

LATE NEWS BY WIRE

Burglars in Dress Suits Crack a Safe at Whitinsville, Mass.

SECURED A SMALL AMOUNT OF SPICIL

Horse Ran Away When They Attempted Escape.

BUT THEY STOLE ANOTHER

WOONSOCKET, R. I., April 4.—A special to the Call from Whitinsville, Mass., says: Five burglars clad in dress suits entered the Whitinsville Savings Bank at about 1:30 o'clock this morning, blew open one safe and attempted to force another, but secured only a few dollars worth of property.

After ransacking the bank, the burglars stole a horse and carriage from the mill barn and started to escape, but the horse ran away and the wagon was demolished by striking a telegraph pole. The burglars evidently escaped uninjured, and, walking to the barn of a Mr. Sprague, in Douglas, they broke into that, took his horse and carriage and drove away. No further trace of them can be found.

The directors of the bank held a meeting this morning and offered a reward of \$5,000 for the apprehension of the burglars.

JOINT DEBATE POSTPONED.

Ex-Speaker Crisp Unable to Speak Above a Whisper.

ATLANTA, Ga., April 4.—The series of joint debates between Secretary Smith and ex-Speaker Crisp is off, for the present at least, Mr. Crisp having requested their postponement on account of his physical condition. The following correspondence has been exchanged between the gentlemen:

ATLANTA, Ga., April 3, 1896.

Dear Mr. Smith: My throat is in such a condition that it will be impossible for me to fill the appointment we have made for a joint discussion on the 10th inst. I am, however, a whisper, and even such speech is accompanied with intense pain.

Dr. Calhoun examined and prescribed for my throat this morning, and I hoped by this time to have experienced some relief and found some improvement. In both respects I have been seriously disappointed.

At this hour, 7 p. m., I am practically speechless. Under the circumstances, I am forced to suggest a postponement of our advertised meetings to later dates, to be mutually agreed upon.

With assurances of regard, I am truly yours, CHARLES F. CRISP.

To His Excellency, the Ex-Speaker Secretary Smith, replied:

My Dear Mr. Crisp: I regret to learn that your throat is in such a condition that it will be impossible for you to speak in Griffin tomorrow.

Under the circumstances, I do not think it will be proper to meet at the time we have agreed upon. I will see you tomorrow and endeavor to agree as to our engagements.

Trusting that you may speedily recover, and with assurances of my regard, I am yours truly, HOKE SMITH.

To Hon. Charles F. Crisp, Atlanta, Ga.

WHARTON BARKER'S APPEAL.

He Calls on Silver Men to Cut Afloat From Party.

DENVER, Col., April 4.—The Rocky Mountain News has received the following message from Mr. Wharton Barker of Philadelphia:

PHILADELPHIA, April 3.—The action of the Manufacturers' Club, this week's straddle, taken with the declaration of Mr. John Converse, candidate for president of the club, "I am for the single gold standard," convinces all those bimetalists who have not yet decided to meet at the next straight-out plank for the restoration of silver to its old place—16 to 1—by independent action of the United States, that the friends of silver remonetization must abandon that hope, and be democratic party, or not likely to do better than the republican party. It is the duty of those of all parties who do not wish to see the country go to political expediency, and who put patriotism before partisanship, to come to a common understanding among each other, on a common policy, join in the promulgation of a definite policy and unite and at once organize for political action. The general convention called to meet at St. Louis will, of course, ratify any action the plain people agree in demanding.

WHARTON BARKER. WILL BE NO STRIKE.

New Contract Awarded for the St. Louis Convention Hall.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., April 4.—There will be no strike of the men employed in the construction of the convention hall, which is being erected on the north side of the river, as the contractors have agreed to accept the new contract for the building, which has been let to a firm employing non-union men, has been cancelled, and will be re-awarded, with conditions that will avert any controversy with unions.

MENDOZA'S BIG SWINDLE.

Havana Police Arrest Two of His Associates.

HAVANA, April 4.—The police of this city, who have been investigating the swindle by which the banking house of August Belmont & Co. of New York paid out \$2,100,000 in cash on a forged draft, purporting to be drawn by Jose Hidalgo & Co. of Havana in favor of Manuel Mendonza, have unraveled the whole plot, and have arrested two of the Mendonza accomplices.

Mendonza, it has also been ascertained, is now on his way to Coruna, Spain, and the captain general has called the home district to report on the case, and to be arrested upon his arrival at his destination.

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 newstands, which are returned, 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 family circulation of The Star is many thousands in excess of any other Washington paper and is believed to be fifty five times that of our afternoon contemporary.

Circulation of "The Evening Star."

SATURDAY, March 29, 1896.....36,525

SUNDAY, March 30, 1896.....29,945

TUESDAY, April 1, 1896.....30,310

WEDNESDAY, April 2, 1896.....30,010

THURSDAY, April 3, 1896.....29,787

FRIDAY, April 4, 1896.....29,868

Total.....186,167

Daily average.....13,031

I solemnly swear that the above statement represents only the number of copies of THE EVENING STAR circulated during the six calendar days ending Friday, April 4, 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 copied are returned or remain in the office unsold.

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

Subscribed and sworn to before me this fourth day of APRIL, A. D. 1896.

FREDERICK A. FENNING, Notary Public, D. C.

CONFERENCE OF FARMERS.

The Wholesale Market Question Still Under Discussion.

There was a conference of farmers at the American House this morning at 11 o'clock in regard to the shape to be given to the proposed wholesale market on Haymarket square.

The farmers will hold another meeting in the next few days, and endeavor to present their case to Congress. They are, however, in their own minds, and ask that if a bill should be passed allowing them to put up the market, that some restriction should be made in it to keep out speculative city capitalists, and forever keep the institution a farmers' market. They also ask that every possible restriction should be put in the bill as to the control and care of the market and the character of the structure to be erected.

INDICTMENTS DROPPED.

Several Old Criminal Cases Nolle Prosequi.

District Attorney Birney, with the consent of Judge Cole today nolle prossed the following indictments, old cases in which convictions are now impossible: Alfred J. May and R. S. Rogers, violating section 5490 Revised Statutes; Florence Gertrude Williams, alias Weston, larceny; Robert Murphy, alias Johnson, larceny; John Lynch, alias John Lynch, alias Con. Lynch, John, alias Jack, White, and David Murray, do.; Michael Knights, assault; William Ellis, assault; Arthur Flynn, do.; John Jones, do.; Marshall Jones, do.; Wm. C. Reichencker, do.; Robert Robinson, do.; Robert Holtzman, do.; Geo. W. Wint, do.; John Q. Thompson, do.; Charles Cromwell, do.; Edwin C. Mason, larceny; John Weedon, gambling table; Geo. W. Fitzgerald, false pretense; Christian H. Henshaw, and John Q. Thompson, affray.

ACCIDENT TO CAPT. DEWEY.

A Sprained Ankle Causes Changes in Naval Plans.

Captain George Dewey, president of the naval inspection board, in getting off a cable car at the corner of 18th street and Pennsylvania avenue, yesterday, slipped on the hard concrete pavement, and sprained his ankle badly. He was assisted to his home at the Everet, near by, and placed in the care of a physician. The accident will compel him to keep to his room for some time, and it is expected that another officer will take his place as chairman of the naval board to conduct the general convention of the officers of the New London course Monday next, and Captain Albert Kautz, commanding the receiving ship, the USS Albatross, was designated for that special duty. The board will leave New York this morning for New London preparatory to the trial.

Assignment of the Fern.

The Navy Department has determined to assign the naval tug Fern to the North Atlantic squadron as a tender for service in transporting material to the vessels, carrying patients to the hospitals and for the use of the commanding admiral as a station during fleet maneuvers. Lieut. Commander H. B. Mansfield will command the Fern, and Lieut. Commander J. W. McCrea as the executive officer. The assignment of the Fern will probably also be applied to similar duty on her return from her surveying cruise in Honduras.

For Howard University.

A vote was taken on the Howard University amendment to the sundry civil bill in the House Thursday afternoon after the Star's report closed. The House voted 125 to 105 to ratify the appropriation. An analysis of the vote shows that 107 republicans, 19 democrats and 3 populists voted for the amendment, and 55 republicans, 10 democrats and 3 populists against it. The sundry civil bill as amended was passed.

DISCUSSING CUBA

The Resolutions Further Debated in the House.

SPEECHES FOR AND AGAINST THEM

A Session to Be Held Tonight for Further Remarks.

VOTE TO BE TAKEN MONDAY

The House was the only branch of Congress in session today, and the attendance there, both on the floor and in the galleries, at the opening of the session was slim, notwithstanding the Cuban resolutions were to be subject of consideration for the day. Several bills of minor importance were passed, among them being the following: For the relief of settlers within the indemnity grant of the New Orleans Pacific railroad.

To authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to convey to the former owners certain lands in Alaska in exchange for the public treasury.

As to Seed Distribution.

Mr. Fisher (N.Y.) created a brief ripple of interest by offering a resolution directing the Secretary of Agriculture to comply in spirit with the resolution of Congress directing the distribution of seed and to have the seed inclosed in packages in accordance with the directions of Senators and members. He asked for their consideration, but Mr. Loud (Cal.) objected, and the resolution went over.

Mr. Watson (Ohio) called up the bill for the protection of salmon fisheries in Alaska, prohibiting the erection of dams, barrages, etc., in the salmon streams such that they would prevent the passage of salmon trout, and authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to remove such obstructions where they exist.

Mr. Leonard (Pa.) presented the report of the committee on elections in the case of C. Robertson vs. Geo. B. Harrison, recommending the admission of Mr. Harrison to the Senate to be entitled to his seat. The resolution was agreed to without debate.

The Cuban Resolutions.

Mr. Adams (Pa.), a member of the committee on foreign affairs, today spoke on the Cuban resolutions today. He said he should have refrained from addressing the House further on this question but for the "extraordinary performance of the gentleman from Maine (Mr. Boutelle) yesterday."

Referring to the charge that the people were not behind the effort of Congress to grant proper recognition to Cuba, he asserted that Congress had seldom before received so many petitions on any subject as this. "What do you think we have of the popularity of the resolutions?" He contended Mr. Boutelle's proposition that the question which he had just put in the Senate had been for the mere purpose of obstruction.

Mr. Boutelle rose, but Mr. Adams declined to be interrupted.

Mr. Boutelle succeeded, however, in interrupting the speaker and just before Adams was stating what was not true.

Mr. Adams contended that a make a reclassification, with a view to creating clerkships of lower grades of salaries. This will be avoided should the bill become a law.

"The saving to the government by a reduction of the lower grades of clerkships, will, it is believed, be sufficient to establish a retiring scheme, which will not touch the pockets of the officers and clerks, but will give gratification to them to retire finally without the loss of a dollar."

Some Amendments Suggested.

Another department clerk in a statement made to the committee on the proposed retirement questions whether the proposed retirement bill would be supported by a majority of the clerks. He says: "As a proposed scheme is nothing more or less than an insurance organization, why is it not founded on a true and just plan of insurance, which will give gratification to the younger clerk?"

Why not start fair? Why not pay a clerk for his average annual salary during his tenure of office, whenever such clerk may be discharged, and just let the medical examiners appointed by the President? What is the objection to this? There are unless it be from the persons affected, who will not consent to a bill which would not be self-sustaining. If the Tawney bill is enacted it is not class legislation, but a bill which will give gratification to the younger clerk."

Mr. Gillette in Opposition.

Mr. Gillette (Mass.) spoke in opposition to the resolutions. He admitted that popular sympathy was with the Cubans and he admitted that the Cubans were entitled to sympathy, but he thought it was time for the exercise of caution. He thought that we were in danger of mixing motives of self-interest with our sympathy. Furthermore, the question at issue was one of wisdom and of justice, and not one of either sympathy or self-interest. He did not consider it expedient to embroil the United States in the case of the Cuban, especially when the resolutions could be of no avail. Furthermore, he considered the resolutions a dangerous precedent, and he thought it would be better to do in a case where any doubt existed, to let the matter rest with the executive, and let the Congress do nothing.

Mr. Joseph Trainor writes to The Star in answer to some figures presented by Mr. Mortimer in support of the project outlined in the Tawney bill. Mr. Trainor says:

The law, Mr. Mortimer says, going into effect on July 1, 1896, the salary of the present clerk would amount to \$120,000 by July 1, 1896, apparently a very large and ample sum, which would become available for the proposed pensions.

This accumulation, it will be readily seen, would be at the rate of \$90,000 a year for 100 clerks, or \$9,000,000 a year. At that rate, I presume, thereafter. He also says that at this date (July 1, 1900) there will be 200 clerks in the executive department eligible for compulsory retirement and seventy-five who could voluntarily retire.

The maximum pension, Mr. Mortimer states, would be \$100 per year for each retired employe, but I think it would be more than this, for nearly every employe in the government would be in 1900 has been a high-grade employe, \$1,000 or \$1,800 per year, and the Tawney bill says they shall be retired at three-fourths of their highest salary they ever received. Highest salary they ever received. At the given figures the annual cost of the pension would be \$450,000, which Mr. Mortimer acknowledges.

As our figures show, July 1, 1900, the fund, \$1,200,000; deduct \$450,000 per annum, leaves \$750,000; add \$300,000, the year's income from the 2 per cent fund, leaves \$1,050,000. The government employe, making \$1,000,000 available for the second year's operations. Deduct from that \$450,000, the year's pensions, leaves \$600,000, to which \$300,000 revenue again, and we have \$900,000 working capital for the third year. Deduct \$450,000, the year's pensions, leaves \$450,000, to which \$300,000 revenue again, and we have \$750,000 working capital for the fourth year. The decrease of business capital of the fund, therefore, is \$450,000 in three years! Now, any one can see from the above figures that in six years the whole fund will be gone and the concern insolvent.

But another word with regard to the impracticability of this pension scheme. In the case of the Tawney bill, the pension was to be paid to the employe, each employe dropping out of the government service before he became eligible for the pension. The pension was to be paid to him. How could this be done if the money has already been paid out in pensions?

CLERKS' RETIREMENT FUND

Points Urged in Favor of the Tawney Bill.

A clerk in the War Department who is in sympathy with the movement for the retirement of government employes, made the following statement to a Star reporter on the subject today:

"The report of the civil service commission for 1894 contains a detailed account of the status of the civil service in all the countries of the United States having diplomatic relations."

"All the United States and some of the half-civilized countries of South America alone excepted) make provision for the retirement of their public servants—some at government expense, while others have the retirement fund in consideration before Congress, in an assessment upon the salaries of employes."

"There is no better incentive to honest and faithful performance of duties of all classes of employes, whether public or private, than the prospect of a provision for old age. The Government of the United States at the present time Congress will adopt any measure which will place additional burdens upon the taxpayers of the country for the creation of a retired list for civil service employes similar to that for the army and navy officers, hence the plan proposed in the Tawney bill is of no expense to the public treasury."

"The junior members of the civil service are almost unanimous in favor of this retirement scheme. It insures them speedier promotion, and they know that one year's salary of their salaries will pay the required amount of their retirement fund."

"Of course, there are always some who will object to the retention of any part of their salaries for the benefit of the Government. They will object to anything for the benefit of themselves or their fellow employes, hence their senseless abuse of the pension law is not surprising. It is but fair to say that they are in the minority, and are men who are living on the public money, and are a makeshift, either to study a year for other purposes, not with the intention of returning to the Government to the benefit of the government."

"The bill introduced by Mr. Tawney, and which is now before the committee of the House on reform in the civil service, contains the following provisions: A bill granting a pension of 100 per cent of the salary of the employe, to be commencing with July 1, 1896, to every employe of the civil service who has completed twenty years of service, and of at least twenty-five years of service."

"The retirement, after a certain number of years, of employes disabled in line of their duties."

"All retired employes to receive a monthly pension, the amount of which is the amount of their retirement fund when they were receiving at date of their retirement."

"Every employe who may be honorably discharged by reason of reduction of the force, before becoming eligible for retirement, to receive back the amount withheld from his salary for the purpose of accumulating interest, and in the event of his death, his widow or legal representatives to receive the same."

"The bill now before the committee is in the hands of a subcommittee for perusal, and will be reported in all its details, and may be before the House for action, but it is earnestly hoped that it will be of some use in the shape of a law."

"The present salaries of government clerks are not high, and the present system, hence their liberality in comparison with other countries. Now, that an improvement of our civil service is gradually being effected, it is not surprising that a reclassification, with a view to creating clerkships of lower grades of salaries. This will be avoided should the bill become a law."

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Mr. Knox for the Resolutions.

Mr. Knox (Mass.) was recognized to read a letter from his colleague, Mr. Draper, a member of the foreign affairs committee. Mr. Draper reported the adoption of the resolutions by the Senate, and he said that he had written to say that he had no objection to the resolutions, and made a plea for affirmative action.

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DISTRICT AFFAIRS

Electric Light Middle Still Perplexes the Commissioners.

PREST. THOMAS' SUCCESSFUL PROTEST

A Permit Issued for Repair Work to Be Done.

OTHER LOCAL MATTERS

President Thomas of the United States Electric Lighting Company was at the Commissioners' office this morning with blood in his eye. He was mad. His workmen had been arrested for nothing, he said, and the people in the northwestern section of the city had been deprived of light by the action of the authorities. The Engineer Commissioner was not in the building when Mr. Thomas arrived, and Commissioner Ross represented the triumvirate. So to him Mr. Thomas appealed. After explaining the situation, which was that the high winds had caused a break in a wire, and that his workmen were merely engaged in splicing the cable when they were arrested and dragged off to the station house, he said:

"I must have some understanding with the Commissioners. Not only is the electric company being galled at every possible turn, but the public is being seriously inconvenienced. I have been arrested by the police and arrested for nothing. When this is over I shall have a settlement with Col. Truesdell and Maj. Powell for their personal attacks upon me. Do you want to drive us into the courts every day? Why, it would only be the work of a few minutes to get an injunction to prevent you from interfering with us."

A Permit Issued.

Commissioner Ross understood the situation and sent for Capt. Flebeger, who is acting engineer commissioner during Maj. Powell's absence. They immediately issued a permit, and President Thomas departed with the document in a better frame of mind.

The order of the Commissioners issued at the time of the trouble about the work done in the conduit south of Pennsylvania avenue was what caused the police to act yesterday.

Policeman Oriana was the officer who acted and while he took the workmen to the police station no work was recorded, and the men were permitted to depart when President Thomas appeared at the station and made an explanation.

Lieut. Annis Explains.

Lieut. Annis said this morning that the former order of the Commissioners was revoked only so far as it applied to the part of the city south of Pennsylvania avenue, and as this work was being done north of the avenue the officers considered it their duty to take some action.

The Commissioners this afternoon issued the following order: "That the Eckington and Soldiers' Home railway is hereby directed to put the space between its rails and tracks and two feet adjacent thereto, on North Capitol street between New York avenue and O streets, in good repair, to be completed by the 15th inst. and to be kept in good repair by the service of this notice; and that if said repairs are not so made within the time specified, the same shall be done and issue certificates of individual compliance against the company thereto."

License Granted to M. J. Fleming.

The excise board granted a license today to Michael J. Fleming, 719 4th street southeast, for the sale of liquor. The board took charge of the liquor business of the District. Two years ago Fleming was convicted of selling liquor to minors. The law provides that an applicant convicted of this offense cannot make application for a license within two years from the date of his conviction. Today the application of Mr. Fleming was favorably considered, and the license granted.

Today's Orders.

The Commissioners today issued the following orders: The contract for grading alleys in Anacostia, D. C., has been awarded to H. J. Welles, at 10¢ cents per cubic yard, this being the lowest bid received and considered reasonable and advantageous to the District.

Proposition of Alex. C. Chenoweth, received March 31, 1896, for constructing sewers at various localities in the District was rejected. The lowest bid received being the lowest one received.

Liquor Dealer Wells Acquitted.

The Excise Board May Now Take Action.

Judge Miller has finally disposed of the case of William L. Wells, the South Washington liquor dealer, and the excise board may now reopen his case involving an application for a license this year. His application was rejected last week, and the present case being held against him, and action was taken before the court acted. Lawyers Lipscomb and Turner represented the defendant. The evidence was very conflicting, and the jury, after hearing the witnesses who carefully examined each witness, reached the conclusion that Wells had not violated the law, and acquitted him.

Administrator Appointed.

Judge Cox today appointed Aaron R. Townshend administrator of the estate of the late Dr. Smith Townshend, who died intestate, his bond being fixed at \$500. The value of the personal estate is placed at about \$300, and the debts unsecured by deed of trust are stated to be about \$300. The amount of the real estate is not given.

Life on the Bowery.

Mike Riley, who, as an evangelist, is known as the "Bowery Bum," will address a meeting at the Central Union Mission this evening at 7:30 o'clock on his thirty years' experience on the Bowery and his rescue from a sinful life. Mrs. M. M. Bratton, another prominent evangelist, will also speak.

They Took Too Much.

Four full-grown men, who are not members of the Anti-Saloon League, appeared in Judge Kimball's court this morning on charges of violating the municipal laws. James Reardon was released, in order that he might dispose of some produce he had and take the \$100 fine. The other three, Frank Ross, alias O'Donnell, who has but one hand, was given fifteen days, in default of \$100. The other two, who were given \$100 each, were released.

Rody Timbers, an old colored man, was fined \$5. Michael Murphy was given the same fine.

Favor May Reform.

Mr. Babcock has presented to the House petitions of the state Epworth League of Wisconsin asking Congress to raise the age of consent in the District of Columbia to eighteen years; to appoint a commission to investigate the labor question; to substitute voluntary industrial arbitration for railway strikes; to repeal the ninety-day divorce law in Oklahoma; and to enforce the compulsory education law and suppress child labor in the District.

Henry D. Carey, formerly judge of the court of sessions of West Chester county, N. Y., a prominent democratic politician, is in the city, stopping at the Hotel Emrick, at the guest of Attorney George W. Albright.

The Montgomery county, Md., prohibitionists Tuesday afternoon adjourned to the state convention April 2. The British parliament Tuesday adjourned for the Easter recess.

SPRING FLOWERS.

The Churches Decorated for the Easter Festival.

The work of decorating the various churches in Washington has been, in nearly all instances, completed, and the display is said to be finer than ever before.

The beautiful Easter lily, of course, occupies the most prominent place in the collection, but the calla lily, with its