THE FIFTY-SECOND CONGRESS

A LONG STEP TOWARD FINISHING THE WORK OF THE SESSION.

The Sundry Civil Bill, with the Senate Amendments, Sent to a Conference—The Indian Appropriation Passed in the House and the Pension Bill in the Senate—The Car Coupler Bill Passed in the House Under Suspension of the Rules.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Both Houses did a good day's work and took a long step in the direction of winding up the business, so as to lessen the danger of an extra session. Few members of the House anticipated the smooth sailing that was met to-day, and when the Senate amendments to the Sundry Civil bill were disagreed to informally and sent to conference there was a sigh of relief all over the House. It was anticipated that there would be a stubborn fight on the Sherman bond amendment, and the fact that it was disposed of so expeditiously was a matter for general congratulation. Under a suspension of the rules the House also passed the Indian Appropriation bill and removed that prolific subject of debate from the calendar. One of the surprises of the day was the ability of the friends of the Car Coupler bill to secure, under a suspension of the rules, an agreement to the Senate amendments, and as soon as the bill is signed by the President it will be a law. The conference report on the Military Academy bill was also agreed to, and, inasmuch as the report was also agreed to in the Senate, that measure is out of the way.

In the Senate equally as expeditious work was accomplished. The Pension bill, involving an expenditure of about $167,000,000, was passed without much debate, the committee having reported the House bill without amendment. A conference was ordered on the Sundry Civil bill, and the Agricultural bill was reported. To-morrow the Post Office bill will be reached, and the committee will at once prepare and report the Indian bill, which has just passed the House. From this time on night sessions will be the order until the close of the Congress.

Proceedings in the Senate.

Mr. Squire (Rep., Wash.) presented to the Senate to-day a memorial from the Chamber of Commerce at Fort Townsend, setting forth the defenceless condition of the sea coast of the State of Washington, from the Columbia River to British Columbia, and urging that steps be taken by Congress to fortify that part of the coast.

A resolution was offered by Mr. Quay (Rep., Pa.) calling on the Secretary of War for copies of all papers and documents relating to proposals for the improvement of Philadelphia harbor, and directing him to suspend action thereon until they have been received and considered by the Senate.

The Pension Appropriation bill was then taken up, and Mr. Gorman (Dem., Md.) called attention to the fact that a bill appropriating $169,000,000 was being run through the Senate with very few Senators present.

Acting on that hint a call of the Senate was ordered at the suggestion of Mr. Chandler (Rep., N. H.), and 67 Senators responded.

Mr. Gorman then resumed the floor. He read from the report of the Commissioner of Pensions, showing that on the 1st of June last there were 876,000 pensioners borne on the rolls. It was perfectly safe to say, and the country ought to know the fact, that the estimates of the Commissioner were a mere guess as to the number of pensioners that would be added to the list this year, and it was beyond question that there would be at the of the fiscal year a deficiency of from five to twenty million dollars. The estimate of the Commissioner was that, the passage of pension bills went on as rapidly as it had been going, the pension $166,000,000 to $180,000,000, and that before June 30, 1894, there would be 1,200,000 pensioners borne on the rolls. As to the reduction of pension expenditures by a change of law, that, Mr. Gorman said, was a great question which he did not care to enter into now. It might come hereafter. He suggested that there should by a provision for the employment of skilled actuaries in the Pension Office.

Mr. McPherson (Rep., N. J.) asked when better time was there than the present to start in that matter.

Mr. Gorman said he could not fail to take notice of the fact that there had been an overwhelming vote in the House against any change in the pension laws. The fact was had been stated last week by the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Palmer) that there had been a rivalry between the two great political parties to see how far they could go in the matter of pension legislation. All that he (Mr. Gorman) desired to do was to call the attention of the Senate and the people to the fact that, with the present condition of the pension laws, Congress would be powerless at the next session, as it was at this, to reduce pension appropriations to any extent. When Mr. Gallinger was taken up by the pension committee, and until legislation was had for reduction of pensions.

Mr. Platt (Rep., Conn.) expressed the opinion that the elimination of fraudulent pensioners would amount to a very slight saving—not enough to pay the expense of examination—and that the only way in which any important reduction could be made would be the repeal or modification of the pension laws themselves; but he did not suppose that there would be such repeal or modification.

Mr. Allison (Rep., Iowa) expressed similar views, and then the bill was passed without amendment.

The conference report on the Military Academy bill was presented and agreed to.

A conference was ordered on the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill, and Messrs. Allison, Hale, and Gorman were appointed conferrees on the part of the Senate.

The Senate then resumed consideration of the House bill regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors in the District of Columbia. Several amendments having been off-red by Mr. Gallinger (Rep., N. H.) and voted down, a remark was made by Mr. Harris (Dem., Tenn.) that the Senator from New Hampshire should not annoy the Senate by offering amendments which should have been presented to the Committee on the District of Columbia, of which the Senator was a member. When Mr. Gallinger explained that he was not in the city when the committee was considering the bill he was told by Mr. Harris that he ought to have been where his official duties required him to be.

"I did not think," Mr. Gallinger retorted, "that any Senator would talk such nonsense."

"It may be nonsense to a mind like the Senator's," said Mr. Harris, "but it is the logic of facts and of duty."

"Well, its nonsense," Mr. Gallinger repeated, scornfully, and then the Senator went on and voted down another of his amendments.

The bill was still under discussion when, at 4 P. M., on motion of Mr. Faulkner (Dem., W. Va.), business was suspended in order that fitting tributes might be paid to the memory of his late colleague, Senator John E. Kenna, who died here last January. Mr. Faulkner offered the usual resolutions of sorrow and condolence, and then delivered a eulogy on the dead Senator. He was followed by Messrs. Gorman, Blackburn, Cullom, Gray, Vest, Stewart, Dubois, Hawley, and by Mr. Kenna's successor in the Senate, Mr. Camden. The resolutions were unanimously adopted, and the Senate adjourned till to-morrow at 11 A. M.

House of Representatives.

There was a good deal of interest manifested when the House this morning entered upon the last legislative week of the Fifty-second Congress. Many important measures were yet awaiting action. A demand for the "regular order," made by Mr. Simpson (Pop., Kan.) blasted the hopes of a number of members, who were congregated in the area in front of the Speaker's desk, each waving a bill which he desired to have passed.

Mr. Peel (Dem., Ark.) first caught the Speaker's eye, and he moved to suspend the rules and pass the Indian Appropriation bill. Although more than two-thirds of the bill had already been considered and agreed to in Committee of the Whole, and although Mr. Peel requested that the reading of that portion be dispensed with, Mr. Kilgore (Dem., Tex.) objected, and the Clerk proceeded to read the bill in extenso.

The reading, having been concluded, Mr. Taylor (Rep., Ill.) demanded a second, which was considered as ordered. He did so in order to obtain an opportunity to make some brief remarks in opposition to the Anti-Option bill. He said that the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. Hatch) had criticised other gentlemen because they would not take up a revenue bill, which he himself admitted would not put a dollar into the Treasury. That bill was known as the Anti-Option bill. It should rightfully be called a bill to limit the markets of the farmers of the country—a bill being pressed on the House by the greatest combination of millers ever formed in the world to limit markets. It would be a reflection on the intelligence of the gentleman from Missouri to say that he was not aware of that.

Mr. Coombs (Dem., N. Y.) sent to the Clerk's desk and had read a newspaper dispatch from Mankato, Minn., declaring that a combination of millers existed in favor of the Anti-Option bill. He then called attention to the fact that the gentleman who was pushing the measure in the Senate was one of the most important millers in the United States.

Mr. Hatch said that he was glad that the remarks he had made upon the Anti-Option bill had reached home. He was glad that the gentleman from Illinois, who represented in part the city of Chicago, in which the greatest grain market was located, should have an opportunity of showing the House how little he knew of his (Hatch's) position on the Anti-Option bill or of the Anti-Option bill itself. The gentleman said that he (Hatch) had admitted that not a dollar of revenue would be raised. He had never made such an admission, directly or indirectly. Nothing he had ever said would justify such a statement. The gentleman had made one correct statement. He had said that this bill would limit sales. Yes, it would; not sales of wheat, but sales of wind. It would limit the sales of dealers in Chicago, who, for every bushel of wheat raised in a year, sold 1,000 bushels of wind in a month. Congress was met with the statement that the great trouble with farmers was overproduction. There was overproduction of nearly everything produced by the farmer, but it was an overproduction by dealers in the cities and not by the farmers. He denied that there was any combination of millers in favor of the bill.

The Indian bill was then passed.

Mr. Holman (Dem., Ind.) moved to suspend the rules and non-concur in the Senate amendments to the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill, including the Sherman bond amendment.

Mr. Cockran (Dem., N. Y.) opposed the motion. He said that there was a question of great magnitude involved in it, and the House ought to have an opportunity to fully and fairly discuss the Sherman amendment. As he understood the proposition now presented, it was that all the Senate amendments were to be non-concurred in and then sent to conference, to be settled in a back room without full debate or discussion. He believed the action of the House in refusing to repeal the Sherman Silver bill made it an absolute necessity that the Treasury be equipped with the power to have good money in order to keep the poor money in circulation. The time must come when the Treasury officers must be equipped with the right to obtain gold. He thought that the whole policy of the Treasury should be earnestly discussed by the House before a conference committee should dispose of the question in the retirement of a private room. He trusted that the bill would not be sent to conference with a formal non-concurrence before members of the House had an opportunity to exchange views.

Mr. Bland (Dem., Mo.) said that the amendment put on by the Senate was an insult to the House, and if members had the spirit and independence possessed by their forefathers they would not consider it for a moment. It was a revenue bill, and should not originate in the Senate. He was in favor of sending the Sherman amendment to conference, with the understanding that it would not come back from the committee.

Mr. Cockran said that as between the Bland law, which the country had escaped, and the Sherman law, under which it was suffering, the Sherman law was the better of the two. But the latter was a barrier to every prospect of bimetalism. Instead of appreciating the price of silver, it had depreciated it; and yet those who claimed to be the friends of silver had defeated every attempt to repeal that law. The operation of the pending Sherman amendment would be simply this, that the Government would have the means of buying sufficient gold to maintain popular confidence in its promises to pay. He believed that the Government had that authority now, but the authority had been questioned. This amendment would take the authority out of the bounds of discussion or question.

The motion to suspend the rules was then agreed to, 20[illegible] to 14, and Messrs. Holman, Sayers, and Coggswell were appointed conferrees.

Mr. Wise (Dem., Va.) moved to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendments to the Car Coupler bill. Mr. Richardson (Dem., Tenn.) made some filibustering motions, and for some moments there was great confusion and noise in the House, which compelled the Speaker to say in tones of stern reproof:

"Gentlemen must understand that this is the House of Representatives and not a bear garden." (Applause.)

Mr. Aldrich (Dem., Ala.) denounced the bill as centralization gone to seed.

Mr. O'Neill (Dem., Mo.) said that the object of the bill was to save life on land. There was nothing oppressive or unconstitutional about it, and its passage had been asked for by the switchmen of the country.

Mr. Coombs (Dem., N. Y.) opposed the bill on constitutional grounds, characterizing it as imperialism run mad.

The motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment was agreed to—yeas 193, nays 95—amid applause from the friends of the measure.

On motion of Mr. Wheeler (Dem., Ala.) the conference report on the Military Academy bill was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Springer (Dem., Ill.), a bill was passed continuing for one year the present tariff on fine linen goods of not less than 100 threads to the square inch.

Mr. Breckenridge (Dem., Ark.) moved to suspend the rules and pass a bill for the relief of William W. Burns. Burns is one of the assignees of the interests of H. H. Sibley, the inventor of the Sibley tent. The Sibley bill is one which has consumed the time of almost every private bill day this session. No quorum voting, the House at 4:35 adjourned.

Mr. Swope (Dem., Ky.) introduced (by request) a bill appropriating $250,000 to promote the complete exploration of the polar regions. The explorations are to be made by officers of the army and navy under direction of the President.

Mr. Johnson (Dem., O.) introduced a bill to reduce the interest upon the public debt, to provide for a flexible currency, and to stop the purchase of silver. It proposes a series of interconvertible bonds bearing interest of 2½ per cent., payable in 1907. They are to be issued upon the surrender of any unmatured bonds or interest-bearing obligations. The interconvertible bonds, when surrendered, are to be paid for in Treasure notes of the character of those now issued under the Sherman act, which act is repealed.

GEN. SWAIM'S CASE DECIDED.

His Claim for Pay of Which He Was Deprived By a Court Martial Rejected.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The Court of Claims to-day rendered a decision in the case of D. G. Swaim, Judge Advocate-General of the Army, against the United States for the recovery of half of his pay for the period of twelve years, adverse to Gen. Swaim. The case has been pending in the Court of Claims for the past two or three years.

In 1884 the firm of Bateman & Co., private bankers in Washington, sent a communication to Secretary Lincoln, charging the Judge Advocate-General of the Army with having defrauded them, and they at the same time published their charges in the newspapers. Secretary Lincoln referred the communication to the Judge Advocate-General, and, his explanation not being satisfactory, brought the matter to the attention of President Arthur. The President ordered it to be investigated by a court of inquiry, and subsequently, on the report of the court, ordered the arrest of Gen. Swaim and his trial by court martial. Gen. Schofield was President of the court, and the charge preferred was conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

After a protracted trial the court martial found that Gen. Swaim had not been guilty of fraud, and acquitted him on the charge of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, but at the same time found that he had been guilty of the lesser offence of conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline, and sentenced him "to be suspended from rank, duty, and pay for the period of three years." This sentence Attorney-General Brewster deemed incommensurate with the facts found by the court martial, and by his advice the President disapproved the sentence and ordered the court to reconsider the case. A second sentence was accordingly pronounced by the court martial, a more severe one, that Gen. Swaim be suspended for a year with forfeiture of all pay, and then be reduced to a Judge Advocate with the rank of Major. This sentence the President also disapproved, because it was one which could not be carried into effect without the cooperation of the Senate, the President holding that it would be time enough for Gen. Swaim from one office and his appointment to another. The court martial was therefore required to consider the case a third time, and finally impose a sentence which received the approval of the President, that Gen. Swaim be suspended for twelve years and forfeit half of his pay.

It was to recover this pay that Gen. Swaim instituted suit in the Court of Claims. On the trial he attacked the legality of the proceedings against himself, alleging a number of reasons for which the sentence should be disregarded by a civil court, but the court now decides that only three questions were involved in the case, viz.: Was the court martial legally constituted? Did it have jurisdiction of the case? and was the sentence duly approved and authorized by law? The third question was the only one as to which the court entertained a doubt; whether the action of the President was not an interference with the legal discretion of the court martial, and on this question the court held that it was determined by the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in ex parte Reed, 100 United States reports, and dismissed the petition of Gen. Swaim.

Speaker Davis Will Fight.

NASHVILLE, Feb. 27.—Ralph Davis, Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives, who has been disbarred by a decision of Judge Esten of the Shelby county Circuit Court, announces that he will not resign his post as Speaker, but will fight the case to the end. He appealed the case to the Supreme Court. The Legislature meets again on March 8, and unless Davis reconsiders his determination not to resign impeachment proceedings will be commenced.

LIVE WASHINGTON TOPICS.

THE SHERMAN BOND AMENDMENT LIKELY TO BE STRUCK OUT.

Word Has Been Received that Mr. Cleveland Prefers that It Should Fail Rather Than Risk the Defeat of the Sundry Civil Bill, Which Would Necessitate an Extra Session—A South Carolina Candidate for Secretary of the Senate—Republican Office-holders Preparing for the Change.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The first conference on the Sundry Civil bill will be held to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock. Mr. Sayres, Democratic member of the House conferrees, predicted to-night that the Sherman proposition to issue three per cent. bonds, as provided in the Senate amendment to the bill, would be stricken out. Although not stating his reasons, Mr. Sayres intimated that "instructions" had been received, and whatever was done would meet with the approval of the incoming Administration. A member of Congress said this evening that Mr. Cleveland, through Mr. Carlisle, the new Secretary of the Treasury, had signified his willingness to let the amendment go by the board rather than cause the defeat of the whole bill, and this probably accounts for the general belief that the bond amendment will be eliminated.

During the proceedings of the Senate to-day it was observed that Vice-President Morton used several different gavels. The old, broken gavel, which has done service in the Senate for so many years, was temporarily laid aside, and such "order-preserving instruments" as have been presented to Mr. Morton during his term of office were brought into use. One of them was a highly polished piece of ash, which resembled a bung starter. After using this for a few hours the Vice-President put it away in his drawer and took out another gavel. The mallet was mahogany, and the sides of silver, which resembled the cylinders of a seven-chamber revolver, or it might have been intended as a miniature dome of the Capitol. Vice-President Morton, in referring to the use of these gavels, said that they were presented to him on various occasions, and up to the present time he had never used them. His object was to initiate them in due form, so that when they are left to his children as historical souvenirs it can be truthfully said that they were used while their father presided over the United States Senate.

The conferrees on the Diplomatic and Consular Appropriation bill reached an agreement on the points of contention in that measure to-day and the report was adopted by the Senate. The bill, as agreed upon, contains a Senate provision, which confers the same designation on a United States representative to a foreign country as that given the representative of that country in the United States; also the clause which provides that of the sums contributed by several American republics for the prompt collection and distribution of commercial information there shall be covered into the Treasury the amount necessary to reimburse the United States for the sum advanced beyond its contributive share for the maintenance of the Bureau of American republics. The Senate amendment to carry into effect the convention between the United States and Chili for the settlement of claims between the two countries was also agreed to. The appropriation for consuls officers in the first class was increased from $372,100 to $395,000. The House receded from a majority of its disagreements in regard to the classification of certain consular offices.

The House Committee on Agriculture was in session this morning considering the course that should be taken with reference to the Anti-Option bill. The majority of the committee was as interested as ever to persist to the last in the fight for the bill. Chairman Hatch will endeavor to get further opportunities to renew his tactics of last week, when he unsuccessfully opposed the appropriation bills with the view to forcing into consideration of the Whole on the Anti-Option bill. This motion is not in order until after the morning hour, and the action to-day of the House in proceeding at once to the consideration of the Indian Appropriation bill under suspension of the rules was fatal to the success of Mr. Hatch's his customary motion. If he is unsuccessful in his efforts to get into Committee of the Whole on the Anti-Option bill, as a last resort he will try to pass the bill under a suspension of the rules. He will be recognized for this purpose.

At the request of the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. J. C. Courts, clerk of the House Committee on Appropriations, laid before the committee a statement of the appropriations, exclusive of miscellaneous matters, made by the House at this session. It shows an aggregate of $514,739,085, and this amount has been increased to $519,273,447 by the changes made in bills by the Senate. A comparison between appropriations and estimates for the past five years shows that, contrary to what has been the generally accepted opinion, the appropriations have exceeded the estimates, averaging $25,000,000 per annum. The reason for this is found in the fact that appropriations have been made for Indians and for rivers and harbors which were not included in the estimates. By an amendment to the Sundry Civil bill it is provided that in the future work on harbor work must be regularly estimated for.

Senator Colquitt of Georgia made his appearance at the Capitol to-day for the first time during the present session. The Senator had been lingering at death's door for a long time, and many of his friends had despaired of ever seeing him at the Capitol again. He was brought to the Senate in an invalid's chair, and two stalwart messengers carried him into the Senate cloak room, where he was placed in an easy chair before a cheerful fire which burned in the grate. Many Senators, Republicans and Democrats, called upon him and gave him a cordial welcome back to the Senate. Mr. Colquitt and Senator Hill had a long friendly chat on the subject of past political events. Senator Colquitt looks quite feeble, and his voice has lost much of the volume which made him such an interesting talker, either in the Senate or on the temperance platform. He did not enter the Senate chamber, but remained in the cloak room during his visit. He hopes to be able to be present during the remainder of the session. The desk which he now occupies is that at which ex-Senator Oliver P. Morton sat when he, too, was a victim of paralysis and unable to walk.

The Whiskey Trust Investigation closed today. James M. Veazey was recalled and concluded his testimony. He reviewed the testimony taken by the committee, and said that there being no internal tax on spirituous liquors produced in this country which are in any way improved by any change or alteration, permits by the Government to make such change should not be issued. Let fruit brandies be made in their respective districts from fruit, corn from corn, rye and Bourbon whiskies from such grain as compose them. Amend the internal revenue laws so as to abolish the issue of rectifiers' licenses to liquor dealers. Make it a felony to use oils or essences or colorings in adulterating or changing products, vinous, malt, or spirituous liquors produced in this country. Alcohol is a really useful product, finding its market almost exclusively in the arts and sciences. A bonded period is of no importance to producers of it. Many fine whiskies, owing to the location in which they are made, the manner in which they are warehoused, the method of distillation, and the quantity of the product, require five years to ripen and become fit for use. At present, under the bonded period law, whiskey is required to be withdrawn from bond and the tax paid at the expiration of three years. Such of these goods as are not fit for use are exported, stored in foreign countries, and returned here when our markets will receive them. This practice seems unwarranted, unfair, and unjust. Let the bonded period be made five years instead of three.

Lieut.-Gov. W. L. Mauldin of South Carolina is in Washington to attend the inauguration and also to agitate the question of his election as Secretary of the Senate. It is understood that Senator Butler and several of his friends will present the name of Mr. Mauldin to the Democratic caucus. During the past two or three days he has visited the Capitol, been introduced to many of the Democratic Senators and members, and has made a very favorable impression upon them. It is said that some of the Republican Senators will endeavor to prevent or postpone the reorganization of the Senate until next winter, thereby retaining the present officers until the regular session of the Senate begins. Efforts in this direction will not avail, for a leading Democratic senator said to-day that it is the intention of his party to have a thorough reorganization of the Senate in the early stage of the coming extraordinary session.

Wm. P. Campbell, the Assistant General Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service, has tendered his resignation, to take effect to-morrow. Mr. Campbell has been connected with the railway mail service over twenty-five years, and he resigns to accept a more advantageous position in Chicago.

L. C. Farrell of Illinois, Chief of Division in the First Comptroller's Office, Treasury Department, has resigned in anticipation of the incoming Administration.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Soley has been taken into Secretary Tracy's law firm and will begin the practice of law soon after he relinquishes his present duties on March 4. Mr. Soley graduated at a law school here some years ago, but has never practiced before the courts. He is well versed in international and maritime law, and it is said that he will make these branches a specialty. At his commencement exercises he carried off all the honors and received a handsome money prize for the best essay on a legal topic.

The nomination of Benton Hanchett of Michigan to be Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, vice Judge Jackson, promoted to the Supreme bench, is not apt to be confirmed, as the Democratic members of the Judiciary Committee, assisted by the lukewarmness of some of the Republicans, can easily prevent a vote for the few remaining days of the session, and they mean to do it. The Michigan Senators are indignant at President Harrison for ignoring their endorsements of a Michigan candidate and appointing a man from that State who had not been thought of. Senator Stockbridge, moreover, takes no pains to conceal his anger. On Friday afternoon, just after the nomination of Mr. Hanchett was sent to the Senate, a delegation of Michigan citizens, including the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of Detroit, who happened to be in Washington, called on Senator Stockbridge and incidentally asked him what he thought of Harrison for making the nomination. "I think he is a d—ed hog," the Michigan Senator is reported to have said. Mr. Stockbridge had formerly been on good terms with the President, but when he spoke so contemptuously he probably had in mind the fact that in his recent fight for reelection Mr. Hanchett was one of his enemies. It is understood that Judge Taft of the Court of Appeals first called the President's attention to the abilities of Mr. Hanchett.

A large delegation of New Yorkers arrived here to-night to attend the inauguration. Conspicuous among these, who have apartments at the Arlington, are Mayor Gilroy, with his wife and family; Joseph P. O'Donoghue and family, Cornelius N. Bliss, and Gen. A. S. Catlin of Brooklyn. Mayor Gilroy and family have one of the handsomest suite of apartments in the hotel, which were reserved for them several months ago. The proprietor of the Arlington says there is no foundation for the story that ex-Secretary Fairchild engaged apartments at that hotel for the inauguration and subsequently relinquished them.

Assistant Secretary Bussey of the Interior Department is said to have entered into a partnership with Corporal Tanner in his pension business, with offices in this city, where Tanner is rapidly accumulating a fortune.

Two more powers have accepted the invitation to the naval review and have promised to send some of their best ships. Russia sent her acceptance to-day through her naval attaché, and said she would have three big ships in line under command of a Vice-Admiral. Italy also accepted and promises to have a like number in charge of a Rear Admiral. Germany and Austria yet remain to be heard from.

Capt. George W. Sumner, equipment officer of the New York Navy Yard, has been selected by Secretary Tracy as the first commander of the new triple-screw cruiser Columbia, building at the Cramps. Capt. Sumner's orders will be issued before the close of the week, and he will be relieved from his present duties by Commander Shepard, now on lighthouse duty.

FIREMEN IN DANGER.

Falling Walls Make It Unpleasant for Chief Bonner and His Men.

Fire Chief Bonner has had many narrow escapes at fires, but he was willing to admit yesterday morning, after a hard tussle with a fire in the ship joiner's shop of William Rowland, that his latest experience was about the closest. The shop was in the building 811-817 East Ninth street, fronting 100 feet on the street and running 75 feet to the rear. It was an old and solidly built structure, with thick walls and immense beams. Rowland occupied three floors, and Horn & Fanshaw, makers of wooden bungs, had the top floor.

Rowland does some fine cabinet work for yachts and steamers, and this is his busy season. He had stored in his shop all the joiner work for the new sister steamship of the Puritan and a model of the steamboat that was to be sent to the World's Fair. Edward Morton, the night watchman, ran across the fire at 3:45 o'clock yesterday morning. A great pile of waste chips was blazing away. He tried the fire extinguisher to no purpose and rang an alarm. Battalion Chief Brennan sent in a second alarm when he got there, and a third alarm brought Chief Bonner and the reserve. The big veneer factory of Undergrove Bros. was only thirty feet away from the blazing building, which had become a huge furnace. A yard filled with stacks of lumber separated the two. The firemen fought the flames from the lumber stacks and confined the fire to the joiner shop.

It was after the floors had fallen through and filled up the lower part of the building with a mass of red hot bricks and lumber, that the front wall fell. The crews of Engine companies 5 and 28 were playing on the mass from the street and Chief Bonner was directing their work. The heavy wall came down unexpectedly and there was a rush for life. The firemen ran through a shower of debris, and Chief Bonner was struck by a flying brick, which did no harm, however. When the crash was over, Foreman John J. Strettle of Engine 5 was found lying just at the outer edge of the debris. He was dragged out and found to be all right, except for a slight laceration of the right leg. Charles E. Toup of Engine 28 was knocked flat by the mass and injured internally.

The building was completely wrecked. The loss was $95,000.

WILL OF EDWARD H. M. JUST.

Bequests to Relatives and Employees—His Property Said to Amount to $2,000,000.

The will of Edward H. M. Just, the real estate dealer who shot himself on Feb. 3 at his office at 2,534 Eighth avenue, was filed yesterday. His counsel say he left about $2,000,000, but the usual affidavit has not yet been filed. Mr. Just was a batchelor.

He names his brother, John Just of Halle, Germany, and his clerk, William Hoegg, executors. He makes these bequests: German Hospital, $10,000; Patrick Murphy, an employee, $1,000; William Hoegg, the house 209 West 132d street; Christian Schmitt, 211 West 132d street; Anna Kühne of Dresden, his sister-in-law, 213 West 132d street; Fritz Just, brother-in-law, 215 West 132d street; Herman Just of Berlin, brother-in-law, 217 West 132d street; Carl Just, nephew, 221 West 132d street. These are absolute gifts and must be freed from encumbrances. To Mary Costello he gives 242 West 127th street for life. The residue of his estate is to be divided among his sister, Elise Baumann of Halle, and his brothers, Carl and John Just.

Patrick Murphy, Mr. Just's watchman, who was present at the shooting, celebrated his good fortune when he learned of the provision in his favor, and Lawyer Henry T. Appel, counsel for the proponents, was notified to appear at a Police Court and try to get him out.

To Secure Mrs. Ronalds's Dower.

In an action of George Lorillard Ronalds for a decree that a portion of his estate be set aside to secure the dower of $6,057.65 a year of his mother, Pauline Antoinette Ronalds and that the rest of his estate be removed from this encumbrance, Referee John L. Cadwalader has filed a report in his favor. The houses to be set apart to secure the dower are 450 Broadway and 113 Worth street. Mrs. Ronalds refused to consent to such an arrangement. Her husband received fourteen valuable pieces of down-town property as a fifth of the estate of his mother, Maria D. L. Ronalds, who died in 1847. The defendant had her dower admeasured in her husband's estate in 1866 at $6,057.65 a year, but did not ask that a portion be set apart to secure the payment. It has been a cloud on the estate.

In the Early Days

of cod-liver oil its use was limited to easing those far advanced in consumption. Science soon discovered in it the *prevention* and *cure* of consumption.

Scott's Emulsion

of cod-liver oil with Hypophosphites of lime and soda has rendered the oil more effective, easy of digestion and pleasant to the taste.

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GORHAM M'F'G CO.
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TO STOP POUND FISHING.

A Bill Advocated by Amateur and Other Line Fishermen.

A bill which is exciting considerable interest in New Jersey will come up to-day at Trenton for a public hearing before the Fisheries Committee of the Assembly. It is to prohibit the use of pound nets on the coast and it is advocated by amateur anglers and fishermen who depend upon seines, or hand-lines, for a living and also by the keepers of public resorts. On the other hand, the owners of the score of big pound nets on the coast have collected an assessment all around and will go to Trenton with about $2,500 to see what they can do to prevent the passage of the bill or modify it so that it will not injure their prospects. There are 168 men employed as owners and operators of the twenty-six pound nets on the coast and over 1,000 line fishermen oppose them, but the fishermen have no money and no organization with which to influence legislation.

Committees from Perth Amboy, Seabright, Gallilee, and Barnegat will be at Trenton this morning to plead with the Fisheries Committee for the passage of the bill. They base their appeal upon the proposition that the pound nets, while destroying the line fishing on the coast and in the estuaries, are wasteful and unprofitable. They assert that millions of pounds of fish are entrapped in the huge nets and allowed to starve to death there, and that a majority of the fish taken are unsalable for food and are made into manure at Barren Island or thrown out to float at sea or lodge upon the shore. They arraign the pound owners for catching the fish which are seeking spawning grounds and naturally following the coast line in the warm and shallow water in the spring.

They say that weakfishing has been utterly ruined by pounds within five years, and that the off-shore fishing has been so much injured that hundreds have been forced to abandon it as a means of livelihood.

The pound owners admit that they have not made any money, and say that if let alone the industry will die a natural death in a few years, but they hate to lose what they have invested. They contend that their nets catch tons of fish which cannot be profitably manufactured, but they are involved, and they hope to save something from the wreck. The pounds are owned in part by men living on the coast, but generally some big fish dealers are interested. When a search of fish dealers' business was made this winter the stockholders were in nearly every instance called upon to make good a deficiency by paying an assessment of from $200 to $300.

The bill which has been framed is a sweeping measure. It does away with the use of any fixed nets above or below the water. This will be amended to permit fishing for shad with large-meshed nets. Its intention is to kill off the pounds in the sea and the big fykes in the rivers.

TROUBLE IN A BROOKLYN CHURCH.

It Is All Over the Displacement of Dr. Susan S. McKinney.

There is a music war in the Bridge street African Methodist Church in Brooklyn. It broke out when the trustees decided to displace Dr. Susan S. McKinney from her place as director of the choir, and to employ a male chorister from this city. Mrs. McKinney has had charge of the choir for seven years, and is popular with the members of the choir as well as with the majority of the congregation, and there was decided opposition when the action of the trustees, directing her displacement on May 1, was made known.

At the services in the church on Sunday morning there were unmistakable manifestations of revolt. It was "the talk of the town," and it is said, the singers "giggled" at some remarks made by the Rev. W. H. Butler, the pastor. In the afternoon the pastor and the trustees held a council, and it was resolved that in the evening the former should announce the proposed change in the choir. The Rev. Mr. Butler made the announcement at the close of his sermon, and explained that the change was made for the purpose of improving the music. The announcement was followed by a discordant uproar from the congregation. In the midst of it Miss Frank Figgins, Mrs. Hyers, and Mrs. Amanda Jarne, the soprano, arose in the choir and declared that if Mrs. McKinney was discharged they would resign.

An exciting general discussion followed, and the scene finally became so exciting that the Rev. Dr. W. L. Hunter of North Carolina, who was in the pulpit with Pastor Butler, suddenly arose and pronounced the benediction. This, however, did not stop the angry debate, and, to prevent a possible general row among the brethren and sisters, the gas was turned off. Mrs. McKinney's partisans then held an indignation meeting on the sidewalk and resolved to stick by her, regardless of the consequences. The Bishop will now probably take a hand in the controversy.

STEALING DEAD WIRES.

A Bold Thief Stripping the Electric Light Poles.

A daring thief has been stripping the poles of the United States Electric Light and Power Company lately, and has managed to carry off between five and six thousand feet of copper wire within the last week or two. The matter was reported to Superintendent Byrnes by Manager William H. Brown of the company on Saturday. Mr. Brown complained that on Feb. 17 two copper wires underneath the elevated road on Church street, between Fulton and Cortlandt streets, and five stretching from Murray street to Park place had been stolen.

Isaac Dannenbaum, a contractor for the Department of Public Works, saw a man removing the wires, but the thief averted suspicion by saying that he was employed by the Brush Company.

Other thefts of dead wires were reported, but no one was arrested. The wire is worth 15 cents a pound.

Last of the Wall Street Bank.

Almost the final touch was given to the Wall Street Bank yesterday when Justice Beach of the Supreme Court authorized the receiver, Frederic P. Olcott, to sell some of the bank's old books for paper stock. The bank suspended payment on Aug. 11, 1884, and since that time all of the collectible assets have been collected. There are no further creditors, and all that remains are about 100 bulky volumes, which have been stored at 27 Pine street at an expense of $1000 a year. This building is to be torn down to-day, and the receiver applied for leave to sell the stuff and save further expense.

Cleaned Up the Dry Goods District.

Sunday was a busy day for Commissioner Brennan. He assembled almost his entire force of street cleaners and made a descent upon the dry goods district. Four hundred carts carried away 6,000 loads of snow, and before daylight yesterday the district was free from snow, except for scattering piles on Leonard and Worth streets. These were removed yesterday. Last night the same big force of men and carts was turned loose on Fifth avenue.

Nothing Can Be Worse

for the stomach than strong purgatives and aperients. The genuine Carlsbad Sprudel Salt is a natural, pleasant aperient, laxative and diuretic. Be sure and secure only the genuine.—*Adv.*

ORRIN S. SKINNER'S CRIMES.

SENTENCED IN SYRACUSE TO AUBURN PRISON FOR FIVE YEARS.

In 1874 He Married a Daughter of Ex-Senator Browning of Illinois and Ruined Him Financially, Reducing His Family from Luxury to Poverty—In Prisons in This Country and in England for Forgery.

SYRACUSE, Feb. 27.—Orrin A. Skinner, one of the most noted swindlers ever brought to trial in Onondaga county, was to-day sentenced to five years in Auburn prison for grand larceny. He came before the court to answer a charge of forgery, and had an ingenious scheme to get his case over the term. The District Attorney brought evidence to show that Skinner's statements were false, and the court denied his application. The entire morning was consumed in securing a jury, and this afternoon the prisoner asked the privilege of pleading to the crime of grand larceny. It was allowed, and the jury was discharged. The prosecution was prepared to prove swindles amounting to no less than $60,000 within a year.

Skinner at one time was highly esteemed in social and business circles of Chicago and Quincy, Ill. He went to Quincy in 1870, and began the practice of law. His pleasing personality and intellectual powers soon brought him the warm friendship of the best Quincy people. While in Quincy he married Miss Emma Browning, daughter of O. H. Browning, Secretary of the Interior under President Johnson and Senator from Illinois to fill the unexpired term of Stephen A. Douglas. With his beautiful wife Skinner removed to Chicago in 1874, and became a partner in the law firm of Goudy, Chandler & Skinner. He was dropped from the firm in 1879 on account of questionable financial transactions in connection with the Allied Silver Mines of Colorado, a visionary and not too reputable scheme, of which he was the chief promoter.

The furthering of the interests of the Allied Mines brought him in contact with many of the leading financiers and politicians of the country, among whom was James G. Blaine, to whom he gave a block of stock in the Allied mines for the privilege of using the Senator's name. The stock was given and sold with the understanding that if the holders were dissatisfied with the investment they could receive a percentage from a New York bank. Mr. Blaine promptly disposed of his stock under this provision and was not drawn into the litigation that followed. The company maintained offices in New York, and there Skinner spent the winter of 1880, gaining much prominence by clever financial manipulations. He was imprisoned at the Tombs by some persons whom he had swindled, but, meeting one of the Tweed "gang" imprisoned there, he persuaded him to go his bail for $3,000, promising to use his efforts in having his bondsman liber