THE FLORIDA FRAUD.

Dennis and the Agent Morton Summoned to Washington.

THE CONSPIRATORS' CONFESSIONS.

How the Seared Consciences of Dennis and McLin Were Quickened.

SECRET HISTORY OF THE PLOT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., April 26, 1878.

There are no new developments here to-day. The interest is centered on the case at the North. Little is known of what shape the matter is taking there, and news is looked for with great anxiety. Morton, the agent who has been employed in this State in working up the case, has been summoned to Washington. He saw Dennis at Live Oak, and they will reach there probably simultaneously. Morton left here to do more work in the interior counties, but received telegraphic instructions to proceed to Washington. The statements published to-day in New York did not go from Florida, but further North. Uneasiness among those who have made statements is indicated by the remark of one, that if he was out of this scrape he never would be caught in another like it.

INSIDE HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENTS.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., April 23, 1878.

For some weeks there have been rumors of penitential spasms among the Florida republicans who managed the count in the late election. McLin, it was reported, was about to die, and wished to make his peace with the world. Dennis was about being brought to an earthly bar of judgment and desired to make his peace with the State authorities; and various others were said to be in possession of "quickened consciences." So the rumors ran, until, in pursuance of orders, your correspondent found himself *en route* for Florida, determined to visit the old stumping ground of returning board days. Several days were spent in quiet pumping. All who were supposed to know anything about the case were interviewed, and, while all acknowledged that there were symptoms of coming trouble, none seemed to be definitely posted as to exactly what was going to happen. At length I met a reserved, leisurely gentleman at one of the hotels of this city. Remembering that he had been in Florida during the most of the returning board campaign, and judging it unlikely that he was in the State now merely for health or pleasure, I had a long talk with him. I found him courteous as always, but as close as a clam. I discovered from him, however, that the rumors I was following were based on truth. In all my subsequent investigations, which went to the discovery of the whole matter, I found that this quiet gentleman was the central figure of all the development. He seemed to be literally ubiquitous. To-day with McLin, to-morrow with Dennis—then with Cowgill; on one day in Washington, and on the next in Florida. To his tireless, patient, shrewd search, the whole of the new discovery is due. He has been with each one of the penitents just at the very time that a friend was needed to quicken their consciences or to guide the current of their remorse.

It would be interesting to know in what behalf he was at work. He was, in the days of the Returning Board, a republican, and then held an important office. He has figured in politics pretty extensively as a warm friend of a very distinguished anti-Hayes Senator. It is now said that he is under instructions from democrats of the very highest position in New York. Be this as it may he has done his work thoroughly, and as probably no other man living could have done it. His case, involving four months of unremitting labor, has been completely made up, and that, too, without the least suspicion of the nature of his work being aroused. The key to my information came, at last, from a careless remark dropped by Dennis in Gainesville. It is doubtful now if a dozen people in America know of the developments as they exist.

M'LIN'S GRIEVANCE AND HIS DISCLOSURES.

The history of the case, as I get it from various quarters, is as follows:—McLin, during the canvass, was promised by Noyes, of Ohio, who claimed to have the authority to promise, anything within Hayes' gift. He, therefore, went on after the work was done to claim his reward. He was appointed Associate Justice of New Mexico. Mr. Evarts and the President pushed him off to New Mexico before he was confirmed. It is said that he actually held a court before his case came up. In the Senate, when his name was presented for confirmation, Conover, moving by an old hate, attacked him and he was rejected. He thereupon returned to Washington, nearly dead with consumption, and demanded pay for the time he had served and his expenses. He was denied this compensation, and became in consequence quite dejected. Conover about this time became convinced that McLin had been badly treated and took him to the President, asking that he be renominated to something, and agreeing to support him. The President, so McLin says, I am told, agreed to appoint him Chief Justice of New Mexico. McLin, satisfied, returned to his hotel, where the quiet gentleman alluded to above was awaiting him. In a short time the papers announced that the President had appointed McCandless Chief Justice of New Mexico. McLin applied for an explanation, and says the President was "as cold as an iceberg and refused to talk to him." Upon this he came to Thomasville, Ga. At this point he met the quiet man and made an affidavit before Justice Grover, the purport of which has been given. This was on the 23d of March. A paper had been given before, but not being definite enough, this latter paper was executed. McLin then retired to Orlando, in Orange county, where he is now going to his grave through consumption.

HOW DENNIS BECAME PENITENT.

Dennis, who was the real manager of small matters in Florida during the count, and who is the shrewdest of the native politicians, had a much more complicated case than this. He was under seven indictments in the State courts for embezzlement, false issue of scrip, &c. He owns about $15,000 worth of property and was under heavy bonds. It was, of course, desirable to have these cases nolle prossed while he was working in Washington for a substantial reward. It appears that he was treated pretty well in Washington, being given a place in one of the departments; but he made small headway at home. On the 10th of April, however, he came to Gainesville and all the cases against him were nolle prossequied. It seems that he had feathered his nest in Washington before he left, for a commission as revenue agent in Ohio followed him to Gainesville. I had more trouble in discovering the confession of Dennis than of all the others combined. It was universally believed that he had made one, but no one believed that he had parted with it. The most strenuous efforts were made to suppress it, and it was the universal opinion that the "Little Giant of Alachua" had reserved his thunder. I heard of many who had heard of the statement, of a few who had seen it in Dennis' hands, of one or two who had heard it read, but of none that had seen it outside of his possession. I discovered that the quiet man had failed to add Dennis' paper to his list of confessions. A prominent politician stated that he knew that Dennis had read it to Senator Sargent, and had stated that unless the President set him up he would publish it. Sargent told Dennis to come home and that it would be all right, and in a few days, as I have wired you, his commission as revenue man in Ohio, with a salary of $8 per day, came to him. My informant stated that Dennis was satisfied with this, and would take it. His lawyers denied that the cases had been nolle prossed for a consideration, but held that he would have preferred they should come to trial, as they were merely political prosecutions. In this emergency I hit upon a leading democratic politician, whose information I have always found reliable, and whose name can be furnished if necessary, and he told me the following:—"On the 10th of April Dennis was in Gainesville. States Attorney Hocker was there, and also a very prominent State official. This gentleman had been selected by Dennis as the custodian of his confession. Dennis then delivered into his hands a full, explicit and thorough confession of the whole of the Alachua fraud, as has been telegraphed you, with corroborative evidence. Having read this statement to make sure of its fulness, the official then put it in his pocket sealed, having pledged his word that he would not use it until the Dennis cases were nolle prossed. Hocker refused to nolle pros on that day, and the official took the document to Tallahassee. After the cases were disposed of the confession became the property of the State. The other confessions of Allen, Greene, Harden and others were obtained quietly and without much ado. They were arranged by the quiet gentleman.

THE METHODS OF FRAUD.

It is a curious fact that the confessions follow right in the track of the democratic assault made during the sessions of the Returning Board. Every prominent fraud attacked by the managing democrats is confessed to, and the very methods charged by the democrats were used. The confessions are thus sustained by the very circumstances that first put the democratic managers on the scent of the fraud. In the Alachua case, for instance, they charged that the fraud was committed in Dennis' house at a certain hour and in a certain way. Dennis' confession sustains in a remarkable degree what the circumstances suggested to the lawyers in that case. Outside of the fact, however, that the confessions tally with and are corroborated by circumstantial evidence that was so strong as to make the confessions hardly necessary, they are thorough and convincing in themselves. In many cases they bear internal proofs of truth. In other cases they are sustained with documents that are certainly original. For instance, in the Columbia county case, the original list, in pencil, of 179 Georgia negroes proffered by a sewing machine agent (who has confessed) for the purpose of bringing them over into Lake City to vote has been secured. By comparing it with the clerk's book it shows that it was entered bodily, name for name, without intermission. The confessions are strengthened, too, by the fact that there has been a breaking down all along the line. Cowgill is the only prominent manipulator that has not yet passed in his confession and he is expected daily to contribute. McLin has acknowledged, Dennis and Vance have joined Black Duke and Belton in pronouncing the Alachua count a fraud; Greene and Allen have come down with their information on Baker; Edwards and Bowes have both confessed to the fraud in Leon, and Harden and others have shown up the Columbia immigration scheme. Taken altogether the confessions and the supporting circumstances show beyond a question that the republicans deliberately and coolly went to work to put Florida in the Hayes column, no matter how she voted.

CARRYING FLORIDA FOR HAYES.

The plan was this:—First, to stuff the ballot boxes by all known devices during the election, as in the Leon county case by little jokers and in Columbia by importation of negroes. Second, if the first did not suffice to then raise the returns, as was done in Alachua and elsewhere. Dennis promptly raised his record 219 votes. It was then feared that this would not be enough, and a sealed letter (and I have this from the man who carried the letter) was sent him asking him to add more names. He replied, "I am afraid to do it; I've already added as many as it will stand." Third, by holding back certain counties until it was known precisely what was needed and then counting it into the returns, as in the case of Baker, where the canvass was not made until the last day allowed by law, and then made secretly, and to fit the exact number of votes needed. This accounts for the hitherto inexplicable delay in getting the returns in from those counties; and fourth, by throwing out enough counties in the Returning Board canvass to give the State to Hayes. This was the programme definitely arranged before the election came off, and faithfully carried out afterward. Under the organization as it existed there was no possibility for the State to be counted for Tilden. When some suspicion was created, through Barlow's influence over Cargill, as to the nerve and fortitude of that gentleman, the republicans, made desperate, proposed to take the canvassing out of the hands of the Board and give it to Stearns. The republicans were determined at all hazards to hold the State, and they did it by what must now be confessed on all sides to have been the boldest and most outrageous scheme ever known in our politics. The immensity of the stake for which they were playing only nerved them to their work.

A THOROUGH RECANVASS.

One point may be considered settled by the developments of the past few days. That is, that a purposeful, laborious and expensive recanvass has been made of this State. That it has not been done through the passion nor prejudice of those who have been engaged in it is conclusive. They have neither the means to have done it or the provocation to have driven them to it. The local democrats have not done it, far beyond engaging in a little trade with Dennis, that was apparently casual or accidental, they have done literally nothing, and were astonished when the disclosures were made. The local republicans have not done it, nor have the penitents themselves dropped of their own volition on their knees. The case has been worked up logically by some intelligent and opulent outside authority. There are reasons which lead your correspondent to believe that the democrats have instigated and sustained this investigation. Proctor Knott, Springer, Findlay, of Ohio, are the names most frequently heard, while there are frequent hints given of certain influential parties in New York to which reports are made and despatches addressed. Of course we constantly hear that so and so is in the employ of Conkling and company, and it is a proverb down here that "Ben Butler is Dennis' guide," and that he is directing the movements of that interesting blonde.

NO LOVE FOR HAYES.

As to the effect of the disclosures on Florida sentiment, it is very slight. The President has few friends in the republican ranks. I have yet to hear the first man in this State raise his voice in defence of Mr. Hayes. The federal officeholders have moved in the matter a bit, and one of them, a foremost man said:—"Put it in your paper that every man who has given these confessions is, or has been, under indictment in the State—from McLin down—through Dennis, Edwards, and them all, they are under indictment. If the State will buy up these fellows with nolle prosequis, let her buy. We can stand it." There is some anxiety felt for the fate of Congressman Bisbee, who lives here, and whose seat is yet in contest, but there would be no mourning in the ranks if Hayes were dispossessed to-morrow.

The democrats are jubilant, but they are not noisy. They do not care to see Hayes disturbed. Said State Attorney Henderson—about the shrewdest politician I know in Florida:—"We are satisfied to stand Hayes, if the North wants him. He is suiting us to a dot. We knew that we carried this State by a big majority, and we have now succeeded in proving it incontestably and beyond cavil. This utterly destroys Hayes' title. If he is let alone and allowed to make his fraudulent usurpation complete, we shall make no complaint. We have cleared away all doubts as to the election here. So we are satisfied. And as for Hayes—why, he's a very light dose to us compared to what he is to some folks."

LOUISIANA.

SMITH, AS COLLECTOR OF NEW ORLEANS, ACCEPTABLE TO THE RETURNING BOARD—A CONCILIATORY REFORM POLICY PREDICTED AND A WINNING RACE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

NEW ORLEANS, April 26, 1878.

Now that the first excitement over the nomination of Smith as Collector is over, the truth relative to him can be more easily ascertained. It is believed that all along he was the one selected to represent the Returning Board, though in an interview your correspondent had with Anderson, he denied this. He said, though, that he was agreeable, as it was his intention to retire as soon as any Collector had been appointed and return to St. Landry to his plantation. Eustis, he thought, held the key to the situation, and it was only through him that Smith could be confirmed. In case this is done it is thought the policy of the new Collector will be to endeavor to affiliate with the conservative element. The Bourbon democracy have already begun to repudiate the conservatives, through whom they triumphed in 1876, and profess to be able to get along without them. As the best class of citizens, however, belong to that party this will be found to be more difficult than has been imagined. If the republicans support the conservatives they will secure an easy victory. Smith having no particular enemies, and being personally popular and well liked in the northern portion of the State, if he works things right will be enabled to do much toward assisting the conservatives.

REFORM THE WINNING POLICY.

As to the Returning Board, it is believed they recognize the necessity of taking a back seat, at least for the present. Anderson at least does, as he is a man of sense and a shrewd politician. His immediate friends and those of Wells will be retained in office, which is all they want. Packard and the better element of the republican party will have to be put aside or moderate their views. In this case, with a strong administrative reform party on the part of the republicans, and a reform movement on the part of the conservatives, a party could be formed which will be agreable to those having the interest of the State at heart, and which would be the party to win. Both sides are heartily tired of clap trap and nonsense, and it is only true reform that can win next time. Smith first started here as a member of the Legislature for Caddo, was a tax collector under Warmouth, then a member of Congress.

A STRANGE STORY.

ALLEGED DEATHBED CONFESSION OF A SALOON KEEPER—FIVE MEN ROBBED, MURDERED AND THEIR BODIES SECRETED—A WOMAN'S IMPROBABLE STATEMENT—FRUITLESS SEARCH FOR THE REMAINS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

NORFOLK, Va., April 26, 1878.

This community was thrown into quite an excitement to-day by the startling details of a confession made by the late J. R. Weeks, keeper of a second class drinking saloon, made just before his death a few weeks ago, and revealing the particulars of five horrible murders committed by himself and an accomplice. Your correspondent at once commenced an investigation of the matter.

DISCLOSING THE SECRET.

About nine o'clock this morning a man, giving his name as Leander Withington, met Mayor Tucker, who was on his way to the City Hall to open court, and stated to him that he had a secret to disclose, one which ought to be made public. The Mayor requested him to proceed, when Withington submitted the following statement in writing, which he says was made to him by his wife the evening previous, and which he had written out:—

NORFOLK, Va., April 25, 1878.

STATEMENT OF THE LATE J. R. WEEKS, MADE TO MRS. JULIA C. WITHINGTON.

He called me into his room and told me that he had a secret to disclose; that he was going to die soon, and he would tell me his secret if I would do as he said. This I promised to do. He then told me that he and another man, whose name I do not now recollect, got possession of a large amount of money from some drunken gamblers, and that foul play was resorted to, and that they were all murdered and buried on the premises he then occupied in this city. They were sailors and strangers. The man who was Weeks' accomplice died very suddenly a short time after, leaving all the money at his disposal, but that he did not care to use any of his ill-gotten gains afterward, and that he secreted the money. He furthermore stated that to the best of his knowledge there were five bodies buried on the premises.

THE MONEY QUESTION.

Weeks requested me to wait for about four weeks after his death and then go to the Mayor of the city and disclose the secret, and that in all probability I would get one-third of the money. I asked him why I would not have all of it. He replied that that was the best plan, for I would be more likely to get a part of the money if I proceeded in that way. He said that one-third would be enough for me.

SEARCH FOR THE REMAINS.

After reading the above statement Mayor Tucker sent for Mrs. Withington, who promptly appeared and made oath to it before him. The Mayor summoned Chief of Police C. C. Benson, with whom he had a consultation, which resulted in despatching the chain gang, under Officer Butt, to house No. 71 Church street, which was occupied by Weeks at the time of his death. Captain Benson, who directed the operations of the prospecting party, ordered the first floor of the building to be taken up, and the members of the gang went vigorously to work with pick and shovel in search of the remains of the murdered men. The work was continued until six o'clock P. M., the hour when the daily labors of the gang is suspended, at which time the earth between the boundaries of the building had been excavated to a considerable depth, but no human bones were found. Several bits of cloth and a variety of poultry and beef bones were unearthed but nothing more. The search will be continued to-morrow.

INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE.

The news spread through the city like wildfire and the house was surrounded constantly by a large throng of curiosity seeking citizens, but only a favored few were admitted. Mr. Withington was present and repeated to all who inquired the substance of his wife's statement. The police have charge of the premises to-night, keeping a strong guard around them.

Withington was employed as Weeks' barkeeper and roomed with his wife above the saloon. During Weeks' last illness Mrs. Withington used to pay him little attentions. There is a great diversity of opinion in regard to the matter. Weeks came here during the war as a federal soldier from New Haven, Ohio.

COAL MINING PROSPECTS.

WORK IN THE SCHUYLKILL REGION TO RECOMMENCE MONDAY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

SHENANDOAH, Pa., April 26, 1878.

The two weeks' suspension throughout the lower anthracite coal fields will end to-morrow, and, unless orders to the contrary are received, work will recommence on Monday. This will give the men two more days in the month of April, making about thirteen in all, which is more time than has been made any month since January. The programme as marked out by the Board of Control for the balance of the first half year, or up to July 1, is that the total production up to that date for all the companies shall be 6,500,000 tons. This will leave the Schuylkill region about 1,000,000 tons to produce in May and June, or 500,000 tons per month, which is equal to about three weeks' work for each month. On the eight and ten days worked per month in February and March the mining population of the region was nearly starved out, but on the three weeks per month the men will earn enough to live, if not more.

PRICES OF COAL FOR MAY.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., April 26, 1878.

The Executive Committee of the Lehigh Coal Exchange and that of the Schuylkill Coal Exchange met in conference this afternoon. The prices of the present month were agreed upon as the ruling figures for May. The present rate of production is little more than half that of the same period last year.

THE BANKRUPT LAW IN RHODE ISLAND.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

NEWPORT, April 26, 1878.

The General Assembly was convened to-day by Governor Van Zandt for the purpose of considering what reasonable and proper amendments are essential to the general statutes in view of the proposed repeal of the National Bankrupt law. These bills were offered in amendment, one of which will doubtless be adopted to-morrow. The matter is attracting no little attention among business men.

Governor Van Zandt, in his Message to the Legislature, desires that the honorable body will consider and act upon the question with as much promptness as is consistent with its grave character, and that no general legislation will be introduced to prolong the session which is not immediately and imperatively demanded for the wise protection of the business interests of the State.

A BANKRUPT JUDGE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

EASTON, Pa., April 26, 1878.

O. H. Meyers, Judge of the Northampton county courts, filed his application to-day to go into involuntary bankruptcy. When he took the Bench, about three years ago, he forfeited a practice worth $10,000 a year. The salary of Judge of the County is $5,000. The cause of his financial embarrassment is attributed to his liberality in indorsing for his friends.

SPECIE RESUMPTION.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

NASHVILLE, Tenn., April 26, 1878.

The Second National Bank at Lebanon to-day resumed specie payment, announcing that it would pay gold at par for all $10 notes of its issue.

DROWNED IN THE CANAL.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

EASTON, Pa., April 26, 1878.

Charles Stahley, captain of the canal boat Blue Bonnet, while steering through the feeder of the Delaware Division Canal, about two miles below Easton, this afternoon, was thrown overboard by the breaking of the rudder tiller and drowned. He was twenty-three years old and unmarried.

CRUSHED ON THE RAIL.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

ASHLAND, Pa., April 26, 1878.

George Jaspers, a single man, aged about twenty years, while trying to board a passenger train in Centralia this afternoon, was thrown under the wheels and instantly killed. He was literally cut in two.

WASHINGTON.

Bankers Before the Banking and Currency Committee.

RESUMPTION ENTIRELY PRACTICABLE.

Army Sentiment on the Transfer of the Indian Bureau.

THE BRAZILIAN MAIL SERVICE.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, April 26, 1878.

MR. WHITTHORNE, OF TENNESSEE, ON THE PRESIDENTIAL QUESTION.

Congressman Whitthorne, of Tennessee, says, in reference to his published opinion regarding the bill introduced by Mr. Kimmell to inquire into the Presidential title, that he thinks every legal and constitutional remedy to defeat the inauguration of Hayes was exhausted, and that now he does not see anything to be done except in the nature of inquiry as to the means by which it was secured. He prefers to go on the record in this way, instead of reflecting upon the efforts of Mr. Blaine, for whom he has the highest regard.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, April 26, 1878.

THE RESUMPTION QUESTION—NEW YORK BANKERS BEFORE THE HOUSE BANKING AND CURRENCY COMMITTEE.

Mr. George S. Coe, president of the American Exchange Bank, New York, was before the House Committee on Banking and Currency to-day for several hours. In answer to questions by the Chairman (Mr. Buckner, of Missouri) he stated that at the time of the passage of the Resumption act in 1875 it was his opinion and that of the banking community generally that that law contemplated the retirement and cancellation of all the legal tender notes that should be presented at the Treasury. There was no such idea as that. The Secretary of the Treasury had the authority (as he now claims) to go on reissuing them up to the limit of $300,000,000. He did not regard that construction of the law, however, as a hindrance to resumption, because the laws of trade and commerce would keep in circulation only the amount of paper currency that should be adapted to the wants of the country and which he put at $400,000,000. He intimated that the committee seemed to overlook one very important element in the question of resumption, and that was not the amount of gold that would be actually in the country on resumption day, but the great resources of the country by which gold could be procured. In reply to a question by Mr. Phillips, of Kansas, as to whether he would not consider it a great calamity for the government to undertake resumption and to fail in the attempt, he said that, on the contrary, it would be better that an attempt should be made and should fail than that it should not be made at all; because in the former case the public mind would be kept fixed on a specie basis of prices, whereas in the latter case everything would be in doubt and uncertainty, and capital would be withdrawn from enterprises.

Mr. Tappen, President of the Gallatin National Bank and Joseph Seligman expressed their concurrence in the views so ably stated by Mr. Coe, but Mr. Seligman expressed his opinion, differing therein from Mr. Coe, that $650,000,000 was not too large an amount of paper currency for this country, and that not $50,000,000 of greenbacks would be presented for redemption.

FOUR AND A HALF PER CENT BONDS ASKED FOR BY THE SYNDICATE.

The associates of the syndicate have made a formal request for the $5,000,000 of four and a half per cent bonds, which, under the contract, they are authorized to receive in the month of May, and the bonds will be issued as rapidly as practicable, making $15,000,000.

THE INDIAN TERRITORY—QUESTION OF A TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE.

The Senate Committee on Territories to-day resumed its investigation of Indian Territory matters. U. Dell, editor of the Fort Smith *New Era*, testified that for fifteen years he has advocated the establishment of a territorial government for the Indian Territory. He said he prepared the memorials purporting to be expressions of opinion of the colored men living in the Choctaw and Chickasaw country in favor of the territorial government project on account of their alleged bad treatment by the Indians. On cross-examination he admitted that the colored people had not themselves asked for the preparation or presentation of these memorials.

Mr. B. M. Hodges, a member of the Creek Nation, testified that the other delegates were paid out of the general fund and that the school fund is used only for school purposes. The colored people had their share of the school fund. One of the Supreme Court Judges appointed by the Creek Council is a colored man, and the best of feeling exists between the Indians and negroes.

Judge Stoedham, a Creek, testified that his people are unanimously opposed to a territorial form of government or to any division of their lands in severalty.

THE TRANSFER OF THE INDIAN BUREAU—GENERAL GIBBON IN FAVOR OF THE MEASURE.

General Gibbon was before the House Committee on Military Affairs to-day, and gave his opinion by request as to the transfer of the Indian Bureau from the Interior to the War Department. He was in favor of such transfer on the ground of economy and because it would better protect the Indians and make them amenable to authority. He was also in favor of a return to the old rule of making every commander of a post *ex-officio* an Indian agent. He said an erroneous impression prevailed that army officers sought to make war with Indians. So far from this there was no glory but a great deal of danger and hard work in war. Army officers preferred peace to war in any form.

MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL—BILL AGREED UPON BY THE SENATE POST OFFICE COMMITTEE.

The Senate Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads this afternoon decided to recommend the passage of a bill to aid the establishment of semi-monthly mail service between the United States and Brazil by means of two lines of steamships alternately departing from New York and New Orleans. The bill directs the Postmaster General to advertise the proposals to perform this service under two separate contracts, for a term of ten years, in iron steamships of not less than 3,000 tons burden, American built and owned, and capable of a speed of thirteen knots per hour. The maximum compensation is limited by the bill to $30 per mile per annum, and the distance is to be considered nor greater than $5,000 miles. No bids will therefore be received which call for a compensation exceeding $150,000 per annum for either line. This bill is substantially the measure heretofore adopted by the Postal Committee of the House of Representatives.

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

The Senate Post Office Committee to-day agreed to the main features of a bill regulating compensation for railway mail service on the composite basis of car space furnished, weight of mails carried and average speed of trains between terminal points. The section providing for arbitration of differences between railways and the government was discussed, but not agreed upon. The bill will probably be completed at the next meeting.

THE REVISION OF THE PATENT LAWS.

The House Committee on Patents to-day concluded the consideration of the bill providing for a general revision of the existing Patent laws, and agreed to report the bill with amendments to the House with a favorable recommendation.

THE TERRITORY OF OKLOHAMA.

The bill creating the Territory of Oklohama was to day agreed upon by the House Committee on Territories.

THE CHINESE IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

The House Committee on Education and Labor has agreed to report favorably the resolution authorizing a conference between the United States, Great Britain and China, on the question of Chinese immigration.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

PASSAGE OF THE POST OFFICE APPROPRIATION BILL.

WASHINGTON, April 26, 1878.

Mr. HUBBELL, (rep.) of Mich., from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill exempting from enrolment and admeasurement all vessels not propelled by steam or sail except vessels of that character engaged in trade with contiguous foreign territory. Passed.

The House then, at half-past twelve, went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Mills, of Texas, in the chair, on the Post Office Appropriation bill.

Mr. BANNING, (dem.) of Ohio, offered an amendment dividing letter carriers into two classes—those who have served over one year and those who have not served one year, the former to receive $1,000 a year and the latter $800. The amendment was ruled out on a point of order.

Mr. KELLEY, (rep.) of Pa., declared that the carriers were the worst paid and most overworked of the employés of the government, and hoped that some effort would be made during the present session to relieve that deserving class of men.

Mr. CANNON, (rep.) of Ill., moved to increase the aggregate amount appropriated for the pay of letter carriers, provided that the amount received by any letter carrier shall not exceed the amount which he now receives. He did not desire to increase the pay of letter carriers, but he wished to give the Postmaster General money by which he could furnish additional carriers at Chicago and other cities.

Mr. O'NEILL, (rep.) of Pa., opposed the amendment. He denied what Mr. Cannon had stated, that the carriers were the best paid men in the service. Clerks in the Post Office worked about eight hours in the day, while the carriers worked from six in the morning until eight at night.

Mr. BANKS, (rep.) of Mass., spoke of the vast advantage and vast saving to the government that was secured by letter carriers. He was in favor of the voting for an increase of the appropriation for their pay, leaving it to the discretion of the Postmaster General to increase the salary of letter carriers.

Mr. Cannon's amendment was then rejected.

The committee, at twenty minutes past three, rose and reported the bill to the House. The first amendment on which a vote was taken was the one increasing the appropriations for special agents from $100,000 to $150,000, and it was agreed to—yeas 102, nays 91. The next vote was on the amendment providing that *per diem* pay of special agents shall only be allowed when they are travelling on business of the department. Adopted.

The amendment providing that the compensation of postmasters of the fourth class shall be based upon the number of stamps cancelled, instead of the number sold, at their respective offices, was agreed to.

After several other minor amendments had been adopted the bill was passed.

Mr. PHILLIPS, (rep.) of Kan., rising to a question of personal privilege, said that in a speech delivered a few nights ago by a gentleman from Mississippi (referring to Mr. Money), that gentleman had stated that Northern members had introduced bills appropriating $1,969,000,000, and that he (Mr. Phillips) had introduced one appropriating $1,300,000,000. (Laughter.) That was a very respectable amount, but reference to the bill would show that it only asked for an appropriation of $30,000. They could do some remarkable things in Mississippi, especially in arithmetic in regard to elections. Raising $30,000 to $1,300,000,000 was a remarkable thing even in Mississippi. He presumed the rest of the gentlemen's figures were equally accurate. The appropriation asked for in his (Mr. Phillips) bill was not even to be expended in Northern States, but was to be expended between St. Louis and the mouth of the Mississippi River.

Mr. FINLEY, (dem.) of Ohio, wanted to know if it was a question of privilege for a member to make a comparison between the statements in a speech and the truth in regard to facts. If it was he would take one-half of the speeches of the gentlemen on the other side and show that they were not true.

Mr. PHILLIPS said that he had been attacked for bringing in a bill of that character appropriating $1,300,000,000; that was personal. (Laughter.)

The House then, at half-past five o'clock P. M., adjourned until to-morrow.

TROUBLE AT PONCA AGENCY.

ARREST OF PARTIES FOR STEALING FROM AN INDIAN CHIEF RESISTED BY CITIZENS.

WASHINGTON, April 26, 1878.

The following was received to-day:—

PONCA AGENCY, Via BAXTER SPRINGS, Kansas, April 25, 1878.

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, Washington:—

One white and one colored man took horses belonging to a Ponca chief from a herd on this reservation. The facts were reported and police officers were sent to arrest them. They were making their way in opposite directions from Baxter, where they reside. Citizens of Baxter hearing of the arrest came to the agency in large numbers, claiming that the prisoners were innocent. Upon your telegraphing instructions the Superintendent took the prisoners to Baxter to turn them over to the United States Marshal.

A BOISTEROUS MOB.

A crowd of excited citizens, some of whom were armed, assembled, and were very profane and boisterous and threatened to hang the Superintendent. The prisoners, encouraged by the citizens, refused to return to the agency and demanded trial immediately. It being night, no witness for the prosecution appeared, and the excited crowd demanded that the prisoners be released. Please request the United States District Attorney to investigate the demands of the Indians and punishment of the parties.

A. G. BOONE, United States Agent.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE PENSACOLA AT SAN FRANCISCO—ORDERS.

WASHINGTON, April 26, 1878.

The Navy Department is informed of the arrival of the Pensacola at San Francisco yesterday, sixteen days from Honolulu. All hands well.

ORDERS.

Lieutenant C. P. Perkins and Ensign J. Hunt are detached from the Minnesota and ordered to the Enterprise. Ensign York Noell is ordered to the Minnesota.

THE OMAHA AT PORTSMOUTH, N. H.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., April 26, 1878.

The United States steamer Omaha arrived at the Quarantine in the lower harbor this forenoon. She will be fumigated before proceeding to the Navy Yard, where she will go out of commission and a survey will be made.

THE RICHMOND AT PARA.

RIO JANEIRO, March 31, 1878.

The Richmond arrived at Para on the 9th, having been three days off the port without finding a pilot. Finally the Brazilian Navigation Company's packet Para came across her and guided her in.

BRAZIL.

THE EMPIRE HARD PRESSED FOR MONEY—GREAT RAILWAY ENTERPRISE—YELLOW FEVER—LOSS OF A RIVER STEAMER.

RIO JANEIRO, March 31, 1878.

A full Council of State is to be held to-night, presided over by the Emperor, to decide upon the issue of $10,000,000 to $20,000,000 (20,000,000 milreis to 40,000,000 milreis) of paper money, the Treasury being depleted and unable to meet its payments, although six and even six and one-half per cent interest is offered by the Treasury for six months' loans or renewals. This is a consequence of the reckless expenditures of preceding Cabinets on commissions, &c., and of the great engagements entered into for sewerage and water works, railroads, &c., counting upon resources of credit which circumstances now render unavailable.

AN HERING CONSUL.

The Minister of Finance has ordered the prosecution of Señor João Pereira de Andrade, ex-Charge in Switzerland, in consequence of a deficit of 60,000 milreis having been ascertained in his accountancy while Treasury delegate in London.

A GREAT RAILWAY.

The Emperor and Empress made an excursion into Minas Gerdes last week to open the Forum at Juiz da Fôra, as well as a section of forty kilometers of the Dom Pedro II. Railroad, which traverses the Joam Ayres gorge of the Serra da Mantiqueira, the highest, with one exception, of the mountain buttresses of Brazil, and the point of maximum elevation of the railroad. The height of it in the gorge is 3,462 feet above the sea, the line rising thereto in 351 kilometers. The total length of the Dom Pedro II. Railroad open to traffic is now 363 kilometers. Some heavy works had to be made to reach the summit of the gap, the line passing in the preceding ten kilometers through two tunnels of 450 and 420 feet respectively and a cutting of 108 feet in height. In the gap there is a great masonry revetement of 960 feet in length on each side and 80 feet in height, which contains about 12,000 cubic metres of stone and cost about $100,000. It was made by an American engineer in less than four months.

PRESENTING THE DIPLOMAS.

The 25th was the anniversary of the swearing to the constitution—a great festival in Brazil—and on the same day the Emperor distributed the Philadelphia premiums to the exhibitors, which are carefully exhibited in conspicuous places by the recipients.

HEALTH.

The city's health has somewhat improved since the light rains of last week and the comparatively cooler weather following them. The deaths from yellow fever in the city have ranged this week between ten and six a day. In the Maritime Hospital at Jurujuba, to which the sick in the shipping have been sent, the entries from the beginning of December to March 15 were 1,012, including 60 from the Brazilian navy. The deaths were 106; discharged, 718; remaining, 188. None of the navy patients died.

CABLE FACILITIES.

The Pernambuco and Maceiohan telegraph cable was laid by the 12th, and will be at work on the 11th of April. The Maceiohan and Para section is expected to be laid and open to traffic by the 1st of May, when our cable communication with Para will be complete. The government land line has not yet gone beyond the province of Pernambuco.

LOSS OF A STEAMER.

The river steamer Julio La Roque was lost March 7 in the Bay of Marajó, about sixty miles above Para, while bound up stream, having sprung a leak. Before shore could be reached the water reached her fires, and an explosion destroyed her, causing the loss of twenty-five lives. She was built at Wilmington in 1870 by Pusey, Jones & Co.

FROM RIVER PLATE.

In Paraguay great inundations have been caused by the great rains, and a large number of the buildings in Asuncion have been destroyed. The revolutionists of Corrientes have submitted to the Argentine general government, ostensibly unconditionally, but really upon an understanding that the obnoxious federal partisan, Governor Derqui, would resign, which he has done. At an election fight at the capital of the province of Jujuy ten men were killed.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM EVARTS.

William Evarts, the third son of Mr. William M. Evarts, Secretary of State, died at his father's residence in Washington yesterday morning at one o'clock, in his twenty-seventh year. Nearly two years ago, while engaged in the mercantile house of Russell & Co., at Shanghai, China, Mr. Evarts was taken sick with typhoid fever, which left him with weakened lungs, and from their enfeebled condition pulmonary disease followed, which almost incapacitated him for business. His failing health warned him that he must seek a more congenial climate, and physicians were consulted, who advised him to go to Los Angeles, Cal., and try the recuperating effect of the air of that celebrated locality. Thither he went last winter, reaching California in January. A few weeks at this place convinced him that he had but little to hope for, and about three weeks ago he was urged to try a journey eastward before his health became too low for railroad travel. Secretary and Mrs. Evarts went as far as Omaha to meet their son, and found him scarcely able to bear the rare atmosphere of the Rocky Mountain region. This made it necessary to proceed with great caution. On arriving in Washington the invalid rested well after his fatiguing journey until Thursday night, when it was too apparent that death was near to relieve him of his pain. He died peacefully, conscious to the last moment. Mr. Evarts was a graduate of the class of 1872 at Harvard, and after leaving college remained in New York city preparing himself for the tea business in which he was to engage in China. The remains were taken to Windsor, Vt., last night, and the funeral will take place there on Monday next at three o'clock. There was religious service at the residence yesterday evening at seven o'clock, Rev. Mr. Townsend, rector of the Church of the Incarnation, officiating. The President and family were not present, being in Philadelphia. The members of the Cabinet, Senators, members of Congress and government officials were present, together with the officials and clerks of the State Department, filling the spacious rooms of the residence to overflowing. This affliction recalls a similar event in the official career of Secretary Seward, who mourned the death of his daughter while he was serving as the predecessor of Mr. Evarts. Mr. Hamilton Fish also mourned the loss of his mother.

GENERAL HEIMANN, OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

A cable despatch from St. Petersburg reports that General Heimann, who greatly distinguished himself in the late campaign in Armenia, is dead. General Heimann was of German descent and was born at Grodno, Russia, in 1823. In 1839 he entered the Nijni-Novgorod regiment as a cadet, was transferred to a Caucasian battalion in 1842, and received his first commission in 1844. He subsequently served and greatly distinguished himself in all the campaigns in the Caucasus, became a major in 1856 and in 1862 was promoted to the rank of colonel and appointed to the command of the Sebastopol regiment. In the following year he accompanied Prince Albrecht, of Prussia, in his travels, and on