A STRANGE MURDER STORY.

THE CRIME OF TWO YOUNG LADS FROM PARIS IN LOUISIANA.

They Tortured and Killed an Old Merchant and Squandered His Money Recklessly--Led Back to the Scene of Their Crime by Haunting Thoughts of The Victim.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 12—New Orleans has been treated this week to the last chapter in a very thrilling "yellow back" story of murder. The murder itself was a confessed plagiarism from a very popular book among juvenile criminal literature, "The Life of Jesse James," but it had variations of its own.

In April last Martin Begneaud was found dead in his bed in the little town of Scott, La., some 150 miles from New Orleans, on the Southern Pacific Railroad. Begneaud was the richest man in that section, a Frenchman who had made a fortune as a merchant and storekeeper. He was an old man, jolly and good natured, very charitable, very popular, and without an enemy in the world. One day, when his failure to appear about the house had aroused suspicion, the place was broken into and Mr. Begneaud was found bound hand and foot and bandaged up with pieces of calico. When the calico was removed it disclosed fifty-seven wounds, inflicted with a poniard or other sharp weapon. A majority of the wounds had evidently been inflicted, not with any intention of killing the old man, for they were not in vital parts, but for purposes of torture. He had been prodded in the neck, chest, and sides, and through the tongue, in order, by torture, to extract from him the hiding place of his keys or the combination of his safe; and when he had surrendered, in his agony, for the open safe told that part of the story, the murderer had searched for his heart with the dagger, and after two or three ineffective blows near it had completed his work. The torture must have lasted some time, for the dead man's face showed suffering in every feature, and his neck and arms had been badly cut by the ropes in his struggles. It took the detectives little time to understand that he had been first tortured for his money, and then killed, and that the murderers had been concealed about the premises. Begneaud, who was a bachelor, had had a card party on the night of the murder, and his brother, Simeon Begneaud, as he had bidden him good night, had seen him lock up the store and house, for, like most storekeepers in southern Louisiana, he lived behind his shop. The murder had been perpetrated for robbery. There stood the safe open and empty, and two large bags were [illegible]sing from the store, in which the murderers evidently carried off their plunder.

[illegible]eople were deeply aroused by the crime, [illegible]ly every one contributed to the reward [illegible] the capture of the murderers. The [illegible] of bloodhounds in Louisiana was [illegible]t, but failed to track the criminals [illegible] not the slightest clue to the [illegible] was felt that it was a case [illegible]er extreme measures in the [illegible] It was a bad time, that [illegible]avelling along the line of [illegible] Railroad in Louisiana, for [illegible]inst whom the slightest [illegible] every one who could [illegible] had been on the night of April 23 [illegible] liable to arrest. One man was arrested [illegible] for no other reason than that fitted the wounds [illegible] with a bloody stiletto [illegible] a body exactly, and a quack doctor and [illegible] bank was jailed because he had [illegible] mounted a couple of days after the murder, and [illegible] the parish [illegible] fortunate for both that they had alibis [illegible], or it would have gone hard with them.

During all this time the two real murderers [illegible] Begneaud's store daily and were present [illegible] funeral without the slightest suspicion [illegible] them for who could have suspected [illegible] had been committed by [illegible] this brutal crime [illegible] fellow [illegible] two boys, one of them a delicate little [illegible] with an angelic face and pleasant manners. Yet the crime had been planned and carried [illegible] by Ernest and Alexis Blanc, both under 18 years of age, and not only had the idea of the crime been suggested to them by "The Life of Jesse James," but the details in that story had been accurately and carefully carried out.

The two boys were brothers. They were born in Paris, France, and their mother was a seamstress. They were bright boys, profoundly interested in Gaboriau and in stories of crime and adventure. Regarding even Paris as humdrum, they came to America a year ago to go out West and grow up with the Indians and cowboys. They spent some time in New York, but finding it not enough, started further west and got to southwest Louisiana. The fact that a majority of the population spoke French, their mother tongue, induced them to remain some months here. They worked on Col. Drassin Boudreaux's place, a mile from Scott. They were popular boys and well thought of by all, and every one who could lent them books, for they seemed to have a well developed taste for literature, both English and French, but mainly of the lurid order. "The Life of Jesse James" attracted them most, and they secretly resolved to become brigands and highwaymen. Ar, however, the opportunities for highway robbery were not good, they concluded to try simpler ways first. For five weeks they talked over their plan, being determined to arrange all the details in advance, and go about it in a systematic, business-like, yet dramatic way. After discussing the relative merits of various wealthy men in the neighborhood, they finally fixed on Martin Begneaud as their victim, because he was an old man and was reported to keep a large amount of money in his store. It took them fully two weeks to arrange the details of his murder. They even picked out the place where the money was to be buried after they had killed their victim and taken it, and prepared the hole for it. They bought revolvers and sharpened a file to make a poniard.

When, however, the day came for the murder the boys went to Begneaud's house, their courage weakened. They slunk home and accused each other of being cowards and not up to the Jesse James standard. They determined to try it again, and went to Begnaud's on the evening of April 23 determined to prove to each other that they were men and heroes. They hid in the grass near the Begneaud store, and slipped in as Martin Begneaud was bidding his brother Simeon good night. Even when the old man saw the two lads he was not frightened, for he knew them well and had been kind to them.

They pretended they wanted some sardines, and as he bent over to get a box the two boys were on him, and with their pistols to his forehead. The crime was easy after that. Their blood was up, and they became like fiends. The old man was bound, gagged and bandaged and carried to his bedroom. Then Ernest stood guard over him and began the torture which was to force him to surrender his fortune. At the first stab from the sharpened file he agreed to surrender the key of the safe. Alexis opened it and found $1,200 in greenbacks. He knew that this was only a part of Begneaud's savings, and that with the Frenchman's love for coin, the bulk of the money was in gold, and, besides, there were two compartments in the safe he could not open. Not until the file had descended again and again into his chest and he was suffering intense torture did Begneaud surrender his gold and silver. When he gave the boys the keys to these compartments a few well-directed blows silenced him forever. His surrender of his fortune had not saved his life.

There were a hundred pounds of gold and silver coins, as much as the two boys could carry between them. They found two large sacks in the store, filled them with the money, swung them over their backs, and, locking the door and throwing the key under the house, marched to their little cabin on the Boudreaux place, where the money was buried under a neighboring tree and grass planted over it.

The two boys were shrewd enough to know that if they left at once, suspicion would point to them, so they worked on as if nothing had happened, until the first excitement was over. When it had quieted down they showed Col. Boudreaux, their employer, a letter from a man in New Orleans who had offered them better work in his store on Toulouse street. The Colonel thought it a good advance for the boys, and they went away, openly and aboveboard, with the good wishes of all their friends, and without the slightest suspicion attaching to them, but with Begneaud's gold in their little hair trunk.

It was after their departure that the letter they pretended to have received from New Orleans fell into the sheriff's hand. They had left it forgetfully, or perhaps ostentatiously, on the mantelpiece of their cabin. An inquiry at the Post Office showed that neither of the boys had received a letter at the time they pretended. When the Sheriff came to New Orleans he looked them up at the Toulouse street store for an explanation of the letter matter. They had never been there. These facts gave rise to serious suspicion that the boys knew something about the murder, but it was quite another matter to find them. They had apparently disappeared from the face of the earth. Thousands of people must have met the two boys during the last nine months, and have wondered at two youngsters travelling around the world alone and spending money so lavishly and recklessly, and it seems strange that they should never have been the subject of police suspicion and arrest. This was probably due to the fact that they went only to the big cities. They took a trip around the world; they visited New York, Brussels, London, Paris, Mexico, San Francisco, and half a dozen other great cities, and at all they spurned and lived like princes. They astonished their old comrades in Paris with the fortune that they, two poor, unfriended boys, had made in a few months. Wherever they went they lived extravagantly, and denied themselves no pleasures that boys can enjoy. They dressed well, lived well, and saw all the sights of Europe and America.

On Monday last two very ragged boys, showing all the signs of suffering poverty, presented themselves at Col. Boudreaux's plantation, and asked the Colonel to take them back to work. They were Ernest and Alexis Blanc, and they explained that they had lost their place in New Orleans, had gone to St. Louis, and had tramped all the way from that city to Lafayette parish, to get back to their little cabin again. Sheriff Bromsard had confided his suspicions of the two boys to Col. Boudreaux, and the latter, while doubting their guilt, informed the Sheriff of their return. The climax came earlier than was expected, and it required but a simple effort on the part of the Sheriff to induce both boys to tell the entire story of the murder, and of their wanderings since.

Why they came back to the scene of their crime, to a hard life of labor, is a psychic problem. No one ever expected to see them again, and the Sheriff had practically given up the chase. To him the return to Scott, where they must have been aware that there was danger, seemed inexplicable.

"You came back to murder Simeon Begneaud," he said to them, "and get his money."

"Oh, no," said Alexis, in a tone which left no doubt that he was telling the truth; "the other man—[he would speak of his victim in no way save as "the other man"]—was with us all the time, wherever we went, whatever we did. We could not have killed his brother."

As soon as Sheriff Bromsard got the confession from the boys he hurried them to New Orleans—he would take no chance of a lynching, for he knew how wrought up the people of Lafayette were over the Begneaud murder. They are safe here, but their return to Lafayette means death, either by Judge Lynch or the law, unless Alexis's innocent appearance fills a mob or a jury with pity for him. Beyond all question the idea of the murder came to him and his brother as an inspiration from the yellow-back literature; and the thought of the murder has haunted him ever since, sleeping or working, amid all the pleasures which Begneaud's money brought.

POLICE PROTECTION OF CABS.

Roosevelt's Reply to the Strikers' Request for Its Withdrawal.

Commissioner Roosevelt made this reply yesterday to a letter from J. E. Bausch, Secretary of the Cab Drivers' Association, asking that policemen be prohibited from protecting the vehicles of the New York Cab Company on the score that their presence might provoke attacks which would otherwise not be made:

"DEAR SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of Jan. 11, requesting us to withdraw the patrolmen placed for the protection of the New York Cab Company on the ground that the striking cab drivers contemplate no violence; and further alleging that officers in civilian clothes prowl about in the cabs, especially in the neighborhood where the people and law-abiding strikers assemble in order to provoke them to violence. I have shown this letter to the chief and the only other member of the board who is in the building at this time.

"As a matter of fact the strikers or their sympathizers have committed a number of brutal assaults upon the peaceable employees of the New York Cab Company, in addition to attempting to destroy the property of the company. While there is the slightest danger of the repetition of such an assault, not only will policemen be stationed to protect the property of the company, but they will be further employed in uniform or in plain clothes, as may seem best to the department. If possible, they will prevent any outrage, or attempted outrage, by any lawbreakers, and if they cannot prevent it, at least they will see that immediate and sharp justice is meted out to the lawbreakers. If the strikers are law abiding and peaceable they can have no possible objection to the presence of the police, who will interfere only with the disorderly and lawless, and if any man is incited to violence by the presence of an officer of the law, the very fact affords proof that he is of disorderly and vicious character, and that there is urgent need of the presence of the officers of the law to sustain him. This department will not for one moment tolerate lawlessness and disorder. Yours truly, THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

IN JUSTICE TO GOV. ABBETT.

Denied That He Took Certain Public Papers Away from Trenton.

While Edward D. Fox was testifying before the Senate Investigating Committee in Trenton in 1895 he said that papers and documents, including certain specifications for the reconvenction of the Assembly chamber, had been taken from the Executive Department by Gov. Leon Abbett at the expiration of his term. This statement having been referred to recently in several newspapers, and Gov. Abbett, now being dead, Mr. Fox has written a letter to Gov. Abbett's son, Leon Abbett, in which he says that when he gave the testimony he was laboring under a mistake. He says the only papers removed by Gov. Abbett were those sent to his residence by him (Mr. Fox). They were in a wooden box and included only his correspondence and recommendations to office. He adds that since the testimony was given certain papers and documents, which he testified had been sent to Gov. Abbett or taken away by him, have been found in a vault in the State House cellar.

Mr. Leon Abbett writes to THE SUN to deny absolutely that any papers were taken from the State House by his father except his correspondence and petitions for appointments.

THE MASSACRE IN AFRICA.

Eight Whites and 243 Native Carriers Killed Near the Niger.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—Despatches received at the Foreign Office this morning confirm the previous reports of the massacre by wild tribesmen in the territory of the King of Benin of the members of a British expedition which left the coast of Upper Guinea on Jan. 1, intending to proceed to Benin, in the Niger Coast Protectorate. The confirmatory reports say that the eight whites in the expedition, together with 243 native carriers, were killed, and that only seven Krumen escaped. The expedition consisted of Acting Consul-General Phillips, Major Copland Crawford, Capt. Boisragon, who was the commandant of the force of the Niger Coast Protectorate; Capt. Maling, belonging to the same force; Messrs. Campbell and Locke, Consular officials; Mr. Elliott, Messrs. Powis and Gordon, civilians, and a number of Krumen and native carriers.

The *Daily News* says the Government has ordered that an expedition be formed to punish the murderers of the Benin expedition. The punitive expedition, which will be prepared at Old Calabar, will be made up of men from the forces of the Niger Coast Protectorate and a contingent of sailors from the British West Africa squadron.

Officers whose stations are on the Niger coast and who are now in England on leave of absence have been ordered to be ready to sail for their posts on Saturday.

FUNDS FOR SUFFERERS.

Raising Money in London for the Victims of Floods and Famine.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, has asked the Lord Mayor of London to open a fund for the relief of the sufferers by the recent devastating flood in Montserrat, one of the British West India islands.

Lord George Hamilton, Secretary of State for India, has informed the Lord Mayor, who, a few das ago, opened a fund for the famine sufferers in India, that the famine, including loss of revenue, would cost the Indian Treasury between four and six million pounds. The money devoted by the Government of India to the relie of the sufferers provides them with a bare subsistence. The private subscriptions will be managed by a central committee at Calcutta. These funds will be devoted to providing comforts for the sick and aged, supporting children who have been made orphans by the famine, &c.

The Mansion House fund for the Indian famine sufferers gives promise of reaching a large sum. Among those who subscribed to the fund to-day were the Prince and Princess of Wales, who sent £250.

MR. HENRY WHITE'S DINNER.

Senator Wolcott Meets a Number of British Public Men on the Occasion.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—Mr. Henry White, formerly Secretary of the American Legation here, gave a dinner to a number of distinguished public men last night, wit the object of enabling them to meet Senator Edward O. Wolcott of Colorado, who is visiting Europe in the interests of bimetallism. Among those present were the Marquis of Lansdowne, Mr. Arthur J. Balfour, Lord de Rothschild, Mr. William Court Gully, and Mr. Herbert Asquith.

The Minister Maybach Loses Her Screw.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—The German steamer Hercynia, from New Orleans and Newport News for Hamburg, passed Prawle Point this morning. She signalled that on Jan. 10, in latitude 48° north, longitude 12° west, she spoke the German tank steamer Minister Maybach, from Nieuwe Waterweg Dec. 31 for New York, which had lost her screw. She was proceeding under sail, and signalled that she needed no assistance.

The Sultan's British Champion.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 12.—The Sultan to-day gave an audience to Sir Ellis Ashmead Bartlett, a member of the British House of Commons, who has been a persistent champion of his Majesty in England. Upon the conclusion of the interview the Sultan conferred upon him the decoration of the Order of the Medjidieh in recognition of the support Sir Ellis has given him.

STRONG A THOROUGHBRED

SAYS SO; SAYS THAT'S THE KIND FOR MAYOR OF THE G. N. Y.

Has Also Confided to the Hon. Shamus O'Brien His Impressions to the Same Effect—If He Isn't a Candidate Several Political Mind-Readers Are Mistaken.

"There was one incident in the encounter between Mayor Strong and Mr. Lauterbach at the Twenty-ninth district Republican dinner last Saturday night which escaped publication," said one of the prominent members of the party who was present on the occasion to a SUN reporter yesterday.

"The incident is of special importance because of the frequent protestations on the part of Col. Strong that he does not want to be nominated for Mayor of the Greater New York.

"Of course the Mayor gave us the same old story of his desire to be counted out when it comes to nominating a Mayor next fall, but I've had a little experience in politics and I am ready to say, if I may be permitted to paraphrase Shakespeare, 'Methinks the Colonel doth protest too much.' I confess that I held that opinion before I heard his speech at Tuxedo Hall. That made me certain.

The thing which THE SUN missed there was the second speech which the Mayor made in an effort to reply to Mr. Lauterbach. The old gentleman took up Mr. Lauterbach's proposition that the Republican candidate for Mayor of the Greater New York should be a partisan Republican. He said:

"'What we want is a Republican, but he must be a Republican who is a little bit above his party, and he must be a thoroughbred.'

"He swelled up a little during a slight pause, and added:

"'I am a Republican and I am a thoroughbred.'

"If Col. Strong didn't give the whole snap away right there, and if he is not hot on the trail of the Republican nomination, I don't know anything about politics; and although I have been accused of many things I can say I never was accused of not knowing anything about politics.

"I tell you Mayor Strong is a candidate for Mayor of the Greater New York, and he wants the nomination very much. He wants the Republican nomination, and he hopes by talking about nonpartisanship and such tommyrot to get up another Committee of Seventy movement in his favor."

This is the evidence of a veteran Republican leader. There is more testimony from other sources which tends to corroborate him, and make very suggestive the Mayor's declaration of his character as a "thoroughbred."

One of the Mayor's Commissioners furnishes some of it. This official said on Monday that he has positive knowledge that Col. Strong had a consultation with ex-Sheriff James O'Brien a short time ago, in which he confided to the ex-Sheriff his ambition to secure a re-election. O'Brien was one of the right-hand men of Col. Strong in the movement which secured his nomination in 1894. Mr. O'Brien's reward was to have been his appointment as a Police Commissioner, according to general belief.

"In fact, there are those who say that the place was actually promised to O'Brien, but that the Mayor begged off when he found that the appointment was likely to raise a howl from the reformers. O'Brien has been one of the politicians who has been welcomed by the Mayor at his office and at his home since the election. He has made several of these visits lately, and it is said he is warm supporter of a renomination for Col. Strong."

Another who bears testimony to the Mayor's ambition for added political honors is a well-known business and professional man who, not long ago, had the course of business, and occasion to confer with the Mayor. Col. Strong turned the conversation to the subject of his administration.

It was not a subject which the gentleman cared to discuss, but the Mayor insisted on talking about it, and at his visitor's listening he said that Col. Strong said that the record of his administration will be such a favorable one by next August that the people of the city cannot fail to be impressed by it. He did not say in so many words that he was a candidate for renomination, but that was the impression his remarks conveyed.

The tax rate for 1897 will be known by next August, and the tax roll is always used as an administration argument.

HARMONY IN BROOKLYN.

Mr. Worth Organizes the County Committee—Platt Indorsed.

The new Republican County Committee in Brooklyn met last night in the Johnson building and was organized by the Worth faction without any friction or opposition by the Willis element. Most of the 219 delegates were in their places, and they qualified by the payment of $25 dues. Lieutenant-Governor Timothy L. Woodruff was on hand as an interested spectator, and in response to a cordial greeting he congratulated the committee on the fact that the Republican party was in the ascendancy in city, State, and nation.

Mr. Jesse D. Frost of the Twenty-second ward was nominated for Chairman by Mr. Silas B. Dutcher, and Mr. Willis seconded the nomination. The choice of Mr. Frost was made by acclamation. The other officers had like plain sailing. They are: George B. Forrester, Vice-President; John K. Neal, Secretary; Frank Van Sternberg, Assistant Secretary; Robert A. Sharkey, Treasurer; John F. Daly, Sergeant-at-Arms.

The contests between the Daly and Hirsch factions in the Third ward and the Clark-Fischer factions in the Twenty-sixth were referred to the Committee on Organization. After a motion to adjourn had been carried, Charles D. Reinhard of the Sixteenth ward arose and offered a resolution indorsing Mr. Thomas C. Platt for the Senate. The motion to adjourn was reconsidered and rescinded, and then the Platt resolution went through with a hurrah. There were only a few dissenting votes.

A committee of three was appointed to report on the advisability of the delegates of the County Committee going to the inauguration of President McKinley in a body.

PRITCHARD GAINING.

Indications That He May Vanquish His Populist Adversary, Butler.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Members of the Senate Steering Committee watch with growing interest the struggle in North Carolina over the election of Senator Pritchard's successor. The North Carolina contest was one of the cases in which the powerful influence of Mark Hanna was invoked during his recent visit to Washington. It is said that Pritchard is gaining ground steadily in spite of the heroic efforts put forth by his Populist adversary, Senator Butler, and the information received from the battlefield to-day indicates that Pritchard may win.

Representative Linney of North Carolina received a letter to-day from a Democratic member of the Legislature who is not taking sides with either Pritchard or Butler, but as a Democrat does not hesitate to declare that he is opposed to the election of a Populist to succeed Senator Pritchard. The writer states that he realizes there is no opportunity under the existing conditions to elect a Democratic United States Senator, and therefore he believes it would be wise to give the Republicans the entire responsibility in the Senate and House of Representatives during the next Administration. He says that the business interests of the country demand that prompt measures should be framed in the interest of the whole country, and under the circumstances he is willing to allow the Republicans to reelect Senator Pritchard or any other Republican they want.

COXEY ANXIOUS TO SAVE US.

He and a Few Other Patriots Are Organizing a New People's Party.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 12.—"General" Jacob S. Coxey of Massillon, O., was disappointed in the number of his colleagues who gathered at the Lindell Hotel here at 1 o'clock this afternoon in response to a call for a conference at which the Populist party would be reformed, or rather a new People's party organized.

Among those present were Son-in-law Carl Brown, John J. Streeter of New Hampshire, A. Steinberger, editor of the *World*, Girard, Kansas; Editor Ferris of the *News*, Joliet, Ill., and J. R. Norman of Knoxville, Ia. Before the meeting Carl Brown said:

"The Populists have been sold out by Butler, Taubeneck, and the Fusionists. We are going to organize a party where the people will control, and where the Executive Committee will not be allowed to betray the people. Our new party will be organized according to the plan of John J. Streeter."

Less than a score of delegates were present when Mr. Coxey began his address, in which he outlined the plan of formation of the new party.

A committee was appointed to draft an address to the American people, and a recess was taken.

Gov. Adams Quietly Inaugurated.

DENVER, Col., Jan. 12.—At noon to-day Gov. Adams walked over from his residence to the Capitol, took the oath of office before Chief Justice Hayt, then read his address before the assembled legislators, and, returning to his office, began the duties of his new office. The Governor in his inaugural demands the most rigid economy in the conduct of State affairs.

OHIO'S ELECTORS IN CANTON.

Formal Call on the President-Elect—Cabinet Speculation in Ohio.

CANTON, O., Jan. 12.—The members of Ohio's electoral college arrived here in a special car this morning to extend their congratulations to President-elect McKinley. The reception committee, which tramped the streets all through the campaign was once more ordered out for duty to meet the party.

The morning was spent in visiting manufacturing concerns. About noon the carriages halted in front of the McKinley house, but the ever present photographer was in the yard to obstruct their way, and before they were permitted to enter the house they posed for a picture in which Major McKinley was the central figure.

Then they entered the house to meet Mrs. McKinley and partake of a luncheon. At the luncheon the members of the reception committee, Private Secretary Boyle, and several personal friends of the Major, among them Judges Day and Baldwin, were present.

Judge Day some time ago was the most widely discussed man for Attorney-General, but recently Judge Goff of West Virginia has come in for a good part of that gossip. It seems now that there are very good reasons for this gossip.

However, Judge Day is to-day, as he has been for years, the closest friend of Major McKinley, and, it is expected, will still be near him when the Major goes to Washington. It is more than probable that he will leave here to become Solicitor-General. He may at some stage of the Administration be elevated to the bench.

Congressman Charles H. Grosvenor of Athens was here this afternoon and evening, and his visit has set the gossip going. Except that he has been in Chicago delivering an address at a political banquet, and found it convenient on his way back to Washington to stop over between trains to talk over matters in general, nothing can be learned as to why he came.

The fact that Mr. Grosvenor went to Cleveland, where Chairman Hanna resides, instead of going direct to Washington, gives rise to the suspicion that there was some specific reason why he called on the President-elect and the national Chairman.

The general belief is that he came to confer on the Ohio situation, which at present involves Senator Sherman and Chairman Hanna in their relations to the beginning Administration. The visit gives rise to new gossip about Senator Sherman going into the Cabinet, either in the State or Treasury Department, and a story to-night, as well authenticated as any of the Cabinet stories, is to the effect that Major McKinley has received a satisfactory guarantee that Gov. Bushnell will appoint Mr. Hanna to fill the vacancy created by Senator Sherman's resignation.

But Senator Sherman, so the story goes, wants the guarantee in the form of a positive pledge from Senator Foraker, not only of Mr. Hanna's appointment, but that the Foraker men who are now in control of the Republican machinery of the State will not oppose Mr. Hanna for the election to a full term which will be made by the Legislature to be chosen next November, although the term does not begin until 1899. This the Foraker men, according to the story, are not disposed to do. But Hanna, once in for the short term, would have an advantage which many believe would enable him to defeat State Chairman Charles L. Kurtz, or whoever the Foraker candidate may be. With a strong faith in this, according to the story, McKinley will formally invite Senator Sherman into the Cabinet.

Gen. Grosvenor, on this hypothesis, is here to arrange for some one to get the desired Foraker-Bushnell pledge. Another suggestion as to the visit is that Grosvenor is to step into Sherman's shoes, but it is not readily believed, principally because the Foraker people would be less likely to favor him. His selection would give the southern part of the State both Senators. However, Mr. Grosvenor has long been a candidate for a seat in the upper branch of Congress, and would doubtless embrace a favorable opportunity if presented. Such a disposition would leave Mr. Hanna the Postmaster-generalship, which is now placed to his credit in case the Ohio problem is worked out satisfactorily to him, and it is said that Col. Strong said that the record of his administration will be such a favorable one by next August that the people of the city cannot fail to be impressed by it. He did not say in so many words that he was a candidate for renomination, but that was the impression his remarks conveyed.

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Members of the Senate Steering Committee watch with growing interest the struggle in North Carolina over the election of Senator Pritchard's successor. The North Carolina contest was one of the cases in which the powerful influence of Mark Hanna was invoked during his recent visit to Washington. It is said that Pritchard is gaining ground steadily in spite of the heroic efforts put forth by his Populist adversary, Senator Butler, and the information received from the battlefield to-day indicates that Pritchard may win.

Representative Linney of North Carolina received a letter to-day from a Democratic member of the Legislature who is not taking sides with either Pritchard or Butler, but as a Democrat does not hesitate to declare that he is opposed to the election of a Populist to succeed Senator Pritchard. The writer states that he realizes there is no opportunity under the existing conditions to elect a Democratic United States Senator, and therefore he believes it would be wise to give the Republicans the entire responsibility in the Senate and House of Representatives during the next Administration. He says that the business interests of the country demand that prompt measures should be framed in the interest of the whole country, and under the circumstances he is willing to allow the Republicans to reelect Senator Pritchard or any other Republican they want.

COXEY ANXIOUS TO SAVE US.

He and a Few Other Patriots Are Organizing a New People's Party.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 12.—"General" Jacob S. Coxey of Massillon, O., was disappointed in the number of his colleagues who gathered at the Lindell Hotel here at 1 o'clock this afternoon in response to a call for a conference at which the Populist party would be reformed, or rather a new People's party organized.

Among those present were Son-in-law Carl Brown, John J. Streeter of New Hampshire, A. Steinberger, editor of the *World*, Girard, Kansas; Editor Ferris of the *News*, Joliet, Ill., and J. R. Norman of Knoxville, Ia. Before the meeting Carl Brown said:

"The Populists have been sold out by Butler, Taubeneck, and the Fusionists. We are going to organize a party where the people will control, and where the Executive Committee will not be allowed to betray the people. Our new party will be organized according to the plan of John J. Streeter."

Less than a score of delegates were present when Mr. Coxey began his address, in which he outlined the plan of formation of the new party.

A committee was appointed to draft an address to the American people, and a recess was taken.

Gov. Adams Quietly Inaugurated.

DENVER, Col., Jan. 12.—At noon to-day Gov. Adams walked over from his residence to the Capitol, took the oath of office before Chief Justice Hayt, then read his address before the assembled legislators, and, returning to his office, began the duties of his new office. The Governor in his inaugural demands the most rigid economy in the conduct of State affairs.

CONFERENCE ON FINANCE.

NEARLY 300 DELEGATES AT THE INDIANAPOLIS MEETING.

Addresses by Men of Prominence Follow the Organization of the Convention—An Evening Session During Which Many Schemes of Reform Were Advanced.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 12.—The National Monetary Conference called at the request of the Indianapolis Board of Trade, and composed of representatives of similar organizations from all parts of the country, assembled in Tomlinson Hall this afternoon. Nearly 300 delegates were present.

The convention was called to order by Hugh J. Hanna, Chairman of the Executive Committee, under whose management the arrangements for the convention were made, and who originated the movement culminating in the meeting to-day.

The Rev. L. M. Haynes, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, opened the proceedings with prayer, and Mr. Hanna extended a welcome to the delegates.

J. W. Smith, Secretary of the Indianapolis Board of Works, read the call under which the convention assembled. For temporary Chairman the Executive Committee recommended E. O. Stannard of St. Louis.

Gov. Stannard in his address recommended that the greenbacks be retired, and that national banks be permitted to issue notes up to the par value of bonds deposited to secure their payment.

Ex-Secretary of the Treasury Charles S. Fairchild of New York then addressed the convention. John P. Irish of California followed.

The Committee on Credentials reported that 270 delegates had been enrolled.

The Committee on Rules and Order of Business presented its report, the chief feature of which was the provision for restricting debate, making the extreme limit for speeches to half an hour and confining most of them to five and ten minutes each. It was adopted.

The Committee on Permanent Organization recommended the name of C. Stuart Patterson of Pennsylvania for President, and a Vice-President from each State represented. Evans Woolen of Indianapolis was named for Permanent Secretary, and W. F. C. Colt Sergeant-at-Arms.

Mr. Patterson was escorted to the platform and addressed the convention. The Hon. J. H. Walker of Massachusetts, Chairman of the House Committee on Banking and Currency in the present Congress, was invited to address the convention and did so.

At the conclusion of Mr. Walker's remarks the convention took a recess until 8 o'clock this evening.

The evening session was called to order by Chairman Patterson at 8:20 P. M.

Mr. J. Harson Rhoades was recognized to present the views of the New York Chamber of Commerce, which he represented. He said that if the country was allowed much longer to hold the present financial course disaster and wreck will certainly result.

He said that what the country needs is stability of all kinds—stable tariff, stable government, and stable currency. He said that prosperity can only be restored by the establishment of a sound monetary system.

Mr. Rhoades was applauded when he said that he could see no reason why the Government should not issue all its issues upon the gold standard and replace all notes by coin certificates protected by a 25 per cent. gold reserve.

In closing, Mr. Rhoades denied the charge that there is hostility in New York and other cities of the East toward the West.

He said he was not prepared to present the first proposition for the consideration of the convention. It provided for the appointment of a committee of nine members to be appointed by the President of the United States within thirty days, including one member from the upper branch of Congress and one from the House Committee on Banking and Currency, to investigate the financial subject and to make report to Congress of their conclusions by bill or otherwise.

Chadwick of Brooklyn offered a resolution directing the Committee on Resolutions to take into consideration the expediency of incorporating into the national bank system the principle of Scottish branch banks.

Mr. Peat offered the resolutions adopted by the St. Louis gold conference, demanding the maintenance of the gold standard and withdrawal of the Government from the banking business.

George G. Tanner of Indianapolis offered a series of resolutions declaring in favor of a refunding of the national debt, the retirement of greenbacks, and a more expansive system of national bank currency.

H. H. Hanna of Indianapolis presented a scheme for the appointment of a monetary commission of eleven members to be named by this convention.

Eugene Levering of Baltimore said that Baltimore had had no bank failures for sixty years. He presented a series of resolutions declaring that legislation was necessary for the maintenance of the gold standard, the issuance of United States legal tender notes, the simultaneous creation of a safe and expansive currency upon the basis of the "Baltimore plan."

S. T. Scudder of Texas offered a resolution favoring the establishment of postal savings banks. J. Temple of Savannah, Ga., presented what he described as a modification of the Baltimore plan on the line of additional safeguards around the issue of notes. It constitutes a department of finance, consisting of three comptrollers, with a deputy in each State, to have charge of the issue of notes and with authority to examine all banks of issue.

Joseph S. Wood of Mount Vernon, N. Y., offered a resolution declaring that international bimetallism was impracticable, and could not be maintained; that silver dollars be legal tender at par value for no larger sum than $20; that silver dollars, silver certificates, and Sherman Treasury notes may be exchanged for bonds bearing 2½ per cent. interest, convertible on demand; that silver be received for customs debts; that silver bullion now in the Treasury shall be sold within the next five years.

M. L. Crawford of Texas submitted a paper conceding that the fate of silver as redemption money in Europe was sealed, but contending that its relation to the commercial world that slavery did to the civilization of the nineteenth century. He proposed nothing new in his plan for Congressional action.

R. A. Luke of Georgia presented a scheme prepared by a bank official of Atlanta which included a revival of State banks as banks of issue, to be under the control of the States' while Congress should pass laws which would keep all kinds of money upon a parity.

Joseph Wharton of Philadelphia offered a resolution declaring against any reduction of currency or the exchange of any currency now in circulation for any other that should not command public confidence. He said it was the duty of the Government to provide good stable currency; it cannot go out of the banking business.

W. R. Trigg of Richmond, Va., advocated the repeal of the 10 per cent. State Bank tax. Representative C. N. Fowler of New Jersey offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee to cooperate with the Congressional committees in securing financial legislation at the coming session of Congress.

Mr. Sprague, for the Commercial Club of Chicago, presented a declaration that for the best interests of the country the Government should go out of the banking business.

The Toledo Produce Exchange sent a request declaring it to be the duty of Congress to provide a safe and ample currency.

The convention then, at 10:20 P. M., adjourned until to-morrow.

Mack Defeats Sheehan.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Jan. 12.—The Democratic General County Committee met to-day and reorganized by the election of officers for the ensuing year. The regular Democracy was sustained by a vote of two to one, and William H. Cuffeback, Samuel J. Ramsperger, and Abram Laune, the regular organization candidates, were elected Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, in opposition to candidates representing ex-Lieut.-Gov. Sheehan of New York city. The result is a victory for Norman E. Mack.

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are always guaranteed to be free from any defect in material or construction. The makers particularly recommend the movements engraved with either of the trade marks "*RIVERSIDE*" or "*ROYAL*." Made in various sizes for ladies and gentlemen, and for sale by all retail jewelers.

VACATION'S STIR IS OVER.

The Excitement of Going Away and Returning at Smith College.

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Jan. 12.—The Smith College girl has just returned from her vacation. She is a home-loving girl, and fond as she is of college, it is but natural that she should look forward eagerly to being at home once more. It would be easy to learn of the near approach of a vacation without consulting the catalogue. It would be enough to note the happy, excited looks of the girls, and hear them call to each other as they pass in the corridors or cross the campus: "What train are you going on?" "Going off early? How did you manage it?" "Got your sleeper engaged?" "Oh, wait till the 2:20 and go with me," and the like.

About this time a string of paper dolls appears in the rooms of freshmen and in many of the rooms of those whose freshmanhood is a thing of the past. Each of these dolls represents one of the intervening days before vacation, and there is joy in pulling one off each night. The last doll on the string has a mouth wreathed in smiles, or, to be more exact, extended in a grin.

The task of getting 1,000 girls out of a city no larger than Northampton is quite tremendous. To simplify matters the railroad officials post notices on the college bulletin boards and in the college houses some days before the vacation begins requesting that tickets be bought before the day of departure. Checks are ordered early also, and on the last evening of the term a baggageman makes a round of all the college houses, checking the trunks and noting when they are to be called for.

The home-going excitement is at its height on the evening of the baggageman's visit. His well-known voice is heard in the corridor, and at the clink-clink of his checks immediately doors open and the girls come out and group themselves upon the trunks lining the corridor. As each girl puts her check