners have a chance now to give it up and adopt the more perfect system.

Sufferers from catarrh can find relief and a sure cure by using Piso's Remedy for Catarrh. All druggists, 50c.—Adv.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

A pure cream of tartar Baking Powder. Superior to all in leavening strength.—Latest U. S. Gov't Food Report.

SPOOKS IN MAINE.

Lumbermen Frightened Out of Their Wits by Ghostly Apparitions.

BANGOR, Feb. 10.—Either the Maine woods are full of spooks this winter or it is high time for some of the lumbermen to change their drink. More than one camp's crew has been frightened half to death by the apparition of a white buck on the tote road at midnight, while others have seen a white-robed figure perched on the shoulders of an enormous moose, just before the camp door. The men employed by F. C. Robinson, in the depth of the Aroostook forest, declare that a genuine ghost, dressed in pearl gray, wanders through that region. Some say that it is the spirit of a hunter who was killed by a companion many years ago, while others believe that it is the ghost of a woodsman who was crushed to death by a falling pine and whose grave may be seen on the bank of the Aroostook. Between the pearl gray ghost, the Indian devils, and the whiskey smuggled over from New Brunswick there are lively times in the Aroostook camps.

Elliot Clark of Prospect witnessed a sight one night last week which caused his cheek to pale and his hair to rise. He was cutting cordwood on the steep banks of Half Moon stream, a small tributary of the lower Penobscot, and he worked in close proximity to the village burying ground. The weather was very cold on Saturday when Clark reached Searsport with a load of wood, and he thought that it would be a good scheme to buy a gallon of rum for use in case of a sudden attack of the grip. On the way home he sampled the rum. It was very good, for Searsport rum, and he took a few more nips. It was past 8 o'clock in the evening when he reached the scene of his chopping, the moon had not risen and the woods were white and ghostly in their mantle of snow. He was about to turn off into the road that leads to his home when he heard a scurrying noise on the snowy hilltop of the cemetery. Looking up he beheld a long, black form dart out from among the trees and slide at terrific speed down the steep incline into Half Moon stream. The first object was followed soon by several others, all sliding at express speed where it would be death for any human being to go. Clark gaped in terror at the spectacle and then started for home. He related a horrible tale of the dead rising from their graves and starting on a toboggan slide in their coffins down the steep bluff into Half Moon stream. He described the scene so graphically that his son, Ernest, took his rifle and started out to see what had stirred up the cemetery. When he returned, two hours later, he brought the pelts of four big others, the largest more than six feet in length, and remarked that the toboggan sliding of the dead villagers was a spiritual mirage produced by his father's visit to Searsport.

The spooks of the West Branch are quite active and chipper this season, particularly the one with the bloody axe and the one that drives an impossible load of logs behind six white horses. There are lumbermen who have always been afraid to cross Moosehead Lake at night, and since the recent fatalities there the passage of the great ice road is more than ever a grewsome journey.

They Won't Exhibit at the World's Fair.

CHICAGO, Feb. 10.—After spending eight weeks in a thus far practically useless effort to make arrangements for an exhibit at the World's Fair, representatives of the electrical firm of Siemens & Halske of Berlin are about ready to return home and abandon the idea of making a large exhibit. Eight weeks ago Herr Carl Vogel, the managing director of the firm, arrived in Chicago and began making applications for space for the proposed exhibit. He spent a month without accomplishing much of anything, and then cabled the firm for instructions. In response Arnold von Siemens, the president of the company, started for Chicago. Mr. Siemens brought with him the construction engineer of the firm, Herr Henschell; Herr Scharrin, the architect; Dr. E. Berliner, the electrical engineer, and Alexander von Babo, the American representative of the firm at New York. For three weeks the party has been at the Auditorium Hotel endeavoring to make satisfactory arrangements. The firm desired to put in an exhibit, the estimated cost of which would be $280,000. Owing, however, to the regulations preventing a united display of electrical apparatus, the firm has been unable to conclude negotiations.

The Gold Balance in the Treasury Decreasing.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Secretary Foster issued an order to-day directing that no exchange be furnished to banks by sub-treasuries or by the Treasury Department on New York unless the banks deposited gold to the amount of exchange asked for. In this city the order became known early in the day, drafts or exchange being refused several banks on the Sub-Treasury at New York for currency, silver certificates, and Treasury notes.

The reason assigned at the Treasury Department for the order is that the gold balance in the Treasury is gradually but continually decreasing. On Jan. 1, 1892, it was $130,000,000, and to-day it was $119,878,280, a decrease in the past six weeks of more than $10,000,000.

Nine Lawyers and a Contested Will.

ROCHESTER, Feb. 10.—William A. Kellogg, a wealthy resident of this city, died recently, leaving an estate valued at $250,000. He left his property to his widow, many relatives, and several charitable and religious institutions, discriminating against a near relative and namesake, W. A. Kellogg. This relative has contested the probate of the will, on the ground of undue influence on the part of the wife. The parties defending the will, besides the widow, are his brothers and eight minor heirs at law of the deceased, the Board of Home and Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Charles Reed, Mary L. Kellogg, the American Sunday School Union, and the Rochester Orphan Asylum. There are nine eminent lawyers engaged in the case, which promises to be a long one.

Fond of His Stepdaughter and Shot Her Mother.

MOOSUP, Conn., Feb. 10.—Louis Eno, a middle-aged man of French-Canadian parentage, a few years ago married a widow and settled in this place. His wife for some time has been jealous of the affection between her husband and her daughter by her first marriage, and every time Eno became intoxicated he would torment his wife by showing this attachment. Yesterday he went to Aldrich's cotton mill, where the wife and daughter worked, and called the girl out. Her mother objected, whereupon Eno pulled a revolver and shot her twice. One shot struck her in the head, and the other entered the foot. The woman still lives, but her death is hourly expected. Eno fled, but was arrested.

Col. William G. Rice Married.

ALBANY, Feb. 10.—Col. William G. Rice, for some time private secretary of Gov. David B. Hill, was married to-day at noon to Miss Harriet Langdon Pruyn, daughter of the late Hon. John V. L. Pruyn, Chancellor of the University of the State. The wedding was one of the most fashionable of the season. Bishop William Croswell Doane pronounced the benediction. The newly married couple sail for Europe to-morrow. Among those present at the wedding were Gov. and Mrs. Flower, Daniel Lamont, and many of the most prominent society people of New York, Philadelphia, Newark, Utica, Boston, New Haven, Poughkeepsie, Chicago, Ottawa, Ill., Ottawa, Canada, Buffalo, Detroit, and many places in this State.

The Steamship Hutchinson Aground.

HAVANA, Feb. 10.—The American steamship Hutchinson, from New Orleans, ran aground in a heavy fog to-day about a mile from the entrance to Havana Harbor. Lighters were promptly despatched to the scene. The passengers were landed, while the goods are being removed.

A Harrison Endorsement From Texas.

WACO, Tex., Feb. 10.—Austin has been selected by the Republican State Committee for the next State Convention. March 8 is the date fixed. A resolution endorsing the Harrison administration was adopted.

SAFETY FROM FIRE.

No one need fear fire if they possess a Safety Fire Escape, circular of which can be obtained at the office. 5 South William st.

A JOURNEY INTO SPACE.

Viewing Eclipses of the Sun and Moon as Realistically Presented in "Urania."

There was education and amusement both for the audience at Music Hall last night, when the first of a series of illustrated astronomical lectures on an entirely novel plan was delivered. The novelty wasn't in the lecture so much as in the method of illustrating it, and in this the interest of the evening was centred. In the scientific theatre, as the representation was styled, the spectators saw a realistic display of lunar and solar eclipses from the standpoint of observers on the earth, then on the moon, and again from space.

This is the first time that the effort has been made in this country to depict these astronomical phenomena by scenic and mechanical means. Similar representations have been given in Berlin by the Urania Society, which was organized for the purpose of spreading astronomical knowledge among the people. Andrew Carnegie is responsible for the reproduction of this unique form of entertainment in America, and he has imported all the necessary theatrical properties from Berlin to establish the enterprise here on a similar basis.

A drawback to the proper en