LATE NEWS BY WIRE

The Baltimore Synod Listening to Reports.

RESIGNATION OF CHILE'S CABINET

Return of Mrs. Waller, the Imprisoned American's Wife.

SHE TALKS ABOUT THE CASE

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

BALTIMORE, Md., October 17.—The Presbyterian synod of Baltimore began its first session of the day at 9 o'clock this morning in the Sunday school room of the First Presbyterian Church. A committee was appointed by the moderator to select a preacher and theme for the synodical sermon of 1896. The committee selected the Rev. Isaac H. Condit as preacher.

The committee on religious instruction in the army and navy made a verbal report, which was accepted.

The finance committee presented its report approving of the accounts of the treasurer, which were found to be sustained by the proper vouchers. The committee found a credit of $60.18. It recommended the same assessment for contingent expenses as last year, namely, $175, to be proportioned as follows: Presbytery of Baltimore, $70; presbytery of New Castle, $52.50; presbytery of Washington city, $52.50. The report of the committee was accepted.

The report of the church erection committee was presented and adopted, with the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That the synod heartily approves of the work of the board of church erection under its present administration.

"Resolved, That the larger and stronger synods contribute more annually than they ask for.

"Resolved, That churches making particular contributions to particular churches be advised to send such contributions through the board."

The report of the committee on church erection showed that the total amount received during the year was $195,580; for the general fund, $100,157, not quite one-half of which, or $49,301, came from the churches; for the loan fund, $63,232, and for the manse fund, $32,400.

The Rev. Erskine N. White, D. D., the secretary of the board, delivered an address on church erection and the work of the board.

The standing committee on temperance presented its report. Pending the adoption of the recommendations the order of the day was taken up, and the report of the standing committee on foreign missions and of the Ladies' Synodical Society was presented.

The report of committee on temperance was accepted and consideration of the recommendations postponed until after the service of prayer provided in the program adopted by the synod. The service was led by the Rev. Dr. T. S. Hamlin.

The following routine of business has been adopted for this afternoon's session: Ministerial relief, quarter-century million-dollar fund, aid for colleges, home missions, address by Rev. D. J. McMillan, D. D., secretary of home mission board. The recommendations of the committee on temperance will then be considered.

At 8 p.m. there will be a popular meeting, ladies' societies will meet and addresses will be made by Dr. A. J. Brum and Dr. Radcliffe of Washington.

MRS. WALLER'S RETURN.

She Says That Ambassador Eustis is Doing All He Can.

NEW YORK, October 17.—Mrs. Waller, wife of the ex-consul of the United States at Tamatave, Madagascar, was a passenger, with her two daughters and son, arriving today, on board the steamship Amsterdam. Regarding the efforts which have been made to obtain a hearing for her husband, who is confined as a military prisoner at Marseilles for the alleged offence of holding communications with the enemies of France in Madagascar, Mrs. Waller said today:

"I am told that Ambassador Eustis has been criticised by those who sympathize with my husband, and I want to correct any false impression that may have obtained. Mr. Eustis treated us, and is treating my husband, with the utmost consideration and tenderness. He exerted every possible influence for our assistance and our benefit.

"Only red tape that binds the wheels of state in France is to blame for our failure to see my husband, and his solitary confinement is being made as easy and as pleasant as possible by Mr. Eustis, who sends to him newspapers, books, money, tobacco, delicacies and all that is permitted to be sent to a prisoner.

"I do not think my husband will live a year in the French prison, for he was ill for a whole year before his arrest on March 25 last."

Mrs. Waller said further that she had forwarded to Secretary Olney documentary evidence sufficient to completely prove the innocence of Mr. Waller.

RUMORED CABINET CHANGE.

Dr. Von Boetticher Said to Have Resigned.

BERLIN, October 17.—An unconfirmed report that Dr. Von Boetticher, the imperial minister of the interior, had resigned was in circulation here today.

CHILE'S CABINET RESIGNS.

A Complete Surprise to the Representatives Here.

SANTIAGO DE CHILE, October 17.—The Chilean cabinet has resigned.

A Complete Surprise.

The announcement of a crisis in the Chilean cabinet was a complete surprise at the Chilean legation here, the members of which are at a loss to account for it. They say their latest advices showed no indication of a brewing storm, and they had believed, as other well-informed Chileans had, that the present administration would prove permanent.

The outgoing cabinet was organized only about three or four months ago. It comprised representatives of the various factions of the liberal party under the leadership of Prime Minister Recabarren and his active representative, Senor McIver.

The cabinet was composed as follows: Prime minister, Manuel Recabarren (interior department); foreign affairs, Claudio Matte; justice and public instruction, Mariano Sanchez Fontecilla; finances, Enrique McIver; war and navy, Ismael Valdes; industry and public works, Juan Miquel Davila Baeza.

THE NEW BISHOP.

A Rumor in Minneapolis That the Local See May Be Filley From Outside.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., October 17.—There is a rumor that the house of bishops will ask the house of deputies to concur in a canon allowing the new bishop of Washington to be chosen from among the present diocesan bishops or else to nominate them as in the case of missionary jurisdictions, a bishop for that see.

The reasons given are the importance and influence of Washington.

It is also thought to be a movement to defeat the present popular candidate for the new bishopric.

TARRED AND FEATHERED.

The Punishment of a Man Who Insulted Gov. McIntyre.

DENVER, Col., October 17.—News has just reached here that a negro named Bob Marshall was tarred and feathered at Greeley last night for having insulted Gov. McIntyre at the Potato Day celebration.

REFORMING THE CURRENCY.

Edward Atkinson Discusses the Monetary System.

ATLANTA, Ga., October 17.—The event of today's session of the American Bankers' Association was the address of Mr. Edward Atkinson.

Here is a suggestion that may save some business man money.

A business man advertises for profit—not to see his name in print.

Advertising that does not beget profitable results is dear at any price.

Advertising space in one paper costing fifteen cents a line may be profitable investment, while in another space at a cent a line may be excessively dear.

Note that The Star's advertisers are the prosperous concerns of Washington.

WARRANT FOR CORBETT.

His Case to Be Argued This Afternoon.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., October 17.—There is a warrant outnow for the arrest of Corbett and the merits of the case under the law will be argued and passed upon by Chancellor Leatherman this afternoon.

DURRANT'S COUNSEL IN ACCORD.

No Truth in the Report of Disagreement.

SAN FRANCISCO, October 17.—Durrant's attorneys expect to conclude the case of the defense next Monday.

There is no truth in the report that the counsel for Durrant have disagreed, and that Duprey was making an excuse of his opportune illness to get out of the case. The most perfect harmony exists between Gen. Dickinson and Mr. Duprey.

In speaking of the friendly feeling which exists between the attorneys, Gen. Dickinson said: "The defense has tried this case fairly, and it is gratifying to know that there has been no vindictive spirit shown by any one of the attorneys. We have defended the accused to the best of our ability, firmly believing in his innocence from the start. The case of the defense will rest on the merits of its testimony. A great many of the leading attorneys have spoken to me about our action in putting Durrant on the stand.

"We did that in order to give the young man a chance to tell his story.

"The legal brethren have been disposed to criticise us for permitting Durrant to tell the story of the unknown man and of his going to the ferry. The object in allowing him to relate in his own way was to convince the jury and the public that Durrant was telling his own story, and not repeating a memorized statement. It was to show that the young man was not coached."

PADGETT MAY TALK.

He May Make a Statement to the Union Next Sunday.

Frank Padgett has not yet left his house to visit his old office at the Typographical Temple, nor is he yet able, according to his friends, to give his mind to the task of making a statement of his accounts. They say he is sleeping soundly night and day, and rapidly gaining in strength and health.

This morning Secretary Pro Tem. Toner said that Mr. Padgett would in all probability be able to attend the meeting of the union Sunday and he might be able to present some sort of a statement showing how his accounts stand.

Mr. Toner had men at work this morning clearing out the vault in which the union's archives are kept. Padgett's account books for this year, as far as posted, were found. No other discoveries of importance were made. The fact that the officers of the union continue on their own account to investigate into the condition of affairs, notwithstanding Padgett's presence in the city, strengthens the suspicion among members of the union that a substantial deficit really exists.

Today President Tracy appointed William N. Brockwell of the government printing office as a member of the committee of investigation authorized by the meeting Sunday. The other member will be selected tonight. No expert has yet been chosen to examine Mr. Padgett's books. Mr. Tracy said this afternoon that would be left to the committee to do.

CHARGED WITH ARSON.

John W. Brawner on Trial in the Criminal Court.

The case of John W. Browner, charged with arson, was called for trial in Criminal Court No. 2 today before Judge Cox, Associate District Attorney Jeffords prosecuting and ex-Congressman Chas. H. Turner and Mr. Edmund Compton appearing on behalf of the defendant.

Brawner, who is said to be well known in public circles, lived on M street between 3d and 4½ southwest, where, it is said, he ran an eating house. Next door to him, so the evidence for the government tended to show, Reuben Taylor, colored, ran a saloon.

During the evening of the 3d of last December Taylor discovered smoke issuing through his house from Brawner's, and he gave an alarm. Taylor's house was damaged slightly by smoke, but the one occupied by Brawner, owned by Wm. J. Lenoir, suffered to the extent of several hundred dollars. James Thornton, an old pensioner, testified that Brawner had moved his family from the house and also some household effects, and one Harris swore that he heard Brawner say the evening in question, "I'll burn that nigger (Taylor) out tonight." Brawner closed his house up early on the evening of the fire and did not return until after the fire.

Beds were found saturated with coal oil, and two large cans belonging to Brawner were found in the house.

Brawner, in his own defense, swore that he removed his family because of the smallpox scare, and stoutly denied knowing anything whatever about the fire. He admitted jumping his bail, and to being captured several weeks ago in Philadelphia. He also admitted that some years ago he was convicted there of housebreaking, and that he was imprisoned in the penitentiary because of it, until pardoned.

The jury at 3:10 returned a verdict of guilty.

THE FISH COMMISSION.

The Vacancy is Expected to Be Filled Very Soon.

It is expected that the President will soon fill the vacancy in the office of commissioner of fisheries, caused by the death of Col. Marshall McDonald. The duties of the office have been temporarily performed by Mr. Herbert A. Gill, chief clerk, but the thirty days' period during which the office may be filled by temporary designation has expired. There is pressing need for prompt action on the part of the President in this matter, it is said, inasmuch as the important work of the fish commission is now embarrassed because of the absence of the official head. Aside from the merest routine nothing is now being done by the commission.

The Active Candidates.

Although the names of about fifty persons have been mentioned in connection with the appointment, it is said there are but a dozen active candidates for the office. Among the most prominent possibilities are Dr. Tarlton H. Bean, for many years connected with the commission, now superintendent of the aquarium just established in New York, and who is said to be backed by Secretary Lamont and Assistant Secretary Reynolds; Prof. J. A. Henshall, a member of the Cuvier Club, Cincinnati, who has the support of Secretary Carlisle and Attorney General Harmon; President May of the Nebraska fish commission, who is Secretary Morton's candidate; H. C. Ford, president of the Pennsylvania fish commission; J. F. Crisp of Missouri, Capt. J. W. Collins, a former attache of the commission; S. G. Worth, at present in charge of the central station in this city; Prof. Rathbun, one of the scientific men in the commission; Major Ferguson, formerly connected with the institution, and Herschel Whitaker of Detroit.

The office of fish commissioner is a most desirable one. Besides a salary attachment of $5,000 it has numerous attractions to a student of nature, not the least of which is the control of several fine steam vessels.

THE SPIRITUALISTS

Business Transacted at the Sessions of Their Convention Today.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AFFIRMED

Some Amendments to the Constition and By-Laws.

COMING RELIGIOUS CONGRESS

At this morning's session of the spiritualists' convention consideration was given to the proposed amendments to the constitution of the national association. Among the more important amendments adopted by the convention were the following:

Substituting for the present declaration of the objects of the association the statement that "The objects of said association shall be the organization of the various spiritualist societies of the United States into one general association for the purpose of mutual aid and co-operation in benevolent, charitable, educational, literary, musical, scientific, religious and missionary purposes and enterprises germane to the phenomena, science, philosophy and religion of spiritualism."

Amendment as to Membership.

The rule relating to membership was amended to read, that "In any one state there shall be but one chartered association, having exclusive state jurisdiction, and said association shall be composed of delegates from subordinate societies, and such association may, at the discretion of the board, be granted exclusive power to

Francis B. Woodbury.

issue all subordinate charters within said state."

It was also provided that "Whenever the board shall have granted exclusive territorial jurisdiction by charter, a second charter shall not be issued giving jurisdiction over any part of said territory, or domiciled within the same, so long as said first charter remain in force."

The Per Capita Tax.

The contest over the question of the per capita tax of 25 cents for the support of the national association was settled by the adoption of an amendment, as follows: "By collecting $5 for each charter issued to each association of lay members, and 25 cents per capita as annual dues from the same.

"By collecting $10 for each charter issued to associations composed of delegates from subordinate associations, and 25 cents per delegate as annual dues from the same; by collections to be taken by each chartered society on the 3d of November or on its regular meeting nearest to said date in each year; and to receive donations, contributions and bequests.

"The board may execute the payment of the per capita dues or delegate dues in case of charters to camp associations, children's lyceums or charitable associations, and such excuse shall exclude representation in the conventions of the national association on behalf of such members or delegates, but not on behalf of the charter, and no distinction shall be made in the same class of societies."

By-Law Changes.

The convention then spent some time in consideration of a number of proposed changes to the by-laws. The amendments, which were mainly to correct verbiage and perfect some incomplete rules and regulations of procedure, were adopted. A proposition to pay, out of the general fund, the expenses of delegates attending the national convention was voted down with loud unanimity.

The Afternoon Session.

The afternoon session of the convention was devoted to receiving reports from committees upon routine business. One report carried a favorable recommendation upon the proposition that the spiritualists be represented in the coming congress of liberal religions. The report occasioned debate, which occupied the attention of the convention for a large portion of the after-

Mrs. Cora. L. V. Richmond.

noon, and up to the time of closing this report a vote had not been reached.

At tonight's session at 7:30 o'clock there will be short addresses by prominent spiritualists and tests by Edgar W. Emerson and Miss Maggie Waite.

Platform Reaffirmed.

At the late afternoon session yesterday the platform of the last year's convention was reaffirmed, as follows:

"We the delegates of the National Spiritualist Association, affirm a knowledge of the continuity of all life and its continuance of operation in accordance with intelligent law, and we affirm a knowledge of conscious spirit individuality after transition with the power of communication under proper conditions in accordance with natural law, with spirits incarnate, and we affirm that the spirit assumes its new relations in matters after transition. We also affirm that the laws of spirit progress and evolution are manifest in this life, and are not interrupted nor suspended by the dissolution of the physical body, and that advancement comes only through individual effort.

"Therefore, Resolved, That on the facts underlying the philosophy and religion of spiritualism, we ask each society to construct a code of ethics commensurate with its intellectual requirements, and adopt such forms and ceremonies as the circumstances of their needs require."

At the evening session tests were given by Miss Maggie Gaule and Mrs. J. J. Whitney.

Rather Violent Play.

Today, during the noon recess at the Eastern High School, Henry Dobson, one of the school boys, about fifteen years old, ran against another boy while playing, and was so badly stunned that he was unconscious when picked up. He was taken to his home, No. 100 11th street northeast, in the fifth precinct patrol wagon.

IN COURT AGAIN

John Thornton Charged With Threatening His Brother's Wife.

Another Chapter of the Cutting Affray at Cobb's Hotel—Held in $300 Real Estate Security.

Part of the Thornton theatrical crowd got into the Police Court today, after yesterday's experience, and Judge Miller listened patiently to the witnesses as they related the stories of midnight drinking parties, fights and threats. This one big time in which some of them indulged happened after the vaudeville show was over. Sam Dessauer said in court that he thought the court proceedings served as a good advertisement, but Bonnie Thornton, his partner's wife, said she detested newspaper notoriety, partly on account of her people in New York.

John J. Thornton, who was familiarly called "Jack," one of the three brothers, was defendant in today's case, and the charge was that he had threatened the life of Bonnie, who does not happen to be one of the "pretty" actresses.

Jim Thornton, who is Bonnie's husband, has not been to see his two brothers, who came here Tuesday night and figured in a fight in Cobb's Hotel yesterday morning, and the two young men in jail think he has forsaken them.

As printed in yesterday's Star, "Jack" is the one who was fined $25 yesterday, and this morning he was driven to court from his temporary residence on the branch and given a hearing.

Bonnie Thornton, who is a little woman, with a scar on her face and a will of her own, was the first witness examined, and she convinced the court in a few minutes that she was not in love with her brother-in-law.

No Love Lost.

"And," she said, "he's hated me for several years, and has threatened me to my face. He came on here to 'do' me, so this lady (Mrs. Sam Dessauer) told me."

She went on to tell the court that she had had an unpleasant experience in New York, where she showed at a theater.

"What theater?" Judge Miller wanted to know.

"London Theater," she answered, "on the Bowery."

Witness went on to tell the court that Jack had loitered about stage entrances to New York theaters and annoyed her.

"He despises me," she said, "and says if he had me out of the way he could get my husband's salary."

"Did he ever threaten you in New York?"

"Yes, sir," she answered. "He said he would 'finish' me once when I met him at Proctor's Theater."

"Are you on good terms with your husband?" Bonnie was asked.

"I was until these brothers came here," she answered.

Mrs. Thornton told the court that she had said to her husband that she would not go on the stage if his brothers came here."

"The sight of them," said Bonnie, "gives me the hysterics."

"Did John ever strike you?" Judge Miller inquired.

"Yes, your honor," she replied. "Six years ago he struck me."

Although she said he had threatened and annoyed her for six years while in New York, she had not had him arrested because of the unpleasant notoriety it would have given her.

Two Witnesses.

Sam Dessauer and wife came next to take Bonnie's part in the affair and they made a complete success of their undertaking.

Mollie said to the court: "I'm a professional actress."

She related to the court the story of the midnight beer party and fight in her room in the Hotel Lawrence. It was something like 2:30 a.m. when the party separated, and six hours later the Cobb's Hotel fight occurred.

The three brothers were there, she said, and they got in a fight. Sam was in the room in his sleeping gown and he took her part in the affray.

"I interfered in the fight," said Mollie, "and John came at me."

"What threat was made?" the court asked.

"John said that he had come on to finish Bonnie Thornton," she answered. "He had been drinking and his voice was very rough."

She also said that he had some words about paying for the beer and in addition to assaulting the waiter he choked her husband Sam.

The Prisoner's Questions.

The prisoner here took part in the proceedings and questioned witness. Her answers showed that he was not an intruder in the room, and that no effort was made to get rid of him until the fight was started.

Sam Dessauer, one of the owners of the show, appeared on the stand, and told of the beer party as he remembered it. He said that Jim Thornton did not want to see any trouble, and that he got on his knees and cried. He had never heard John threaten his sister-in-law, but he did witness the Wednesday 2:30 a.m. row, and told of some highly indecent and threatening language that was used toward his (Sam Dessauer's) wife.

Bonnie Thornton was again called and questioned, and among other things she said: "John smashed me in the face."

Found Guilty.

John got on the stand once more and told the judge that if his brother were in court, a different phase would be put on the case.

"Where is he?" the judge asked.

"At the Hotel Lawrence, I suppose."

The defendant told the court that he was employed as bartender at Petersen's's, No. 234 8th avenue, New York city, and denied most of the statements made about him.

He said he was invited into Mrs. Dessauer's room to drink beer, and claimed that he was not responsible for the trouble in the room.

The best evidence that he did not intend to harm her, he thought, was the fact that he had not done so in all the five years in New York.

Judge Miller concluded that the case was one in which the defendant should be held, and sentenced him to give bond in the sum of $300 or go to jail for four months.

WASHINGTON HOLT HERE.

Preparing for the Will Proceedings in the Probate Court.

Washington Holt arrived in Washington last night. Today he and Col. W. G. Sterrett held a prolonged interview with their counsel, Shellabarger & Wilson. The principal matter under consideration at this consultation was the answer and the accompanying affidavits to be filed in Probate Court tomorrow, in reply to the petition of Luke Devlin, as executor under Judge Holt's will of 1873.

Mr. Holt is in his usual good health and does not seem to be worrying himself over the prospect of a legal battle to secure the distribution of his uncle's estate by law. He says he has not a single item of news in connection with the whole matter. He doesn't know, he says, a thing more in regard to the will of 1873 than he knew six weeks ago and he has not heard anything new in regard to the lost will of 1886. He had read the Cullen romance, and laughed as he mentioned it.

Tomorrow's St. Asaph Entries.

First race, six furlongs, selling—Luke Richards, Westover, Alva, Salisbury, Trumpeter, Johnny, Weber, 110.

Second race, four and one-half furlongs—Hay Tay, 110; Lucille, Pat, Rabbitt, 107; Ellsworth, Ceremony, Stanley M., Goldspre, 102.

Third race, seven furlongs, selling—Contest, King Paul, Sir Rae, Vesparian, Devisee, Psyche, Adjourn, Duke of Gloucester, Repetition, 105.

Fourth race, five furlongs, selling—Jo Jap, Tribute, Clansman, Grampian, 107; Patti, Tanglefoot, Jessie Taral, 102.

Fifth race, one mile, selling—Lotion, Airplant, Gallatin, 100; Selah, Ponce de Leon, Harry M., Hazel, Tioga, 97.

Sixth race, four and one-half furlongs—Dillon J., 107; Chillon, 110; Busirus, Miss Agnes, Imp. Bones, 107; Arundel, Dorcas L., 102.

Sixth race declared off and second divided.

DISTRICT AFFAIRS

Local Estimates Being Very Materially Scaled Down.

THE EXTENSION OF STREETS

Water Meters Still a Matter of Official Interest.

OTHER LOCAL AFFAIRS

Owing to the comparatively low estimate of probable revenues and the importance of many needed improvements, the Commissioners have been forced to greatly reduce their estimates. For several days past they have had the heads of departments before them, and the instructions, it is understood, have been to scale as much as possible.

It is understood that the estimates for public charities alone have been scaled nearly $25,000.

Other departments will also suffer a cut.

There is little doubt that the Commissioners will try again this year to get a bond bill through Congress to insure the quick extension of streets, according to the general plan of the city.

Highway Extension Plan.

The engineer department is hard at work upon the second section of the highway extension plan, and before another month hope to have the same before the highway commission. Every day interested property holders appear before the Commissioners, and, after examining the tentative maps of the second section, discuss the features of the new plans with the Engineer Commissioner. Now is the time to look after matter pertaining to this part of the extension plan. After the subject has been carefully considered and the maps all drawn, it will be a difficult matter, indeed, to get anything changed. Ample opportunity is now given to all who desire to offer any suggestions in the matter.

The tentative map, as now drawn, will be somewhat changed, it is expected, but in the main it will be submitted about as it now stands.

The engineers who have been engaged in this work have not found the problem a difficult one. Subdivisions are few in number, and the land along the proposed extension is cheap. About 6,500 acres are embraced in this section. The topography of the country is well adapted to the extension of the city's streets. There are a number of subdivisions included in this section which, of course, will not be interfered with. It is definitely determined not to interfere with the subdivisions of Trinidad and Brookland, because of the many improvements that have taken place there. Perhaps the most important extension to be considered is that of Delaware avenue.

The present place shows a deflection at Florida avenue so as to include the Branch road, and runs directly to T street, being bent at T street so as to run direct to the circle located at Rhode Island avenue and 10th street. This morning Lawyer Newton and Mr. Goodfellow, the latter a property holder along the line of that avenue, appeared before the Commissioners. The object of their visit was to urge a deflection of Delaware avenue at Randolph street instead of at T street, as at present proposed.

It was argued that if the deflections were so made the avenue when extended would not cut through any houses and would assist in the matter of filling and excavating, as the topography of the country along this new line was much better adapted than along the other one. This matter will be considered by the Commissioners. Another important extension just decided upon is that of extending 6th street northwest from the Boundary to Vermont avenue. The extension of this street will cut right through the base ball park at the head of 7th street and destroy its usefulness as an exhibition ground.

Water Meters.

It looks as though the water meter law was practically a dead letter so far, at least, as this year is concerned.

Some time ago the Commissioners decided to enforce the law on the first day of October. Rules and regulations were printed and distributed and a number of water meters were erected.

A question, however, has arisen that throws the whole subject into a tangled problem, and the attorney for the District will have to lend his assistance to unravel the problem.

The question is, Have the Commissioners the right to insist upon the erection of a water meter when they have already accepted from householders the water rent for the present year in advance? It is generally believed that they have no such authority and there are some people who will refuse to erect a water meter until the question is settled. All water rents for occupied buildings are due July 1, and unless the same be paid within thirty days the water will be shut off and not resumed until a penalty of $2 is paid.

There are comparatively few who delay the payment of a water tax, and in a majority of cases the places where water meters should be erected have already paid their water rent, under the old system of assessment. Having already paid the water tax for the present fiscal year (water rents always being payable in advance), it is not believed by many that the Commissioners have any right to insist upon the erection of meters, and the consequent payment quarterly of the amount of water consumed. At any rate, the Commissioners are impressed with the serious complications and have ceased installing water meters. Meanwhile the attorney for the District will wrestle with the problem and make a report to the Commissioners.

Resident Medical Student.

George M. Godfrey has been appointed resident medical student at the Washington Asylum Hospital, vice C. E. Young, resigned.

Physician to the Poor.

The Commissioners have accepted the resignation of Dr. J. F. Price, physician to the poor in the southwest, and appointed Dr. E. E. Richardson to the position. Dr. Richardson is one of the physicians who recently passed the medical examining board and attained a high standing. He is a graduate of Columbian Medical College.

Orders Issued Today.

The Commissioners have awarded a contract to construct an egg-shaped sewer in Georgia avenue between 14th and 16th streets southeast to Harry C. Nichols.

The Commissioners have remitted the penalty of $10 per day for failure to complete the work on Florida avenue between New York avenue and Brightwood road with Cudmore and Frawley.

The Commissioners have rejected the Portland cement delivered by Contractor Donaldson because it failed to pass the tests prescribed in the specification, and have authorized the purchase of the cement in the open market.

On the recommendation of the engineer department, the Commissioners have ordered the abandonment of the 3-inch water main in the west side of 2d street southeast between East Capitol street and Pennsylvania avenue, and the laying of 305 feet of 6-inch main in the east side of said street.

Today's Orders.

The Commissioners today ordered:

That water main assessments be canceled as follows, on account of the decision in the Burgdorf case:

Against lots 11 and 12, block 5, Meridian Hill; against lot 13, Senor's subdivision, Morris Lane, and lot 6, block 11, Le Droit Park; against lot 24, block 21, Brookland; remaining installments against lot 29, block 12, Metropolis View, and the assessment against lots 13, 14, 17 and 18, block 21, Brookland.

That a cement sidewalk be laid in front of the American Security and Trust Company's building, on 14th street between G street and New York avenue, under the provisions of the permit system; estimated cost, $101.26.

That thirty feet of eight-inch sewer be laid in 13th streets northeast between A and B streets, at an estimated cost of $33, under the provisions of the permit system.

That sixty linear feet of twenty-four-inch sewer pipe crossing Brightwood avenue in the line of the proposed extension of Spring road be constructed; estimated cost, $210; chargeable to the appropriation for suburban sewers, 1896.

THE CITY POST OFFICE

Treasury Officials Dissatisfied With the Iron Work Contractor.

A Peremptory Demand for His Plans for the Roof Construction—Contract May Be Annulled.

The officials of the office of the supervising architect of the treasury are very much dissatisfied with what is described as the "dilatory" course pursued by Messrs. Thorp & Bond of New York, contractors for the iron work on the Washington city post office. Their work is said to be distressingly slow, and is interfering materially with the progress of the stone work of Contractor John Pierce, also of New York. The latest cause of complaint against the iron contractors is their failure to furnish the Treasury Department with a copy of their plans for the construction of the roof, despite the fact that they have been repeatedly asked to do so. Mr. Kemper, who is acting supervising architect, recently informed them that they would be given until the 15th instant to comply with this request.

A Peremptory Demand.

That date passed, however, without a word from the contractors on the subject, and Mr. Kemper again wrote to them yesterday, making a peremptory demand for an immediate compliance with the wishes of the department. Thorp & Bond are already in disfavor with the department because of the many delays that have occurred in their work on the Washington post office.

Several weeks ago the supervising architect recommended strongly that their contract be annulled because of continued violations of its terms in the important matter of time, and the Secretary of the Treasury suspended action in the matter only on their promise that there should be no further cause for complaint. Ever since then the contractors have been working under probation, the department retaining the right to annul their contracts at any time.

Efforts to Expedite the Work.

Mr. Kemper said to a Star reporter today that every effort is being made to expedite the work on the post office, and the contractors are being held to a strict compliance with the terms of their contracts so far as the department can enforce them, but considerable difficulty has been experienced in this direction. The main delay in the work at present is due to the backwardness of the iron contractors, and steps are being taken to discipline them. There is also a slight controversy with the stone contractors in regard to the finish of the stone walls above the seventh floor.

THEY DENOUNCE LYNCHING.

The Colored National Convention Puts Forth a Platform.

The so-called national colored convention, which met and organized yesterday afternoon, reassembled this afternoon at 1:30 o'clock in Israel Baptist Church, northeast, with James W. Poe in the chair. W. C. Payne acted as secretary. There were about a score of men present. The first business before the convention was the consideration of the platform prepared by the committee on resolutions, which consisted of W. C. Payne, chairman; Rev. W. H. Johnson, J. W. Coles, T. J. Edmonston, Rev. Alexander Wilbanks, Rev. C. P. Irby, J. W. Crow, S. E. Jones, J. H. Richardson, L. Willis and T. A. Sembly.

The plaform as drafted and adopted by the committee criticised the democratic party and the administration, and declared in favor of the republican party and protection. It further went on to say: "We denounce the lynching as barbarous and hurtful to the interests of the American people. We believe in the supreme power of the federal government to protect its citizens against maltreatment. We firmly believe in the power of the courts to bring to justice the lynchers in the states where such outrages are prevalent, and we congratulate the executives of those states that have endeavored to suppress lynching. We would recommend the enactment of such legislation by the incoming Congress as will make this damnable practice a thing of the past."

Sympathy was expresed for Cuba in her struggle for freedom.

The plank on lynching of colored men was prepared by Rev. Mr. Wilbanks, who spoke most earnestly upon the enormities that have occurred of late in various parts of the south. Mr. Payne, chairman of the committee on platform, announced that the committee had been so well pleased by Mr. Wilbanks' draft of the plank on lynchings that a vote of thanks had been given him, to which the convention gave its indorsement in hearty applause.

The Cuban plank was prepared and offered in a speech by T. J. Edmonston. Speeches were made by Rev. Mr. Johnson, S. E. Jones, W. C. Payne and others. The platform was, after prolonged discussion, adopted substantially as given above.

ESCAPED FROM THE WAGON.

One of the Inmates of St. Elizabeth's Makes a Scene on the Street.

There was quite an exciting episode on 7th street about noon today, when an inmate of St. Elizabeth's Insane Asylum tried to make her escape from the carry-all in which the patients of that institution are periodically given an airing. Near the corner of 7th and I streets a woman about thirty years old sprang from the slowly moving vehicle and ran into a near-by store on the east side of 7th street. She was pursued by one of the attendants, and a crowd gathered about the door, attracted by the screams of the woman and her emphatic refusals to re-enter the wagon. She plead with the nurse for her liberty, stating again and again, in a hysterical manner, that she was perfectly sane, and that she was wrongly incarcerated at the asylum. She resisted all efforts to escort her back to her seat in the wagon until a man wearing citizens' clothes and displaying a policeman's badge came along and assured her that she would not be harmed, and that he would see that she was well treated.

She then consented to accompany him, saying that she knew he would not betray her, and when she reached the sidewalk she made an excited statement to the people there assembled, declaring that she was of sound mind, capable of teaching, and wrongfully forced to remain an inmate of the institution. She held an unenveloped letter in her hand, which she thrust into the possession of Mr. W. J. Morris, a bystander, urging him to see that it was delivered to the person to whom it was addressed. Mr. Morris promised to do this, and the woman seemed satisfied and entered the wagon, which was driven off.

The letter was addressed to Judge Andrew C. Bradley of the District Supreme Court, and Mr. Morris went immediately to the city hall and delivered it. The letter was in reality written to a brother of the woman, George A. Dougherty, a clothing clerk in this city. It began with a pitiful appeal for him to call upon her and then ranged off into a discussion of the institution, in the course of which she made grave charges against the management. She intimated that her confinement at the asylum was the result of family misunderstandings and begged her brother to take steps for her release. The letter was signed by her full name, Louise A. Dougherty.

Mr. Morris, whose interest was aroused in the case, asked Judge Bradley if steps could be taken to insure an inquiry into the woman's sanity and into the facts of her confinement. Judge Bradley answered that he would make a personal inquiry into the case at once.

Grain and Cotton Markets.

Cotton and grain markets, reported by W. B. Hibbs, stock, grain and cotton broker, 1421 F st.

GRAIN.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
Wheat—Dec.	60⅝	61⅛	60¼-⅜	60⅝-¾
May	64⅝	65⅛	64⅝-½	64¾-⅞
Corn—Dec.	27½	28	27½	28
May	29½	29¾	27½	28
Oats—Dec.	18¼	18⅜	18¼	18¼
May	20⅝	20⅝	20⅝	20⅝B
Pork—Jan.	9.40	9.40	9.37	9.37
May	9.67	9.67	9.62	9.65
Lard—Jan.	5.72	5.72	5.70	5.70
May	5.87	5.87	5.87	5.87
Ribs—Jan.	4.77	4.77	4.75	4.75
COTTON.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
Month.				
November	9.12	9.17	9.06	9.10
December	9.27	9.28	9.10	9.20
January	9.33	9.35	9.16	9.28
March	9.43	9.44	9.25	9.36

FINANCE AND TRADE

Fractional Concessions Throughout the Regular List.

SUGAR WAS A LEADING FEATURE

Possibilities of the Coal Combination.

GENERAL MARKET REPORTS

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

NEW YORK, October 17.—Transactions in today's stock market were influenced chiefly by the continued strength of foreign exchange, posted rates approaching within one-half per cent of the exporting point. There were no gold bills in sight, but bankers familiar with the demands of the present situation do not consider their appearance before the close of the week an improbability. The scarcity of all classes of commercial drawings, resulting from the small export movement in cereals and the absence of security bills, seems destined to force a further advance in rates should any increase in the demand materialize. The result of the unsettled condition in the exchange market is to inspire caution in stock operations, and while no disposition to trade in the short account is manifest, the opposite account presents few inducements to immediate action.

The option on the Anaconda mine, now being considered by English capitalists, will expire on Monday unless advantage is previously taken of it and the purchase agreed upon. Should the latter event transpire the purchase money would go far toward releasing the present tension of the foreign exchange market.

The trading in the regular list this morning resulted in fractional concessions in almost every instance.

The Grangers sold off under a limited volume of business and rather indifferent support from friendly interests. Manhattan declined one per cent from first prices on a revival of the usual arguments relative to serious results of surface competition.

Sugar was a prominent feature of the day's operations, a good volume of trading forcing a 1 per cent reduction in price and demonstrating its sensitiveness to sales for either account.

Chicago Gas and Tennessee Coal and Iron declined in sympathy with the general market.

The coal combination, which has been relied upon to stimulate activity, has not been abandoned, but is still among the remote possibilities of the speculative situation.

The business of the last hour was in the main void of particular significance. Prices improved fractionally.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

The following are the opening, the highest and the lowest and the closing prices of the New York stock market today, as reported by Corson & Macartney, members New York stock exchange. Correspondents Messrs. Moore & Schley, No. 80 Broadway.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Last.
American Sugar	107¾	108⅛	106⅞	107½
American Sugar, Pfd.	101	101	100⅜	100⅜
American Tobacco	92¾	93	92¾	92¾
American Cotton Oil	.....	.....	.....	.....
Atchison	21⅜	21⅞	21⅜	21⅞
Canada Southern	55	55	54¾	54¾
Canada Pacific	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chesapeake & Ohio	19⅛	19⅛	11⅛	19⅛
C., C., C. & St. L.	44⅛	44⅛	44⅛	44⅛
Chicago, B. & Q.	86⅜	86⅜	85⅝	86
Chic. & Northwestern	106⅜	107	106½	106⅝
Chicago Gas	69⅛	69⅝	68⅜	68⅜
C. M. & St. Paul	77	77⅛	76⅝	76⅝
C. M. & St. Paul, Pfd.	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chic., R. I. & Pacific	78	78¼	77⅞	77⅞
Del., Lack. & W.	.....	.....	.....	.....
Delaware & Hudson	132¾	132¾	132¾	132¾
Den. & R. Grande, Pfd.	53