BLAND CONCEDES A POINT.

HE WITHDRAWS THE LIMITATION OF DEBATE IN HIS SILVER BILL.

This Breaks the Deadlock and is Followed by one of the Most Exciting Debates of the Session—Pence Pays His Respects to Several of His Associates and is Called to Order for Unparliamentary Language.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—In the House to-day Mr. Bland yielded the point for which the opponents of his Seigniorage bill have been contending the past ten days, and moved to proceed to its consideration without limitation of debate. This was agreed to without objection. Before conceding the point, Mr. Bland tested the House and found himself eleven short of a quorum. He said that he should move to-morrow to close debate, and would repeat the motion every day until the House had voted on the bill. The debate, which followed, was productive of one of the most sensational scenes of the stormy session.

Mr. Pence, the young Colorado Populist, was first recognized by the Chair, and he at once secured the attention of the House by a series of sarcastic pictures of the attitude of some of the members of the Republican and Democratic parties toward the question. He said that if the scenes that had been enacted here the past ten days could have been foreseen by the voters of Colorado not a single Republican vote would have been cast in that State. The Republicans in Congress, he said, were supporters of the Democratic Administration on financial questions. The President's chief lieutenant in the other end of the Capitol was a Republican—Senator Sherman—and in the House was the eminent and able gentleman from Maine, Mr. Reed. Mr. Pence excepted from the force of his strictures Representatives Sweet, Hartman, Bowers, and Broderick, who, he said, voted their own convictions and rose superior to the dictates of leadership and the party lash. Turning to the Democrats, Mr. Pence singled out Mr. Patterson of Tennessee who, he said, last summer had turned his back upon the convictions and utterances of fifteen years and voted against the silver interest of the country. "And I have no doubt," he continued, "that he secured full and untrammelled control of the patronage of his district, if not of his State."

Mr. Patterson was just then talking with Mr. Culberson of Texas, and apparently was paying no attention to Mr. Pence, who raised his usually piercing voice to even a higher pitch as he continued:

"The gentleman from Tennessee in a gentlemanly manner declines to listen to my suggestion. I think I will get his attention in a minute or two."

At this Mr. Patterson broke off his conversation with Mr. Culberson and took a seat several feet closer to the Speaker and gave earnest hearing as Mr. Pence continued:

"And now I am informed that after his action last summer, in the Democratic caucus of the 19th inst., he suddenly appeared as the most rampant silver leader, even going so far as to propose a resolution that any Democrat who refused to vote on the pending question to make a quorum should be fined $50 for his failure. As the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. Simpson) said the other day, the vote on the pending bill is being used as a cover for the retreat from the position of last summer.

"When the gentleman returns home," continued Mr. Pence, "and stands up before his people to give an account of his new leadership on the silver question, with his eloquence and his heightened color, it will be a question whether a torchlight procession is before them, a practical fire drill, or the arrival of the aurora borealis to the State of Tennessee."

Messrs. Bynum and Cooper of Indiana and Oates of Alabama were named by Mr. Pence as among those Democrats who wanted to make a new record on the silver question, and in concluding this portion of his speech Mr. Pence said:

"One Sunday evening not long ago I attended the services at Convention Hall——"

Mr. Kilgore (Dem., Tex.)—Oh, what are you giving us?

Mr. Pence—Where I saw the gentleman from Texas. He who now asks me what I am giving the House. The text on that occasion was: 'Be not deceived. God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.' I came away from the services without any especial impression; but within the past ten days I have been impressed with the truth of a paraphrase of that text, which members of both the dominant parties might well take to heart: "Be not deceived. The people are not mocked. That which a party sows it shall also reap." I may be mistaken in this. The same chance may have come upon the people many times, especially upon the people of the South. (Republican laughter.)

The action of the Republican Representatives in failing to vote for the bill, under the leadership and at the dictation of the gentleman from Maine (Mr. Reed) was referred to at some length by Mr. Pence, who said that the minority had developed some of the most accomplished, well rounded, and slippery dodges any legislative body had ever seen. Mr. Pence said that, assuming the rôle of a prophet for the first time, he would say that the next President would be elected by the House of Representatives in the Fifty-fifth Congress, and, when that occurred, he warned the gentleman from Maine, who was now measuring up on all occasions against Major McKinley as a candidate for President in 1896, that he would then "come to the past history in this House. "When the roll is called, then," added Mr. Pence, "the vote of Colorado will count as many as the vote of New York; the vote of Montana as many as that of Pennsylvania. Why could not Mr. Reed keep his hands off of Mr. Pickler of North Dakota and Mr. Ellis of Oregon? Why was it necessary for them to wire in and wire out and to be made to appear and disappear at the command of Mr. Reed? Whatever others might do, he and those who thought with him did not intend to be quiet, either here or elsewhere, regarding the absolute and unqualified insincerity and hypocrites as the Republicans upon this question."

Referring to the proceedings of last Friday, when the House came within two of securing a quorum upon Bland's motion, Mr. Pence gave a humorous description of the conference between Mr. Reed and the "Gen. Tom Thumb of the Democracy," who, to prevent mistakes, he would say hailed from Albany. After this conference the Republican leader induced several of the nine Republicans who voted on that ballot to grab their hats and disappear. The picture seemed, he said, to amuse the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Hopkins), but if witnesses were necessary to establish the truth of it, he should call upon him to testify.

Mr. Pence was led to discuss the term "Mugwump," and gave his definition of the term, which was a cross between a Republican cuckoo and a Democratic cuckoo. If there were no cuckoos, there would be no Mugwumps. (Laughter.)

In conclusion, Mr. Pence said he was convinced more than ever that what he said last August was true, that the people of the West and Southwest must unite and be represented both before and after November by the same men, and in his judgment the best results to both sections would be secured under the leadership of the People's party.

Mr. Patterson (Dem., Tenn.), replying, said he should pay but slight regard to the personal references to himself by the gentleman from Colorado. Personal criticisms, in his opinion, were out of place on the floor of the House, and rarely did harm, unless they were based upon the truth.

"If there is anything in the observation of my friend," said Mr. Patterson, "it is that I made a speech last summer in favor of the repeal of the purchase clause of the Sherman law and against the free and unlimited coinage of silver. He thinks now that I have seen the error of my ways, because I am in favor of this bill, occupy the same position now that I did when the Wilson bill was under consideration. I am still opposed to the free and unlimited coinage of silver, and against such a bill would now vote. But I declared last summer that I was in favor of the coinage of the bullion in the Treasury, and I am for this bill now, because it is in exact alignment with my position then. Again, the gentleman says that is a Democratic caucus I offered a resolution to fine members who refused to vote on this bill. That is a mistake, for no such resolution was offered by me. But I will say, speaking for myself alone, that I think it the duty of a Representative in this House to vote on all occasions; and it was my idea of duty that I always vote on every proposition submitted to the House. If the gentleman had said that I was opposed to filibustering he would have represented me truly. If I had my way, whenever any member refused to vote on a question, and the fact of his presence being called to the attention of the Chair, he should be counted, if necessary to make a quorum. (Cheers on the Republican side.) I am not one of those who would go back on the Ten Commandments or the Lord's Prayer simply because either of them had the endorsement of the gentleman from Maine (Mr. Reed)."

Mr. Walker (Rep., Mass.) said there was no objection by any one in the House, that he knew of, to the free and unlimited coinage of silver, if it could be done upon any practicable plan. But it would not be practical for the United States to undertake it alone and in opposition to the other nations of the world.

Mr. Fithian (Dem., Ill.) quoted from Mr. Cockran's income tax speech last January, in which the New York member ironically called attention to the growth of the Democratic party under its administration, as one of which he named Mr. Fithian of Illinois. In response to this thrust Mr. Fithian called attention to the growth of that portion of the Democratic party which had placed itself under the leadership of the gentleman from Maine (Mr. Reed), and claimed that the true Democrats of the House were those who attended to their public duties and voted upon questions coming before them, so as to carry out the pledges of the Chicago platform.

Answering a question from Mr. Tracey (Dem., N. Y.), Mr. Fithian said the Democrats who were blocking legislation by failing to vote were those who had the close ear of the Administration and were the close friends and trusted advisers of Grover Cleveland. He threatened that if they refused to vote for the coinage of the seigniorage the other members of the Democratic party could remain here until the 4th of March, 1895, and refuse to pass a single appropriation bill with as much consistency.

Mr. Bland then took the floor and explained why he had insisted on an understanding as to the limitation of debate on the bill. He considered the bill more important than any other that would come after it, because it was essential to the putting of money in the Treasury by which the appropriations passed by Congress could be made available. Every filibustering motion made on the bill was a movement, Mr. Bland declared, to strike from labor's mouth the bread for which it was suffering. (Cries of "Oh, no.") "Gentlemen say 'Oh, no,' said Mr. Bland "but the laboring people would say 'yes' all the time. They know the situation here." In the name of the suffering thousands of the land, he appealed to the patriotism of the gentlemen in the House to pass this bill and provide the means by which employment might be given to them. As to the second section of the bill, to which objection has been made, Mr. Bland said it was necessary to the best interests of the laboring people, and he would never consent to drop it under coercion.

Mr. Reed—What, not even to save the starving people?

Mr. Bland said that the bill would be kept before the House until it had been voted up or voted down, in accordance with the decree of the Democratic caucus, and the gentlemen who were obstructing the consideration of the appropriation bills and other measures might as well realize their responsibility; it was not upon him.

The debate was continued by Mr. Neill (Dem., Ark.) and Mr. Hepburn (Rep., Iowa). Interrupting Mr. Hepburn, Mr. Pickler (Rep., N. D.) and Mr. Ellis (Rep., Or.) asserted that Mr. Pence told them that he enjoyed seeing the Democrats in a hole as much as they did. He also told them that he himself intended to refrain from voting on a certain roll call and wished to see the bill fail. Amid the Republican laughter which this statement occasioned, Mr. Pence leaped to his feet demanding to be heard. Instantly the House was a scene of confusion which the vigorous hammering of Mr. Hatch in the chair did not repress.

Mr. Pence asked Mr. Hepburn for two minute's time, which was granted, and, in an impassioned manner and at the highest pitch of his voice, he denounced the statement of "the gentleman from South Dakota, or North Dakota, or wherever he comes from," and of the gentleman from Oregon, "whose windings in and windings out on this question no man can follow," as untrue and utterly without foundation. And the size of the gentleman (both being considerably larger than himself) made no difference to him, he said. (Murmurs of disapprobation were heard from the Republican side. He added that if the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. Henderson, who had the floor) would yield him five minutes, or either Mr. Pickler or Mr. Ellis would make a personal explanation, so that he could respond, he would detail to the House what he had seen and every one heard going on for the past five days. "The gentlemen cannot stab my friend behind his back the gentleman from Iowa in his time," said Mr. Pence.

"Shield themselves from what?" asked Mr. Pickler at the top of his voice, and shaking his finger at Mr. Pence. "I was making a fight for silver long before you came to the House."

"I have been in, my friend," shouted Mr. Pence in return, "seventeen pages of this kept upon the windings in and out of the gentleman on this question."

The tumult was momentarily lulled, and Mr. Hepburn concluded his speech.

Mr. Reed moved that the committee rise, taking exception to the reference to the statements of the gentleman from Missouri, that, in his opinion, the bill would have been disposed of long ago if it had been properly managed.

As soon as the committee rose Mr. Pence took the floor to make a personal explanation. He recited the statements made in Committee of the Whole by Messrs. Pickler and Ellis, attributing to them jointly the statement that he (Mr. Pence) had said he would be glad to see the pending bill defeated. To this Mr. Ellis excepted, as he had not made that assertion. Mr. Pence accepted the correction, and added: "I do not believe that the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. Ellis) has made a statement, taken any action, or cast a vote on his own hook since Congress met last August."

Mr. Bailey (Rep., Neb.) called Mr. Pence to order, and the language being read, Speaker Crisp ruled that they were out of order, and on motion of Mr. Bailey (Dem., Tex.) Mr. Pence was permitted to explain.

Mr. Pence said that what he meant and what he would continue to mean by the words "on his own hook" was nothing upon what he honestly and individually believed.

Mr. Hainer again called Mr. Pence to order, saying the explanation but added insult to the original statement.

Speaker Crisp, however, ruled that the explanation had not proceeded far enough for the Chair or House to decide that it was unparliamentary.

Mr. Pence continued: "I don't know that a gentleman who lives as far East as Mr. Hainer knows just what the expression means out in our country. But having explained the meaning of the phrase as with us, I will explain it in English as understood in the district of the gentleman from Nebraska, in the district of the gentleman from Oregon, in the district of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Cannon), from whom I borrowed it originally. The phrase means that a man throws out his own hook, with his own bait, to catch his own fish, without domination from the gentleman from Maine or from any one else. And now I am ready to proceed with the statement I was making when called to order by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. Hainer), who is fuller of beer than of comprehension of my ideas."

A scene of tumult followed this unparliamentary expression. Many members jumped to their feet, and several of them called Mr. Pence to order. The Chair said it was for the House to determine whether or not Mr. Pence should proceed.

On the viva voce vote the Chair stated that the ayes seemed to have it.

Mr. Reed—I doubt it, and call for a division. If the House approves that sort of language, if it thinks that is gentlemanly and decent we ought to know it.

A division showed 30 in favor of allowing Mr. Pence to proceed and 60 against, so he was compelled to take his seat. And then at 5:25 P. M. the House adjourned.

After the adjournment Mr. Bland explained his action in moving to strike a limitation of debate on his seigniorage bill by saying that the opponents of the bill were disposed to continue their filibustering tactics, and he thought it better to checkmate them by permitting the bill to be debated.

"It does not indicate then that you are growing tired of the contest?" Mr. Bland was asked.

"Not at all; but if members want to debate the measure I have no objection. The more the bill is debated the better for the country. It is just as well it should be generally understood."

"How long will the debate continue?"

"I shall make a motion to close it to-morrow. If the House does not want to close it, I have no objection, but I shall make that motion from day to day until the House is ready to vote upon it. But the bill will not be laid aside until a vote is reached. We shall meet revolution with revolution. We can filibuster as well as the New York or other members, and will see that no business is done until ours is first disposed of. They can't pass a private bill nor transact any public business in that line until this coinage bill is voted up or down. We can break quorums as well as the opponents of the bill. There are enough of us here determined to see this thing through."

In the Senate.

The necessity or the anxiety of the Democratic Senators to arrive at some definite arrangement on the subject of the Tariff bill led to an early adjournment of the Senate today, the remainder of the afternoon being spent in a Democratic caucus, as a portion of the forenoon had been. During the forty minutes that the public session lasted there was presented, in compliance with a resolution adopted last week, a copy of the correspondence between the Treasury Department and the Department of Justice as to whether silver certificates issued under the Bland-Allison act of Feb. 28, 1878, are "lawful money" under certain statutes. The opinion of the Department of Justice, as given to the Treasury Department, is that these silver certificates "are just what they purport to be," that they are only lawful money to the extent that they are received for customs, taxes, and other public dues, and that they are not lawful money within the meaning of the statutes cited.

The opinions of the Committee on Foreign Relations in regard to the Hawaiian question were presented by the Chairman, Mr. Morgan (Dem., Ala.), and notice was given by Mr. Frye (Rep., Me.), a member of the committee, that he would address the Senate on the subject next Wednesday morning. The Senate adjourned at 1:15.

Charges of Intemperance Against Lieut.-Col. Wilbrick.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The Secretary of War has sent an officer to Fort Wadsworth, N. Y., to investigate charges of intemperance against Lieut.-Col. A. C. Wilbrick. Col. Wilbrick is now eligible for retirement under the thirty years' service law.

LIVE WASHINGTON TOPICS.

PROPOSED INVESTIGATION OF UNITED STATES JUDGES.

Those Who Have Made Decisions Affecting the Rights of Railroad Employees—Wm. A. Poucher Confirmed by the Senate—Proposed Change in the Rules of the House.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Congressman Somers of Wisconsin proposes to introduce a resolution to investigate a number of the United States Judges who have rendered decisions affecting the rights of employees of railroads that are in the hands of receivers. Mr. Somers is a friend of Judge Jenkins of the Eastern district of Wisconsin, and it is said that he is opposed to the investigation suggested by the McGann resolution, and which will undoubtedly be authorized by the House. To get even with Judge Jenkins's fancied enemies, and at the same time aid in settling the important questions involved as to the rights of railroad employees, Mr. Somers proposes to have an inquiry made into the circumstances surrounding the decisions rendered upon this subject by other Judges. The first case in which a decision of this sort was rendered was in what is known as the Ann Arbor case. The decision was rendered by Judge Ricks of the United States Circuit Court for the Northern district of Ohio. Judge Taft of Cincinnati also passed upon the case; and both of these Judges will probably be included in Mr. Somers's resolution.

Judge Emery Speer of Georgia is another United States Judge who has decided that where a corporation is being administered by a court through a receiver it is entirely competent for the court to adjust difficulties between the receiver and his employees. Like the other Judges, he has held that the receiver and the employees are alike officers of the court, and bound to obey its mandates. However, he did not question the right of any of the employees to withdraw from the service of the company, as has Judge Jenkins of Wisconsin in a more recent decision. But Judge Speer insisted that they must not do so in a way to disable the property. Mr. Somers will, therefore, in all probability, include Judge Speer in the resolution; and another Judge to be included is Judge Dundy of Omaha. He handed down an opinion on Feb. 8 in the matter of a petition filed by the receivers of the Union Pacific Railroad in relation to certain schedules of wages of employees of that company. He decided that where a difference existed between the receivers and the employees as to the wage schedule, the difference should be referred to the court for final determination. Judge Caldwell of the Eighth Circuit expressed his approval of this suggestion in an interview at St. Louis on Feb. 11. Possibly he, too, may be investigated. Mr. Somers's plan is to have a general investigation of the judiciary with the subject of their recent decisions affecting the rights of employees of railroads that are in the hands of receivers. If the inquiry originally suggested in Mr. McGann's resolution, which applied only to Judge Jenkins, should be sweepingly extended to the other Judges, as suggested by Mr. Somers, it might prove interesting, to say the least.

Mr. Clement Haentiens, the Haytian Minister to the United States, who resides in New York, came over to Washington to-day, under instructions from his Government, to make a personal denial to the State Department of the statements that Mr. Smythe, the United States Minister to Hayti, had endeavored to give President Hippolyte lessons in running the country, and had also done several other undiplomatic things. Mr. Haentjens, in the name of the Haytian President, denied these reports to Acting Secretary Uhl, and made a number of pleasant remarks about Mr. Smythe.

It is authentically ascertained that the rumor that Mr. Josiah Quincy was to be appointed Collector at Boston is without foundation. His name is not on the list which the President has left behind.

Mr. Catchings (Dem., Miss.) offered in the House to-day the following, proposing a change in the rules of the House:

Resolved, That whenever, in pursuance of section 5 of article 1 of the Constitution of the United States, the House of Representatives, at the request of one-fifth of its members present, shall order the yeas and nays of its members on any question to be entered on its journal, and upon a call of the roll of its members for that purpose shall find any member, who shall fail to vote, it shall be the duty of the Clerk to certify to the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House the names of such members present who failed to vote, and the Sergeant-at-Arms shall deduct from the compensation of such members as failed to vote the sum of (blank) dollars. The salary of members shall be, as now allowed by law, less such amounts as may be deducted under the rule herein provided and as may now be provided by law.

Mr. Catchings is the leading Democratic member of the Rules Committee.

The Senate has confirmed the following nominations:

United States Attorneys—William A. Poucher, for the Northern district of New York; John H. Wade, for the Western district of Missouri; Preston H. Leslie, District of Montana; William H. Clopton, Eastern district of Missouri.

United States Marshals—Louis L. Williams, District of Alaska; John B. Donovan, District of Maine; J. Adam Bede, District of Minnesota.

Postmaster—Thomas Stephens, Newport, county of Iron, Utah; Edwin G. Woolley, county of Washington, Utah.

The total number of fourth-class Postmasters appointed to-day was 49, of which 35 were to fill vacancies caused by resignation and death. Among them were the following:

New York—W. T. Slattery, at Atlanta, Steuben county, vice W. T. Cornish, removed; G. R. Shay, at Canaseraga, Allegany county, vice N. S. Garwood, removed; W. E. Salisbury, at Chautauqua, Chautauqua county, vice Rosewell Stevens, resigned; E. W. Bemmister, at Corinth, Saratoga county, vice J. J. Dayton, resigned; J. W. Sandam, at Fleming, Cayuga county, vice H. F. Marsh, removed; J. E. Sruss, at Howard, Steuben county, vice A. U. Brown, removed; W. J. Mosher, at Moravia, Cayuga county, vice J. D. Lay, removed; E. A. Rear, at West Junius, Ontario county, vice F. A. Sisson, removed.

New Jersey—Abram Hongweid, at Midland Park, Bergen county, vice George Reynar, resigned; Mrs. A. E. Martin, at North Vineland, Cumberland county, vice A. H. Kirr, deceased.

The heavy mount for the first of the 13-inch rifles has been landed in safety at the naval proving station down the Potomac. Heavy trucks are now being constructed to hold the weight of the immense gun, which will be sent to Indian Head in the next week. The powder specially manufactured for the test has arrived, and as soon as the gun is in position on the mount the trial will take place.

DRAWBAUGH GETS A PATENT.

It Is for a Carbon Telephone Transmitter—The Application Filed Fourteen Years Ago.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Among the patents issued last Tuesday was one for a carbon telephone transmitter to Daniel Drawbaugh on his application filed fourteen years ago. It is not, however, what is known as a controlling patent, but is simply one of those numerous adaptations of the use of carbon in a transmitter, which is intended to add strength to other inventions in the same line. The broad controlling patent on transmitters is that of Berliner, owned by the Bell Company, which the United States has begun proceedings to have set aside. In 1880, when he made the application for the patent which has just been granted, Drawbaugh also applied for another patent on carbon transmitters which would have controlled all use of carbon, but this was rejected two years ago when the Berliner patent, with which it interfered, was issued. The Drawbaugh Company appealed to the courts from the decision of the Patent Commissioner, and the case comes up for trial on March 12. If the finding is in favor of Drawbaugh, the contest between him and the Bell Company will be again transferred to the Patent Office. The patent issued last week has no important bearing on the telephone controversy.

BROOKLYN.

John Roeder, aged 60 years, died yesterday at the Homœopathic Hospital from the effects of the accidental inhaling of gas at his home, 207 St. James's place on Saturday night.

The General Term of the City Court has confirmed the decision of Police Commissioner Hayden in dismissing John F. Muldoon from the force for failing to discharge his duties properly on election day.

The Rev. Dr. George W. Huntington, pastor of the Reformed Episcopal Church of the Reconciliation, has resigned to become Secretary of the home missionary and church extension board. The patent issued last week has no important bearing on the telephone controversy.

Adolph Fraits, a German musician, committed suicide yesterday by shooting himself at his home at 1,167 Greene avenue. He was 42 years old and for more than eleven years had been ill with consumption.

City Works Commissioner White has asked the Board of Aldermen for a special appropriation of $20,000 to keep the streets clean until April 1, the regular appropriation for such work in the interval being unavailable.

The Rev. J. O. Peck, chaplain of the Fourteenth Regiment, has been cited before the Delinquency Board of the Second Brigade to explain his frequent absences from duty. Since he gave up his pastorate, nearly a year ago, the Rev. Mr. Peck has been engaged in Methodist missionary work, and this will doubtless be regarded as a valid excuse.

Royal Blue Line for Philadelphia.

Fast morning express train leaving New York station Central Railroad of New Jersey, foot of Liberty st., at 8.00 A. M., arrives at Philadelphia, Twelfth and Market sts., (centre of city), at 10.12 A. M. Other trains at 4.20, 8.00, 10.00, 11.00 A. M., 12.00, 2.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00, 8.45 P. M., 12.15 M. Sundays 4.00, 9.00, 11.30 A. M., 1.00, 5.00, 7.00 P. M., 12.15 M. Parlor cars on all day trains. Dining car on 11.00 A. M. and 5.00 P. M. trains.—Adv.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

SLUMP IN MATRIMONY.

Hymen's Toes Get Cold When Hard Times Rock Nations.

There is a blueness as of indigo in the atmosphere which surrounds Room 13 in the City Hall these hard times. Room 13 is one of the committee rooms of the Board of Aldermen, but for many years it has been devoted to the uses of the Marriage Bureau, which has become an established, though unauthorized, excrescence on the legislative branch of the municipal Government, because of the rapidly increasing foreign population.

The business of this bureau, which has been unusually large of late years, has fallen off wofully the past year. The number of civil marriages contracted before Aldermen for the past few months has been reduced one-half, and a still further reduction in business came with Lent.

In former years there has been hardly a day in which Room 13 has not been filled almost all day with candidates for matrimony. For the past few weeks, however, the room has been vacant for two days in succession, and the City Hall Cupids who depend on the business of the bureau for their income are wearing black.

Capt. Harry Van Pelt, Chief Cupid, said yesterday: "Business is the worst I ever knew it. Nobody's getting married, and those who do haven't got the price of a certificate. It's simply awful. I can't see what right folks have to get married if they haven't got enough to pay for a certificate. I wouldn't like to be the landlord of such a couple."

SECRETARY FOX SAYS HE'S DUMB.

The Signs Are that a Burglar Entered the Dry Goods Exchange.

An alarm was registered between 5 and 6 o'clock on Sunday afternoon at the office of the Holmes Electric Protective Company from the New York Dry Goods Exchange, 78 and 80 Walker street. A special policeman was despatched to the place, and upon his arrival he found the large door leading from the street to the stairway broken open. No one was found on the premises nor was there any appearance of a robbery except the forced lock on the big door.

Mr. Fox, the Secretary of the Exchange, was summoned. He told the burglar alarm company, so they say, that nothing had been stolen. When Mr. Fox was seen yesterday by a SUN reporter, he said:

"All I've got to say is—we're dumb!"

Captain Worts of the Elizabeth street station said that a burglary had been committed at 78 and 80 Walker street, and that he could make no further statement until he had received the report of the detectives now at work on the case. Editor Root of the *Dry Goods Economist*, whose office is in the Walker street building, said that he knew nothing about the burglary. The battered door has been taken off its hinges to be repaired.

PART OF THE TOBACCO WRAPPERS.

It Paid Duty as Fillers Only and Mr. Diaz is Arrested.

Andrew Diaz, a cigar manufacturer at 118 Maiden lane, residing at Fort Wadsworth, was taken into custody yesterday afternoon by United States Deputy Marshal Grant, on the charge of having defrauded the Government by misrepresenting the quality of part of an invoice of tobacco. Diaz was held in $3,000 for examination next Thursday. Bail was furnished.

The tobacco complained of by the United States District Attorney was twenty-three bales imported on Jan. 31 from Havana. It was declared not suitable for wrappers and was so passed, and the duty paid was on fillers. The Custom House officers subsequently learned that six of the bales were wrappers. Mr. Diaz says that a part of the tobacco received on this invoice was for a friend in business, whom he had allowed to bring his goods in with his own to save him the bother of getting them through the Custom House. Mr. Diaz says he was not aware that any part of the lot was subject to higher duty than was declared on the whole.

MONEY FOR THE RELIEF FUND.

$8,785 Contributed Yesterday—The Total Is $112,850.

Mayor Gilroy announced yesterday the following additional subscriptions to the Relief Fund received through Treasurer J. Pierpont Morgan:

Gen. George J. Magee, $1,600; Mrs. Elliott F. Shepard, Emily T. V. Sloane, A. Cass Canfield, and William Sloane, $1,000 each; "Annonymous," John D. Jones, and Joseph J. O'Donohue, $500 each; George L. Morgan, Henry B. Hyde, and Stewart W. Smith, $250 each; Charles H. Henderson, $200; Samuel Sloan, F. R. Sturges, Isaac L. Rip, Delancey A. Kane, Francis B. Baker, and Wm. J. L. Mott Iron Works, $100 each; Thomas H. Bauchle, and Howard C. Smith, $50 each; A. B. Maconough, $25; Charles and H. Hawkins, $10.

These amount to $8,785, which, with the sum of $104,065 previously acknowledged, makes a total of $112,850.

The fund contributed by city employees was increased by the receipt of a check for $1,231.35 from the Board of Education.

KICKED TO DEATH BY HER HUSBAND.

Celia Hayes Dead at Yonkers of Injuries Received in a Drunken Quarrel.

Mrs. Celia Hayes died at her home, 71 Vineyard avenue, Yonkers, yesterday morning, of injuries inflicted by her husband, Michael, on Saturday night. Hayes, who is 34 years old, is a teamster in the employ of Hurlbert & Harrigan, coal dealers. Late on Saturday night he reached his home intoxicated, and began to quarrel with his wife, who had also been drinking.

After some sharp words he threw her upon the floor and kicked her. A policeman heard her cries and arrested the husband. Mrs. Hayes was taken to St. John's Hospital. She was well enough on Sunday to leave the hospital, but later in the day she became ill again, and in the morning she died. Coroner Miles held an autopsy and found that death resulted from a ruptured intestine. The husband is held without bail.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has taken charge of Mrs. Hayes's two children, Nellie, aged 7, and Mary, aged 4 years. An inquest will be held to-morrow.

PARKHURST STILL AFTER PRICE.

To Ask the Grand Jury to Indict Keepers of Houses in the Twentieth.

Dr. Parkhurst will appear before the Grand Jury this morning to urge the indictment of a number of keepers of alleged disorderly houses in Police Captain Price's precinct, the Twentieth. Twenty subpœnas were issued yesterday by Assistant District Attorney Lindsay, who will have charge of the investigation of Parkhurst's charges before the Grand Jury. The subpœnas were entrusted to one of Dr. Parkhurst's detectives for service. The Rev. Dr. Somerville, and several of Dr. Parkhurst's detectives, are among the subpœnaed persons. It was said yesterday in the General Sessions building that if indictments are found upon Dr. Parkhurst's charges, they will be made the basis of new charges before the Police Commissioners against Capt. Price.

Mayor Gilroy Going to California.

Mayor Gilroy has arranged to leave the city next Monday for a vacation of two or three weeks. He will go direct to Coronado Beach, near San Diego, in southern California, where Mrs. Gilroy and their daughters now are, and will return to New York with them.

City Chamberlain Joseph J. O'Donohue will leave for Florida this week for rest and recuperation after the severe surgical operation which he recently underwent.

Richard W. Ryan, Police Commissioner MacLean's clerk, has resigned and has gone to Oregon for his health, which has been impaired by his close devotion to the study of law.

A Burglar Tracked by a Trail of Flour.

Burglars entered Duston & Co's grocery store at Caldwell, N. J., Sunday morning, by breaking one of the front windows. They went out the same way, and a fragment of the broken glass punctured one of the bags of flour composing a part of the plunder. The escaping flour made a plainly marked trail from the store to the home of the Conklin family a mile away. The sexton of the old Presbyterian Church discovered the robbery and spoke to a constable, who arrested Lewis Conklin and marched him back to the store, with two bags of flour on his shoulders, in full view of the churchgoers.

TO CONSIDER THE RATE SITUATION.

An Important Meeting of Railroad Officials to be Held To-morrow.

Commissioner Goddard has issued a call for a meeting on Wednesday of the Presidents and managers of the lines comprising the Trunk Line and Central Traffic Associations. The request for the meeting came from the President of one of the great trunk lines, who has recently given special consideration to the subject of rates. The agreements in regard to east-bound business which were provided for at the last meeting of the managers have not been perfected, and the scarcity of business has produced the usual irregularities in the methods employed by the various lines in securing traffic. The situation is considered grave, but the best authorities are confident that serious trouble will be averted.

The hope is expressed that grain rates, which are lowered to-day to 20 cents from Western initial points to the seaboard by agreement of the Chicago managers, will be ordered to be restored to the standard rate on Saturday at this meeting. There is no doubt that the Presidents and managers can put a stop to the cutting if they will, and there is no question that the policy of publishing rates to correspond with secret cuts by their rivals will be continued by some of the lines. The Erie did this in December with good effect.

West-bound freight rates are well maintained. The only difficulty in passenger rates to the West has arisen from tickets from Buffalo to Chicago issued by the Nickel Plate and the Grand Trunk. Their issue will be one of the matters to come up at the meeting.

Railroad Officials Need Not Testify.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Judge Grosscup rendered a decision in the United States District Court this morning which will make the Inter-State Commerce law practically inoperative, for the reason that it will in the future be impossible to convict any one for acts violating its provisions. The Court held that General Freight Agent James of the Lake Shore road and Gordon McLeod, agent of the Merchants' Despatch freight line, the witnesses who refused to answer questions put to them by the Grand Jury were right in the position which they took, and that they cannot be compelled to answer.

James and McLeod were asked questions which were intended to draw out information as to illegal cuts in rates made by the companies which they represent. Both refused to answer on the ground that the fifth amendment to the Constitution of the United States gives every man the right to refuse to make disclosures which will criminate himself.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The news that Judge Grosscup of the United States District Court at Chicago had decided the Inter-State Commerce law invalid to compelling witnesses to testify was received here with some surprise. The members of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, in particular, are astonished at the decision, since they believed that Senator Cullom's amendment, passed a year or so ago, to meet the objections raised in the Counselman case, was all that was necessary to make the law perfect in that respect. It is feared that Senator Cullom's amendment does not carry out the suggestions made by Judge Bradley when he first pointed out the defects of the law regarding the testimony of unwilling witnesses. William M. Williams, Harrison said to-night that he had been advised that a decision had been rendered, but he did not know what its details were. Until he had been fully informed, he did not care to express an opinion, or to be quoted for publication. He would say, however, that if the statute in question failed to afford the opportunity to make a case against one rogue by excusing the other from testifying against him, there was still room for securing testimony outside of the parties criminally interested.

"The Commission has no fear as to its ability to get proof in most cases," said the Commissioner. "The process may be a tedious one and a little more indirect and expensive, but the law will be enforced just the same."

Senator Cullom had not been informed of the decision, and knew nothing of the particulars. He said that if Judge Grosscup's decision pointed the way to a new statute that would meet the requirements it would certainly be passed. If not, some other way would be found to meet the emergency and to enforce the Inter-State Commerce law. Until he had read the decision he could not discuss it intelligently.

PRESIDENT HARKNESS'S AXE.

It Decapitates a Democrat of Thirty Years' Faithful Service.

President William Harkness of the Department of Assessment in Brooklyn has dismissed Dominick H. Roche from the secretaryship which he has held for thirty years. Mr. Roche is one of the oldest officials in the city, and, although a Democrat, has never been active in politics. He had a salary of $3,500 a year, and his removal, Mr. Harkness says, is in the line of economy. Property Clerk W. F. Noonan and John O'Brennan, a regular clerk, have also been dismissed.

They belong to the Sixth Ward Democratic Association. Richard S. Steves, a Republican, and at present paying teller in the Bedford Bank, has been appointed personal property clerk at a salary of $1,800 a year.

Boys Who Wanted to Wreck a Train.

Six boys, ranging from 8 to 15 years of age, were arraigned in the Third Criminal Court at Newark yesterday morning and charged with having tried to wreck a train on the Newark and New York branch of the New Jersey Central Railroad on Thursday evening by placing a coupling pin in a switch near the Polk street bridge. The train struck the first rail over the obstruction, but the engineer felt the shock and noticed the group of boys waiting expectantly. Detective Wagoner picked up the boys one after another. Their names are Tony Kohlberg, Philip Tully, John Cooney, Albert Murat, and Frank and John Cennerty. They were all paroled in custody of their parents. They denied having any hand in placing the obstruction in the switch.

JOTTINGS ABOUT TOWN.

The Board of Assessors has elected Assessor Charles E. Wendt Chairman.

Dr. Chauncey M. Depew has agreed to lecture before the Catholic Club on Sunday evening, March 12, on his recent interview with the Pope.

Prof. Charles Sprague Smith will begin at 3 P. M. next Monday at the Berkeley Lyceum Theatre a course of five lectures on "The Golden Age of Spain." The subject of the first lecture will be "Cervantes."

District Attorney Fellows has appointed Forbes Hennessy, a deputy Assistant District Attorney. Mr. Hennessy will have charge of the collection of forfeited recognizances. He is a nephew of Senator Murphy.

The American Art Galleries announce that the sale of the W. King collection of porcelain advertised for yesterday afternoon, was postponed in consequence of the storm, and will be held next Saturday afternoon. The other sale days will be as announced.

The Armory Board inspected yesterday the nineteen plans submitted by architects for the building of the Ninth Regiment Armory. No selection was made. The Board was of the opinion that several of the plans would probably meet the requirements of the building.

Judge Tuthill has denied John Torney's application as a Roman Catholic for a mandamus compelling Civil Justice Steiner of the Eighth District Court, who removed him, to reinstate him as court attendant. Judge Tuthill says the only way to determine Torney's rights is by *quo warranto*.

The trial of President Andrews of the New York Steam Heating Company and of G. C. St. John, its Secretary, on the charge of maintaining a nuisance by permitting steam to escape from the company's down-town station, was adjourned in special Sessions yesterday to March 14.

The Liberty Street Real Estate Exchange Good Government Club elected these officers yesterday: Cornelius W. Lusane, President; Douglas Robinson, First Vice President; Richard Y. Harnett, Second Vice President; George De Forest Barton, Secretary; Henry C. Swords, Treasurer.

George Stirling, who was arrested two weeks ago charged with having in his possession nearly $2,000 worth of postage stamps said to have been stolen from the Post Office at North Platte on Jan. 12, waived examination before United States Commissioner Shields yesterday. He will be sent to Nebraska for trial.

Judgments of absolute divorce were granted yesterday in these cases: By Judge O'Brien, to Frederick F. Palmer from Annie M. Palmer, on the ground of cruelty, the correspondent, by Judge Freedman, to Josef Suler from Ludomira Z