LATE NEWS BY WIRE

Deadlock in the Kentucky Legislature Continues.

NO ELECTION THIS SESSION LIKELY

Positive Stand Taken by Both Sides.

A COMPROMISE IMPOSSIBLE

FRANKFORT, Ky., January 25.—The Kentucky legislature is still deadlocked, and though four ballots have been taken no election has been possible. It now appears that there will be no election this session.

The leaders of W. Godfrey Hunter say that no other republican can win, and the friends of Senator J. C. S. Blackburn swear that he is the only democrat whose name will be considered.

The two populists in the general assembly are split, one voting with the republicans and one with the democrats. Otherwise the two houses are a tie on joint ballot.

Governor Bradley has set at rest the rumors as to his position in the senatorial race. Last night he held a two hours' conference with W. G. Hunter and today announces that he is for Hunter and says he thinks Hunter will win. It has been said he was fighting Hunter.

MR. TASKER MADE PRESIDENT.

Put at the Head of the Tri-State Y. M. C. A. Association.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

HAGERSTOWN, Md., January 25.—The evening session of the twenty-fourth annual tri-state convention of the Young Men's Christian Association, which assembled here yesterday, showed a greatly increased attendance upon the part of delegates. At this session the following officers reported by the nominating committee were unanimously elected: F. E. Tasker of Washington, D. C., president; Robert S. Crawford of Hagerstown, first vice president; J. H. Adams, Baltimore, second vice president; D. F. Greenwalt, Cumberland, Md., third vice president; W. L. Radcliffe, Cumberland, secretary; W. A. Burgoon, Western Maryland College, assistant secretary.

Chairman F. E. Tasker of Washington submitted the report of the standing committee, showing a number of secretarial changes and referring especially to the death at Washington of General Secretary James E. Pugh in October last. The report characterizes the past year as one of trial, but not of loss of hope.

Referring to the field for the association in the three states and the District of Columbia, the report says the opportunity afforded is a magnificent one. The field has a population of 400,000 young men, 380,000 being non-church members; 270,000 being non-church goers and 220,000 reside beyond the association's influence.

Assignments for the various morning services tomorrow were announced, among the number being F. E. Tasker of Washington to the Christian Church, and L. C. Williams of the same city to Christ's Reformed.

At the reception and banquet in the evening, when the delegates were welcomed by Mayor M. L. Keedy, on behalf of the city, and Rev. J. S. Kiefer, on the part of the ministers, F. E. Tasker of Washington, chairman of the standing committee, made the reply on the part of the delegates. He congratulated the city on its mayor, and thanked the ministers for their kind words of welcome. He said that he was glad to attest that the object of the organization of which he was a member was to labor in the line of good citizenship and to make better men and women.

His speech abounded in humor, and was received with much applause.

At 9 o'clock this morning the session opened in the Presbyterian Church. After a short song service, led by Mr. Habgood, Baltimore, Mr. Radcliffe, Cumberland, led in prayer, following which each association gave a three-minute report, the following associations reporting: St. John's College, Central branch, East branch, West branch, German branch, Baltimore and Ohio branch and Pennsylvania railroad branch, all of Baltimore; Cumberland, Frederick, Hagerstown, Poolesville, Piedmont, Charleston, Wheeling, Washington, Wilmington, Johns Hopkins University, Western Maryland College, West Virginia University and Annapolis.

C. R. H. Jackson, physical director of the Y. M. C. A. at Wilmington, read a paper on "The Physical Department Where a Physical Director is Employed."

Mr. Jackson showed very clearly the importance of the physical department in relation to the whole association, pointing out the great value of a sound body in order that the intellectual side of a man may be developed properly, and that health is necessary that a man may do greater work for the advancement of the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth.

After a short discussion of this paper, J. W. Barton, Baltimore, read a paper on "The Physical Department Where There Is No Physical Director."

This paper was of much value to those associations that are unable to employ an instructor, as it was shown how much good may be accomplished for young men in the gymnasium, even though no paid instructor is in charge.

PANIC AMONG MERRYMAKERS.

Flames Broke Out During the Progress of a Fair.

DUBUQUE, Iowa, January 25.—During the progress of a Roman Catholic fair in the opera house at Farley, a village of 1,000 inhabitants, twenty-three miles west of this place, last night, fire broke out and created a panic among the merrymakers.

In an instant the merry crowd became a struggling mob anxious to reach open air and safety. The fragile booths were torn down as the surging mass of people crowded to the entrance. Many were trampled upon and suffered severe bruises, but no fatalities will result.

There was also a panic, though less serious, among the guests of the Loomis Hotel across the street. The opera house block was entirely destroyed, together with the Loomis Hotel and two banks, two small stores and two residences. The loss will aggregate $30,000, only partially insured. The origin of the fire is unknown.

SILVER AND PROTECTION.

Senator Cannon of Utah States His Platform.

OMAHA, Neb., January 25.—United States Senators-elect Frank J. Cannon and Arthur Brown of the new state of Utah passed through this city last evening, en route to Washington. In conversation, Senator Cannon said he was heartily in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. In his opinion, high protection and free silver go hand in hand, and both are essential for the improvement of the condition of the country.

SIR FREDERICK LEIGHTON DEAD.

He Was President of the British Royal Academy.

LONDON, January 25.—Lord Leighton, better known as Sir Frederick Leighton, president of the Royal Academy, is dead.

Lord Leighton suffered from a chill this morning, and this was followed by a serious affection of the heart. His condition soon became critical, and during the afternoon he sank rapidly, and then came the end. He was sixty-five years of age.

The deathbed scene was extremely touching. At intervals strong doses of chloroform were given the dying man, in order to soothe the great pain he was enduring, and as the end came he lifted up his right hand and with difficulty exclaimed:

"My love to the academy!"

A few moments later he expired.

Lord Leighton died in great agony.

Naval Movements.

The cruiser Yorktown arrived at Nagasaki this morning. The flagship Olympia is at the same place.

BONA-FIDE CIRCULATION.

A reference to the statement below will show that the circulation sworn to is a bona fide one.

It is easily possible for a newspaper with an elastic conscience to swell its legitimate circulation enormously, in order to deceive advertisers, by sending out thousands of papers to newsstands, which are returnable, and which are in fact returned, but nevertheless are included in what purports to be an honest statement of circulation.

Intelligent advertisers, however, judge by results, and bogus circulations don't give them.

The circulation of The Star is many thousands in excess of any other Washington paper and is believed to be fully five times that of any afternoon contemporary.

Circulation of The "Evening Star."

SATURDAY, Jan. 18, 1896	26,330
MONDAY, Jan. 20, 1896	30,515
TUESDAY, Jan. 21, 1896	30,554
WEDNESDAY, Jan. 22, 1896	30,444
THURSDAY, Jan. 23, 1896	30,400
FRIDAY, Jan. 24, 1896	30,415
Total	188,658
Daily average	31,443

I solemnly swear that the above statement represents only the number of copies of THE EVENING STAR circulated during the six secular days ending Friday, January 24, 1896—that is, the number of copies actually sold, delivered, furnished or mailed, for valuable consideration, to bona fide purchasers or subscribers, and that none of the copies so counted are returnable to or remain in the office unsold.

J. WHIT. HERRON,
Cashier Evening Star Newspaper Co.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this twenty-fifth day of January, A. D. 1896.

E. E. RAMEY,
Notary Public, D. C.

PASSING AWAY.

John Tyler is Not Expected to Survive the Day.

Mr. John Tyler, the venerable son of President John Tyler, who has been lying critically ill for some time at his residence on B street southeast, is much worse this afternoon, and his physician has informed the family that it is hardly possible that he will live through the day. Mr. Tyler has resided here for the past twenty years. During the latter part of this period he has been employed in the redemption bureau of the Treasury Department, having charge of the destruction of the bank notes sent in for redemption. His tall figure, strong face and aristocratic bearing are well known in Washington, and his amiable disposition and courtly old-school manners made him highly popular among his friends and acquaintances. He is a man of strong intellect and excellent education. For many years he has taken an active and vigorous interest in temperance work, and has been a practical and powerful help to the cause.

CHARGED WITH BURGLARY.

Two Robberies of Considerable Magnitude Ferreted Out.

By diligent effort the police maintained secrecy regarding a burglary early yesterday morning at the residence of Mrs. Indiana Vedder, widow of Paymaster Nicholas Vedder, U. S. A., 1111 Massachusetts avenue, and only made known the fact of the occurrence last night, after three men had been placed under arrest charged with the offense.

The occupants of the house at the time of the burglary were Mrs. Vedder and a servant girl. Nothing was known of the visit of the marauders until the servant arose in the morning. On descending the stairs, things were found to be in a very disordered state. Mrs. Vedder was informed of the condition of affairs, and a hasty examination disclosed that a number of books and a quantity of silver ware had been stolen.

Mrs. Vedder sent for her son-in-law, Mr. Robert I. Fleming, who learned that entrance had been effected by cutting the slats of the blinds of a rear window.

Policemen Hooper and Tompkins late last night arrested a colored man as he was attempting to force an entrance into the residence of Mr. Emery Smith, 918 Massachusetts avenue northwest. The prisoner proved to be Edward Nailor, who has a criminal record, and who was released from the work house but a few days ago. He is thought to be the Vedder burglar.

Frederick Brown and John H. Johnson, colored, were also arrested and held on suspicion of having been concerned in the crime.

Nailor was sent to the Albany penitentiary in 1892 for housebreaking, and served a term of two years. At the time of his arrest last night he was wanted for larceny.

JUDGE HAGNER'S OPINION.

His Decision Regarding a Bequest to the Smithsonian.

Judge Hagner this afternoon delivered an opinion in the case of the Smithsonian Institution against Levi W. Meech and others, sustaining the will of the late Robert S. Avery, in which instrument was a bequest to the Smithsonian Institution of property valued at about $50,000.

The testator lived at 320 A street southeast and was a man of scientific attainments. To the heirs of his wife he left the sum of $1,000, with the condition that it should be forfeited if they antagonized the will. They did oppose the will, but it was admitted to probate. They claimed that premises 326 A street southeast, part of the bequest to the Smithsonian, belonged to Mrs. Avery, whose death preceded her husband's.

The Smithsonian Institution filed suit against them to perfect its title to 326 A street, and also to enforce the forfeiture of the bequest of $1,000 to the contestants. Judge Hagner decides that the latter shall receive the $1,000, provided they relinquish their opposition to the devise of the premises referred to.

NO FREE SHIPPING.

Foreign-Built Ships Will Not Be Admitted to American Registry.

The subcommittee on shipping of the Senate committee on commerce was in session for several hours today. Among other conclusions reached by the subcommittee was that of reporting adversely the free shipping bill providing for the admission of foreign-built ships to American registry. This bill had been recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury and the commissioner of navigation. It is understood that the negative vote was unanimous, including the three democratic members of the committee, Messrs. Gorman, Murphy and White.

The committee granted a hearing to Geo. Uhler, president of the engineers' convention now in session here, in advocacy of Senator Squire's bill requiring engineers of foreign-going vessels to be American citizens and giving them the rank of officers. Maj. Quinn of the engineer corps of the army and J. W. Bryant were also accorded a hearing upon the importance of Mississippi river improvements.

A DISBURSING OFFICER.

Mr. S. Mallet-Prevost Appointed as Such by the Treasury Department.

Acting Secretary Wike of the Treasury Department today appointed Mr. S. Mallet-Prevost a special disbursing agent of the Treasury Department for the disbursement of the appropriation of $100,000 for the expenses of the Venezuelan boundary commission. He will serve without extra compensation and is required to give a bond of $10,000.

Government Receipts.

National bank notes received today for redemption, $572,938. Government receipts—From internal revenue, $418,154; customs, $492,391; miscellaneous, $123,700.

COL. CROFTON'S CASE

Probably a Private Suggestion Has Been Made as to His Retirement.

Officials Reticent About the Matter—Dissatisfaction With the Discipline of His Regiment.

Secretary Lamont and the officers of the War Department who are in a position to know what, if any, steps have been taken in the case of Col. Crofton, in the fifteenth infantry, stationed at Fort Sheridan, refuse to discuss the matter in any shape. It is regarded as very improbable, however, that the Secretary has himself addressed a letter to the colonel inviting him to apply for retirement. If any movement has been made in this direction, it has probably been through a third party and not directly in the shape of a communication from the Secretary. Under the law Col. Crofton may be retired upon his own application by virtue of the fact that he has served in the regular establishment for more than thirty years. He cannot now be forced into retirement. His retirement at present must be purely voluntary. If he refuses to accede to a request from the department to apply for retirement, then the only recourse would be to court-martial him. It can be stated that at present there are no charges on file at the War Department that would form the basis for such a trial. December 18 next Col. Crofton will have reached the age of sixty-two years, and then, under the law, the President may retire him without waiting for an application, even against his wish, as was done in the case of Gen. Carr. Otherwise the officer will remain in active service until December, 1898, when, having reached the age of sixty-four years, he must retire without recourse.

Col. Crofton's Career.

Col. Crofton was born in Ireland December 18, 1834, and in 1861 he was appointed directly a captain in the regular army, so that he is neither a volunteer officer nor a West Pointer. His promotion was regular, and his record of service during the war was creditable, for, attached to the army of the Cumberland, and as a member of Gen. Nelson's staff, he was in the thick of the fighting at Chattanooga, and was brevetted major and then lieutenant colonel for gallant service there and at Shiloh. He came to Chicago from Ft. Buford, Dak., in January, 1891, to assume command at Ft. Sheridan, and from that moment his troubles began, owing, as his friends here say, to the refractory composition of his regiment, the fifteenth infantry.

There were complaints of the state of discipline of the command, as evidenced in the frequent quarrels among the officers and men, culminating in the killing of Capt. Hedburg and the last attempt upon the life of the commanding colonel himself by Lieut. Pague. Ugly stories have been afloat here as to the grounds for these events, and there has been talk of whisky and women and other scandal, but if this has taken any official shape it must have been concealed in the evidence taken in secret in the court-martial proceedings against Lieut. Pague, which is now in the archives of the War Department. The record in that case has been read by Secretary Lamont and by the President himself, as a basis for action in approving the recommendation of the court-martial that the lieutenant be dismissed from the army for the attempt upon the life of Col. Crofton. It is known that the War Department has been much dissatisfied with the state of affairs at Fort Sheridan for a long time. The movements incident to the great strike last year were used to shift around some of the more active disturbing elements, as it was supposed at the post, but the result was not entirely satisfactory, and it is assumed that the present dissatisfaction of the department officials has been made known to the commandant at the fort, and has, perhaps, served as the basis for this last story.

May Be Court-Martialed.

Although Secretary Lamont will not admit that he has even intimated to Col. Crofton that his retirement from active service is desired, there is good reason for the belief that such is the case. Secretary Lamont has had the case of Col. Crofton under consideration during the past week, and has taken some action in regard to it, the precise character of which is carefully concealed. Whatever has been done is more in the nature of a private suggestion than an official communication, which would have to go through the usual military channels. It is asserted by some officers that if Col. Crofton does not embrace the opportunity to retire without scandal, he will be formally tried by court-martial with a view to his dismissal from the service.

CHARGE DISMISSED.

Judge Miller's Action Regarding Dr. Czarra's Case.

Hearing of the charges of perjury against Dr. Sigmund A. Czarra, brought by Miss Mary Jane Casey, was continued this afternoon before Judge Miller in the Police Court. The alleged perjury, as heretofore published in The Star, was committed in a suit to recover a sum of money paid by Miss Casey to Dr. Czarra for professional services, and tried before Justice of the Peace L. C. Strider.

Attorney C. Maurice Smith, who appears for Dr. Czarra, called Mr. William F. Meyers, who produced the contract signed by Miss Casey, and explained that it had been placed in evidence at the hearing before the justice. Witness, as an attorney, had advised the defendant that he was not responsible for money paid to his wife.

Dr. Czarra was also called. He spoke very indistinct English, but made himself understood. He had no connection with the lying-in hospital that Miss Casey entered, he said, as his wife conducts the establishment without his assistance.

"These hospitals are common to all large cities, are they not?" asked Attorney Smith. "They are places where young women who have been indiscreet go for treatment?"

"Not only those who have been indiscreet, but the most respectable married women as well," answered the doctor.

Dr. Czara denied that he received any money at any time from Miss Casey.

Jennie Kronheimer, a young woman who is employed at the lying-in asylum as a nurse, described the condition of things there, and also related the facts of the visit of Miss Casey to the hospital. No money was paid by the latter to the doctor, so far as she knew.

A colored man named Hall gave similar testimony and then Miss Casey was called. She has been in the city two years, she said, in answer to questions, and has known the man Bagge about three years. After leaving the hospital she went to a room on 6th street. She left the hospital because she was not satisfied with the treatment.

"Why did you wait so long before beginning this prosecution?" asked Attorney Smith, on cross-examination.

"Because I was not physically in condition to go through the trial."

"Who is this man Bagge?"

"That's none of your business," replied Miss Casey, with an exhibition of spirit.

"What is his business?"

"At present he is doing nothing."

"I understand," remarked Prosecutor Mullowney, "that Miss Casey and Mr. Bagge are to be married very soon."

"I don't wish to interfere with any matrimonial plans they may have," said Mr. Smith.

"No, but you take great delight in sneering at me," claimed Miss Casey.

After going over all the points, Judge Miller dismissed the case. It is not unlikely, however, that efforts will be made to have the district attorney bring the matter to the attention of the grand jury.

Death of Mrs. Mary Price Lincoln.

Mrs. Mary Price Lincoln, wife of Col. Charles P. Lincoln of this city, died at Atlantic City yesterday, where she had been taken in the hope that the sea air might prolong her life. Mrs. Lincoln was taken ill shortly after Christmas, on her return from a visit to the Soldiers' Home at Hampton, Va., where her father, Rev. William Price, is chaplain. Since her marriage at Louisville, Ky., in 1864, Mrs. Lincoln, with the exception of six years' residence in China, where her husband was United States consul, has resided almost continuously in Washington and was respected and beloved by a large circle of friends. The funeral will take place Sunday at 2:30 from St. Andrew's Church, 14th and Corcoran streets, and the interment will be at Arlington.

AFFAIRS IN GEORGETOWN

Railroad Construction Checked by a Restraining Order.

A Large Block of Wesley Heights Property Changes Hands—General News of Interest.

The construction on the Great Falls electric railroad has been suddenly checked by the strong arm of the law, through an application for an injunction filed by Chas. H. Beavers, the proprietor of a road house on the Conduit road, located but a short distance from the foot of Dalecarlia hill and about three-quarters of a mile from the District. Judge James B. Henderson of the Montgomery county court granted a restraining order, which will block the progress of the road for some time. In his bill Mr. Beavers declared that the railroad company had graded his property, cut through a hill and raised an embankment, and practically destroyed its value. This, it is claimed, was done by the company, which, it is further alleged, had no right over the land, and which had failed to take legal possession of the right of way by instituting condemnation proceedings. The road has been constructed up to this point, and the grading carried up to within a quarter of a mile from Cabin John bridge. The only work on this side of the Beaver property is the construction of the iron bridge over the Powder Mill branch, and when this is completed the cars could run almost up to Glen Echo. So long as the restraining order is in force no cars can pass over the Beaver property. The railroad company has not as yet filed its answer, but the step it will most likely take is to institute condemnation proceedings and acquire the land by purchase according to the verdict of a condemnation jury.

Visitation of the State Council.

The annual visitation of the State Council of the District to Washington Council, No. 13, Jr. O. U. A. M., took place at Odd Fellows' Hall Wednesday evening. After the regular routine business the officers of the Washington Council vacated their chairs and the officers of the state council occupied the same. Several good vocal selections were furnished by the McCabe brothers. State Councilor Hall, in a very neat speech, presented Washington Council with a gavel, containing a silver emblem of the order. The gavel was furnished by Messrs. Robinson and Gregory of Washington Council. Remarks were made by Mr. Milstead of Potomac Council, No. 20; Messrs. Imlay, Bromwell, Davis and Newman of Columbia Council, No. 32; Messrs. Bayden and Sergeon of Constellation Council, No. 39; Messrs. Donaldson, Reid, Avery and Davenport of Excelsior Council, No. 43; Hall and McGinnis of Valley Forge Council, No. 51; Root of Independent Council, No. 2; Ross of Thomas Jefferson Council, No. 12. After the serving of refreshments the assemblage adjourned.

Christian Endeavorers' Social.

The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor of the West Street Presbyterian Church gave a very novel and highly enjoyable social last evening. The Kamptown Social Club of the Western High School rendered several excellent numbers, which were heartily cheered. The boys were a jolly set, and helped to make everybody have a good time. The penny part, in which every one was handed a slip of paper containing fifteen things to be found on a penny. A prize was given for the first correct answer. Refreshments were served, and at the close of the affair all present left, after spending a most enjoyable evening.

Live Wire Causes Excitement.

A live electric wire caused some excitement this morning on M street opposite the entrance to the Aqueduct bridge, though, fortunately, the current was not heavy enough to injure any person. The wire became detached from a pole and hung close to the ground, not over a foot from the surface. A number of curious persons took hold of it, but quickly let go after getting a good shock. The wire belonged to the Potomac Electric Light Co., and the police station received a number of telephone communications regarding the stray wire. The company was notified and soon placed the wire back in its original position.

Important Real Estate Transfers.

A large transfer of Wesley Heights property was placed on record yesterday, in which Mr. John F. Waggaman became the owner. From William P. Lockwood he purchased the title to all of block 3; lots 1 to 10 and 31 to 50 of block 10, lots 31 to 36 of block 13, and lots 20 to 24 and 37 to 40 of block 14. From John S. Mason he bought all of block 1, lots 1 to 28 and 31 to 41 of block 4, lots 2 to 10 of block 5, lots 1 to 12 and 29 to 44 of block 6, and lots 17 to 44 of block 8.

Jeremiah J. Murphy bought of Matilda Williams parts of Mt. Airy and New Seat subdivisions, containing in all 3 5-8 acres. The consideration is not named.

Personal Notes.

Word has been received here of the serious illness of Dr. John L. Reid of N street, who is at San Antonio, Tex., for his health. His mother has gone on to visit him.

Sergt. George Hess was able to resume duty this morning. Policemen Rice and Ward are incapacitated for street duty by sickness.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

Troubles Due to the Fact That There Are Two Messrs. Saunders.

It is not known how much damage Mr. L. M. Saunders' campaign may have suffered because of the confusion of his identity with that of Mr. William H. Saunders, a gentleman who is, like L. M. Saunders, in the real estate business. It is known, however, that Mr. William H. Saunders has suffered considerable annoyance by reason of this confusion. It has been Mr. William H. Saunders' experience to find waiting for him on his doorstep delegations from political clubs or self-appointed representatives of the republicans of the District anxious to learn what his position might be on various questions agitating the rank and file of the republicans. Whatever damage has been done to Mr. L. M. Saunders' candidacy is due to the fact that Mr. William H. Saunders has some exceedingly pronounced views on various questions, which undoubtedly would not be indorsed publicly at this time by Mr. L. M. Saunders. For instance, when a squad of colored voters from one of the far east districts waylaid Mr. William H. Saunders in his office and announced that they had come to get from him an expression of opinion in favor of the restoration of suffrage to the District Mr. Saunders flatly refused to give them any such expression because he was decidedly opposed to the restoration of suffrage. The delegation withdrew, and it is not at all unlikely that the club which they represented have scratched Mr. L. M. Saunders' name off their list of favorites. Mr. William H. Saunders in order to avoid the necessity that seems to have been thrust upon him of being interviewed daily by various colored politicians who desire to be placated has written to The Star the following:

"So many mistakes have occurred by confusing my name and place of business with those of Mr. Lorin M. Saunders, the candidate for delegate to the coming republican convention, that, in fairness to him, and for my own protection, I desire to avail myself of the privilege of setting the matter right through the columns of The Evening Star.

"The fact that the above mentioned gentleman and myself have the same surname, and have been in the same kind of business, but, though on the most amicable terms, in no way connected with each other, has led many who do not know us personally to overlook the distinction in our first names, that there are two of us, and regard us as one and the same person. This has led to numerous incidents of late, some of which might be regarded as humorous, even by me, had they not been so amply reinforced by unpleasant mistakes and interruptions at my place of business.

"In conclusion, I wish to say that I am not a de facto or would-be politician, have no craving for public office, nor would I accept it if tendered me—a circumstance not likely to occur; and so far from desiring to take the smallest share of popular favor from any aspirant to such honors, I strongly object to having any of the political thunder of the District diverted from its proper course and directed to me, even by implication, inadvertency or misapprehension."

LAUNCH OF THE HELENA

Ceremony to Take Place at Newport News Wednesday.

A Gunboat for River Service—Novelties in the Design—Sister Ship to the Washington.

A small but distinguished party will leave here next Wednesday evening for Newport News, Va., to witness the launch of the light-draught gunboat Helena at the yard of the Newport News Ship Building and Dry Dock Company on the following day. This party will include Assistant Secretary McAdoo of the Navy Department, the two Senators from the state of Montana, probably all of the representatives of that state in the lower house, and a number of prominent naval officers. They will be joined at Newport News by the mayor of Helena and a party of fourteen ladies and gentlemen from the state of Montana, acting as a special escort of honor to Miss Agnes Belle Steele, daughter of the mayor of Helena, to whom has been assigned the distinction of christening this latest addition to the navy.

The Helena is one of three gunboats authorized by act of Congress approved March 3, 1893, the two others being the gunboat Nashville and the gunboat Wilmington, both of which were launched on the 19th of October last. All three were constructed by the Newport News Company, at an individual contract price of $280,000. The Helena is a sister ship to the Wilmington, and differs materially in general characteristics from the Nashville. The latter is a light-draught twin-screw gunboat, designed for the usual duties of cruising naval vessels. She carries a large amount of coal, and is provided with machinery of the most economical character, so that she will be able to make long sea passages.

Like the Wilmington, the Helena has been built for an entirely different character of service from that for which the Nashville is intended.

Designed for River Service.

Although in every respect a perfectly safe sea-going vessel, the Helena and her sister ship are both designed especially for river service. It is frequently necessary to send warships on foreign stations long distances up rivers in order to render assistance to American citizens whose lives and property are in danger. Vessels for use in such emergencies must of necessity be of very light draught. Sometimes the difference of a foot only in draught will mean the success or failure of such an expedition.

On the Asiatic station the old paddle wheel steamer Monocacy has for many years rendered valuable assistance to American missionaries and other citizens in China, at times going up Chinese rivers a thousand miles from the sea, and by her mere presence preventing riot and danger to foreign residents. The principal requirements of a vessel for such service, according to a distinguished naval officer recently in China, are large, roomy, well-ventilated quarters, in order to harbor refugees whom she will undoubtedly be frequently called upon to assist, and also to enable the vessel to carry as large a landing party as possible from other ships of the squadron in case of mob attack on American citizens at any of the many shallow ports on the Asiatic station.

Naval experts say that these requirements are fully fulfilled in the case of the Helena and Wilmington. Each is 250 feet 8 3-4 inches long on the water line, and 251 feet 10 inches long over all, with a maximum beam of 40 feet, and a depth from the flat keel to the top of beams of upper deck of 25 feet 2 inches. The Helena has a displacement of 1,391 tons, with a mean draught of 9 feet. She is expected to develop a speed of thirteen knots. Her hull is of steel throughout. In external appearance she will resemble a small battle ship, as she has a large military mast, with two military tops, similar in all respects to the mast on the big battle ship Iowa. The tops will serve to command the banks of a river or the houses in any town, wherever the vessel may be called upon to act in the interest of the United States. A conning tower on the mast just below the first military top enables the ship to be maneuvered at a height of forty-five feet above the water line.

The Quarters.

The space available for quarters is very large and affords berthing for many additional men besides her crew. To facilitate the landing of a large body of men she is provided with ships' boats of an unusual size, her steam cutter and sailing launch being each thirty-three feet long, or as large as those supplied to the heaviest battle ships. The machinery consists of triple expansion twin screw engines. There are six single-ended return fire-tubular boilers, working at 180 pounds steam pressure. The total coal bunker capacity is about 280 tons.

The main battery consists of eight four-inch breech-loading rapid-fire guns. Four of these guns are on the upper deck and the remainder on the gun deck. The axis of the upper deck guns is nineteen feet above the water line, and that of the gun deck about eleven feet, a remarkable height for a vessel of this size. It is expected that they can be used effectively in the roughest weather. The guns on the gun deck are protected by armored sponson plates, built into the hull of the ship. The guns on the upper deck are protected by shields, mounted on the gun carriage itself. There are also four six-pounder and one two-pounder rapid-fire guns and two gatling guns. The six-pounders on the gun deck are protected by armored sponson plates. All the armor is of nickel steel. There is a searchlight placed just above the pilot house and forward of the foremast.

Two Rudders.

In order to provide a free flow of water to the screw propellers, the after body of the vessel has been largely cut away, and two rudders are provided, one ahead of the other, in the middle line of the vessel. This arrangement, together with heavy braces, which are fitted just abaft the after rudder, makes it possible, without damage to the rudders, to run the vessel into a river bank and let her swing around with the current, when it becomes necessary to turn in a narrow channel. This peculiarity of construction gives the craft a rather novel appearance, for a warship, but is expected to be of great assistance in the navigation of the narrow, winding rivers of the Chinese empire.

The Newport News Company has become a formidable competitor in the construction of naval vessels. In addition to the three gunboats already referred to, it has secured the contract for the construction of the two large battle ships Kearsarge and Kentucky. The work on these will tax the capacity of the shipyard severely, and if successfully accomplished will demonstrate that the plant has no superior in the United States.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CEREMONIAL.

The Eminent Grand Master to Be at Columbia Commandery Tonight.

There will be a ceremonial of special interest and pleasure to Knights Templar of Washington this evening in Columbia Commandery, No. 2. Most Eminent Grand Master of Templars W. La Rue Thomas, at a special conclave, to which all knights, resident or visiting, in Washington are earnestly invited, will confer the order of the temple.

The grand master returned to Washington yesterday afternoon, having gone to New York, after officiating at the installation of the Grand Commandery of the District, on the 14th instant, to attend the grand ball of Knights Templar at Madison Square Garden.

CHRISTIANS IN CONVENTION.

Delegates From Three States and the District Meet at Hagerstown.

The convention of the Young Men's Christian Association, composed of delegates from Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, convened in the chapel of the Presbyterian Church at Hagerstown, Md., yesterday afternoon.

The opening session was begun with devotional exercises conducted by F. C. Middleton of Washington. Last night a song service was conducted by Percy S. Foster of Washington.

The President's Condolence.

Ambassador Thomas F. Bayard yesterday in London sent Queen Victoria a message from President Cleveland, expressing sincere condolences with her majesty upon the death of Prince Henry of Battenberg.

THE CASE OF MAJ. ARMES

Government to Move for the Execution of the Mandate.

Will Not Ask for His Arrest by the Marshal—The Case May Be Allowed to Drop.

Mr. J. N. Morrison of the judge advocate general's office, counsel for Col. Henry W. Closson, commandant at the Washington barracks, has notified the counsel for Maj. Geo. A. Armes that next Wednesday he will make a motion before Judge Bradley of the District Supreme Court for the execution of the mandate of the Court of Appeals in the case of Maj. Armes. In his motion he will recite briefly the decision of the Court of Appeals reversing the decision of Judge Bradley granting the application for a writ of habeas corpus for the discharge of Maj. Armes from the custody of Col. Closson. The decision of the Court of Appeals was accompanied with directions to Judge Bradley's court to vacate the order discharging Maj. Armes, "to issue its warrant to the marshal of the District for the re-arrest of the said George A. Armes, to discharge the writ of habeas corpus and to remand the said George A. Armes to the custody of appellant, Henry W. Closson."

What He Will Waive.

In submitting this mandate of the court to Judge Bradley, Mr. Morrison will announce his purpose of waiving all that portion of the directions contained in the same to the effect that the lower court issue its warrant to the marshal of the District for the arrest of Major Armes. In other words, he will not ask that there be any actual return by the court or its officers of the body of Major Armes to the actual custody of Col. Closson. He merely prays a judgment of the court in compliance with the rest of the mandate of the higher court, viz., a judgment reversing the final judgment of Judge Bradley's court, vacating the order of that court discharging Armes, discharging the writ of habeas corpus in that case, and that Col. Closson have the custody of Armes.

The explanation of this action of the government's attorney in this case is that the military authorities are not inclined to proceed further against Major Armes unless his future course of conduct shall render such a step necessary. The officers of the law department of the army regard the action of the Court of Appeals as a complete vindication of the course of action taken by the military authorities in the premises. That decision sustained their contention that an officer on the retired list is subject to military discipline for all infractions of the articles of war and the regulations of the army just the same as an officer on the active list. Secretary Lamont is said to take very little interest in the case of Major Armes and will probably allow it to drop altogether unless it assumes a new and more serious aspect than at present.

DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.

Have the Power.

The Commissioners have learned from their attorney, Mr. S. T. Thomas, that they have the right to make separate regulations governing the running of different street car lines.

President Phillips of the Metropolitan railroad has long contended that the Commissioners had the right under the power granted them to make police regulations to make regulations covering a specific case. In other words, that they had the authority to make separate regulations for the several street car lines using different motive power. His contention was based upon an endeavor to have the regulations so amended as to permit of electric cars running at greater rates of speed than those which governed the general subject of speed for street cars.

It would be an easy matter to make a regulation for electric cars and one for cable cars. The Commissioners at the time did not think they had the power, and did not consider it wise to treat one road differently from another. President Phillips, by way of argument, referred to the delays experienced along the line of an electric road, and said when such delays occurred, if the Commissioners would permit it, the speed could be increased until the cars were brought up to their regular schedule time. Upon his earnest suggestion, the matter was referred to the attorney for the District, and he has reported, as stated above, that the Commissioners have the necessary power to make a separate regulation governing the running of electric cars.

Bids Opened.

Bids were opened at the Commissioners' office today for constructing main intercepting sewers from P street and Florida avenue to 25th and Water streets with lateral branches in M and 27th streets. A deposit of $5,000 was required from each bidder. The bidders were as follows: John Jacobi of Wilmington, Del.; Talty, Allen & Co. of Washington, Geo. S. Good & Co. of Lock Haven, Pa.; T. M. Lesher & Son, Easton, Pa.; H. L. Cranford, Washington; Clement & Co., New York; Jones, Pollard & Co., Baltimore, Md.; Washburn & Washburn, New York; B. J. Coyle, Washington; Manning & Parsons, Washington; James McCandlish, Washington, and Sullivan Brothers, Philadelphia.

Highway and Sewer Bond Bills.

A meeting of the special committee of the board of trade appointed at the last meeting of the board to consider and make report on resolutions presented at the meeting, relative to the highway act and the sewer bond bill, will be held in the board rooms, Ames building, 1410 G street, on next Monday evening, at 7:30 o'clock. Members of the board of trade desiring to be heard by the committee on the subjects above named will be given an opportunity at this meeting for an expression of their views, before the committee begins the preparation of its report for submisssion to the board of trade.

Plays for Emperor William.

Miss Yanotha, the court pianiste to the German emperor, is making a visit in Washington. She attended the reception of Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland at the White House Thursday and was received at a private audience yesterday by Mrs. Cleveland, where she delivered a friendly private message from Mr. Gladstone.

Street Extension.

Judge Cox announced today that he would at 10 o'clock Monday morning next render his decision in the matter of the constitutionality of the street extension act. The case in which the decision will be made is 419, Denison and Leighton's subdivision, the first of the street extension cases heard.

Baltimore Markets.

BALTIMORE, January 25.—Flour active, unchanged—receipts, 12,535 barrels; shipments, 8,818 barrels; sales, 3,250 barrels. Wheat strong—spot, month and May, 71⅝a72—receipts, 632 bushels; shipments, 25,000 bushels; stock, 109,752 bushels; sales, 1,000 bushels—southern wheat by sample, 72a73; do. on grade, 69a72. Corn strong—spot and month, 33¼a33⅜; February, 33½a33¾; March, 33⅝a34; May, 35¼a35⅜; steamer mixed, 32a32¼—receipts, 124,124 bushels; shipments, 66,306 bushels; stock, 1,358,493 bushels; sales, 50,000 bushels—southern white and yellow corn, 32½a33½. Oats quiet and steady—No. 2 white western, 24a24½; No. 2 mixed do., 23 asked—receipts, 2,053 bushels; stock, 124,221 bushels. Rye firm—No. 2, 41a42 nearby; 44a45 western—stock, 107,428 bushels. Hay steady—choice timothy, $16.00 asked. Grain freights dull, demand light, unchanged. Sugar quiet, unchanged. Butter, eggs and cheese steady, unchanged. Whisky unchanged.

Grain and Cotton Markets.

Furnished by W. B. Hibbs & Co., 1421 F street, members New York stock exchange, correspondents Messrs Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co., New York.

GRAIN.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
Wheat—May	63⅞-½	65⅞	63½	65⅝
July	63⅝	65⅝	63⅝	65½
Corn—May	29⅝	31	29⅝-¾	30⅝-1
July	30⅝	32	30⅝	32
Oats—May	20⅝-¾	22	20⅝-¾	21⅝
July	20⅝	22-½	20⅝	22-½
Pork—May	10.72-75	11.00	10.67	10.92B
Lard—May	5.97	6.02	5.95	6.02B
July	6.10	6.15	6.10	6.15B
Ribs—May	5.35	5.47	5.32	5.47
July	5.55	5.57	5.55	5.57B

COTTON