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WORK OF CONGRESS

Senator Gorman Takes a Pathetic Turn.

He Calls Attention to the People's Woes.

The Tobacco Rebate Measure Passes the House Without Opposition.

Enloe's Case.

WASHINGTON, December 8.— In the Senate today, Mr. Jones, of Arkansas, offered a resolution calling upon the Attorney General for information as to the supervisors of election appointed for the first and second districts of Arkansas.

Mr. Call offered a resolution calling upon the Secretary of Agriculture for a statement made in the investigation for irrigation purposes.

Mr. Daws read portions of a letter written by Census Indian Agent Lee, from the Pine Ridge agency, to show there is no lack of food among the Sioux.

The discussion continued on the joint resolution appropriating $5000 for an investigation of the Indian outbreak. It was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

A resolution calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for a statement of the moneys paid Government Supervisors of Elections each year since 1871, etc., was agreed to.

Mr. Hoar moved to proceed to the consideration of the Elections bill, but on the suggestion that Mr. Gray was temporarily absent, withdrew the motion and asked that a time be fixed for taking a final vote on the bill. Mr. Gray meanwhile came in and the bill was taken up.

Mr. Gray yielded to Mr. Gorman, who argued against the proposition to fix a time for taking the vote. He recalled the statement of Mr. Hoar at the last session, that if the Elections bill were not then taken up and disposed of, there would not be time to do so in the short session. There has been a conviction on the Democratic side that after what had occurred at the last election, the Senator from Massachusetts would not press the bill; so the Senators on his side were not prepared to discuss it.

Mr. Gorman continued, "Where we stand today, we have heard a discussion as to starving Indians, but take no note of the fact that the farmers of the land are meeting and resolving that there is danger and trouble, if not starvation, among them. The faces of bankers and merchants are blanched with fear. No man can tell whether tomorrow or next day every bank in the country will not be closed on suspension of payments, and now, in the midst of such a state of affairs, we, who come here flushed with victory, had a hope that the majority party would give us an opportunity to join with it in preventing the wreck which is now impending. Lay aside this bill, which the country has pronounced against, and let us take up matters which our fellow citizens are looking for us to consider. If you do not, if you persist in the course marked out by the Senator from Massachusetts, the responsibility must rest with the party in power. If the Senator from Massachusetts forces a consideration of this partisan measure while bankruptcy and ruin are going on, when he goes back to Boston he will find that merchants and bankers and men of affluence will tell him, while he is attempting hostile legislation against one section of the country, that if it had not been for the products of that section, and for the moving of their products, there would not be a bank in Massachusetts able to pay its depositors. The only thing that has saved them has been the fact that they have been able to draw on the cotton crop and the oil."

Mr. Hoar replied that for four days the Senate had been listening to Democratic speeches, made for mere delay and obstruction. If the Senator from Maryland had another measure which he thought might allay the panic or the menace to the commercial prosperity of the country, which had begun when the elections were declared in favor of the Democratic party, why should he not, after a fair and proper statement of his reasons for voting against the Elections bill, let the Senate vote on it. The Elections bill was a measure whose sole purpose was to submit to the Judges of the United States Courts the question of who had the prima facie title to a seat in the House of Representatives, instead of having it declared by ruffianism, fraud or violence, as has been so often the case.

Mr. Gray spoke briefly in the line with Mr. Gorman's remarks. Mr. Gorman then concluded his argument against the bill.

Mr. Berry obtained the floor and, after a short executive session, the Senate adjourned.

The House.

WASHINGTON, December 8.— In the House today the Committee on Judiciary reported back the Enloe resolution for the arrest of George Minot, the doorkeeper, for attempting to prevent Enloe's exit from the House in August last. The committee's report on the case calls for no action.

Mr. McKinley reported from the Ways and Means Committee, and the House passed the bill providing for a rebate on tobacco in stock equal to the reduction made on the internal revenue tax by the last tariff bill. Mr. McKinley stated the bill was similar to the provisions of the Tariff bill, Section 30 of which had been omitted in enrolling that measure, and, on a declaration by Mr. Mills, of Texas, that it was "all right," no opposition was made to it.

The House then adjourned.

WATCHING THE POLITICIANS.

Speculations Over the Cause for a Gathering of Republican Leaders.

NEW YORK, December 8.—A Washington special says: Politicians who have been watching the movements of a group of Republican leaders, are wondering tonight if James G. Blaine is to head the ticket in '92. One of the most distinguished visitors here is General Alger. Others are, Vice-Chairman Jas. S. Clarkson and J. S. Bassett, chairman of the Republican National Committee; General Jno. Knapp, chairman of the New York Republican State Committee, and M. M. Estee, National Committeeman from California. Ex-Senator Thomas C. Platt has engaged rooms at the Arlington, the headquarters of the other politicians named.

THE UNION PACIFIC.

Director Ames Interviewed On the Subjec of Its Debt.

BOSTON, December 8.—Director Ames, of the Union Pacific, says, in an interview: "The floating debt on the Union Pacific was fully explained in last year's report. It has been reduced the past year by $4,000,000 and is now about $11,500,000. Mr. Gould knew all about the floating debt when he entered the directory and has discovered nothing new. He agreed to take care of it and has provided for the January requirements, which are less than $2,000,000. Mr. Gould expressed great satisfaction at the appearance of everything connected with the property. He has no more idea of a receivership for the property than I have for the Ames building. I do not know of any scheme for funding the Union Pacific debt. We can easily pay it when the railroad bond market revives."

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Conflict Between Ranchmen and Sioux. Trouble in Indian Territory.

CHICAGO, December 8. — General Miles this morning received a telegram from Buffalo Gap, S. D., saying: "The ranchmen and Indians have had a slight skirmish and the situation is becoming serious. Can you send fifty good rifles and ammunition so that settlers can defend themselves?" The General will leave for the scene of the troubles tomorrow.

IN INDIAN TERRITORY.

GUTHRIE, I. T., December 8.—Couriers arrived this afternoon bringing information that the uncivilized tribes of Cheyennes, Arapahoes and Comanches, just west of Oklahoma, are in a state of high excitement over a ghost dance started by runners from Dakota. The Sioux there are very threatening and Government Agent Steel has asked the Legislature to take immediate action by which the citizens can organize militia companies for protection. The craze among the tribes east of here has subsided.

CATHOLICS IN POLITICS.

Should Participate When the Interests of Religion So Demand.

ROME, December 8.—Cardinal Rampolla, papal secretary, has written a letter in regard to Cardinal Lavigerie's recent declarations in favor of a republican form of government, saying that the Roman Catholic Church is not inimical to any form of government.

The church applies itself, before all else, to the progress of religion, and he thinks it right for the faithful to participate in public affairs when their action is demanded by the interests of religion.

CHINESE IN AMERICA

THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATIONS.

Consul Bee Testifies Before the Committee in Defense of the Celestial Side of the Case.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 8.— The Congressional Committee on Immigration resumed taking testimony today.

Colonel Bee, Chinese Vice Consul, furnished statistics of the arrival and departures of Chinese at this port and said there were over 23,000 certificates outstanding when the Scott act passed, and were held by Chinese who never returned here. Since the passage of the Scott act the excess of departures over arrivals had been about 12,000.

When questioned by Congressman Stump as to the discrepancy between his figures and those of the Collector, the witness stated that the Consulate kept track of the departures in transit, which he thought was not done by the Collector of Customs and which would account for the excess of his figures over those of the Collector. The returns made by the custom house were produced and showed that a record of departures in transit had been kept. Consul Bee said he had received his returns for the twelve years past from the agents of the steamship company.

Witness said that the Chinese Six Companies were purely benevolent associations and never brought out men from China or contracted for labor. The companies do arbitrate in Chinese cases, but never intimidate. He thought it likely that debtors may have been held prisoners by the Six Companies for the payment of debts, but believed there were few abuses of this system. He said there were 1200 highbinders in this country who have no possible means of support, and he believed their societies could be broken up if the police exercised due vigilence.

A THEATRE ROBBED.

The "Wigwam" Safe Opened By Expert Crackamen.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 8.—Three masked men last night bound and gagged Billy Johnson, the janitor and night watchman of the Wigwam theatre, and then proceeded to open the safe with tools. According to Johnson they worked an hour and a half before they suceeded in opening it, when they took $1900 cash, several watches and some stage jewelry. After the robbers left the place Johnson managed by hard work to release himself, and notified the police, who are now working on the case. Mr. Meyers, the proprietor of the theatre, states that the jewelry is valued at $1000.

Alice Dickason Dissatisfied.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 8.—Alice Edith Dickason, whose claim to the estate as widow of the late Thomas H. Blythe made her one of the principals in the trial of that case, has moved for a new trial.

WASHINGTON JOTTINGS

Considering the Use of the Metric System.

Treasury Department Bond Purchases.

Interstate Commerce—The Pension Deficit— King Kalakaua's Visit. New Appointments.

WASHINGTON, December 8.—Several weeks ago the Secretary of State wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury, enclosing a copy of the report and recommendations of the International American Conference as to the propriety of adopting a common system of weights and measures in commercial intercourse between the American republics, and asking whether in his opinion the adoption of the metric system in the customs service is advisable so far as the other American republics are concerned.

The question was submitted to the collectors at the various ports, with a request for their views with regard to the method by which the metric system could be applied to the customs service and to what extent, if any, it could be so applied under the laws now in force.

As a result Secretary Windom has informed Secretary Blaine that a diversity of opinion exists among the several officers, but that it appears to be conceded that the adoption of the system under the laws now in force is impracticable. He says there appears, however, to be no doubt that if the customs laws were made to conform to the terms of the metric system it would facilitate commerce between this country and other American republics, and also the transaction of the business of the custom houses.

TREASURY MATTERS.

Purchases of Bonds on the Market—The Amount of Fractional Currency.

WASHINGTON, December 8. — The Treasury Department today purchased 685,000 ounces of silver at from $1.028 to $1.035.

The amount of 4 per cent bonds accepted today were $4,591,000, for which the disbursement of about $5,555,000 in money has been made. The Secretary of the Treasury said this afternoon that in view of the conditions, he would accept additional offers of 4s, at a reasonable price, of a sufficient amount to make a total purchase of $8,000,000. The Secretary said, further, it would be manifestly impossible, under existing conditions, for him to use the fractional currency now in the treasury in the purchase of bonds, for the reason that it would at once be returned to him in exchange for greenbacks, and leave him with a deficiency. There is now about $19,000,000 in fractional currency in the treasury, of which all but $2,000,000 is in silver half dollars. As it is legal tender to the amount of $10, it is regarded as a part of the available cash balance. The Secretary said he would like very much to get it into circulation, but should not do so at the expense of the available surplus.

Representative Bland today introduced a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to prepare a new series of legal tender notes, which, when the ordinary revenues of the Government are not sufficient to meet requirements, he is to pay out in sufficient sums to meet all demands.

INTER-STATE COMMERCE.

Recommendations Made By the Commission in Their Annual Report.

WASHINGTON, December 8.—The annual report of the Inter-State Commerce Commission recommends a number of amendments.

First, in that there be added to Section 3 a provision that the facilities to be offered by a common carrier shall include the reasonable receiving, forwarding and delivery by every such carrier, at the request of another common carrier, of through trafic at through rates. Further amendments are also deemed indispensible. The recommendations made in previous reports are renewed.

The Commission says the difficulty of obtaining any direct evidence from parties who, by means of participation in illegal acts, have knowledge of the particulars of such transactions, is invariably very great and suggests an amendment to meet this defect.

RECIPROCITY WITH HAWAII.

The Minister to Washington Speaks of Kalakaua's Visit.

WASHINGTON, December 8.— Carter, Minister from Hawaii, has left for San Francisco to consult with King Kalakaua. To a reporter he said that the story that the king is here on a mission of annexation is absurd. He said: "I am free to say he is anxious to have an extension of the reciprocity plan to all the products of the islands and it is no doubt on that subject that he wants to talk to me. He is a believer in the benefits of reciprocity. I should be glad also if the thing could be done, but I do not think it wise to take any steps in that direction at present, in view of the attitude of the political parties. The late election blocks us for the present."

The Pension Deficit.

WASHINGTON, December 8.—The Secretary of the Treasury has transmitted to the House the estimate of $34,500,000 by the Secretary of the Interior to supply the deficiency for the payment of army and navy pensions for the current fiscal year.

Presidential Appointments.

WASHINGTON, December 8.—The Senate today confirmed L.B. Kinney, as probate judge of Sevier County, Utah, (to correct errors in the name), and G. W. Bryant, as receiver of public moneys at Los Angeles, Cal.

Death of Editor McLean's Father.

WASHINGTON, December 8.—Washington McLean, of Cincinnati, died today, aged 79. His wife, two daughters and J. R. McLean, proprietor of the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, were with him at the time of death.

Destitution in South Dakota.

PIERRE, S. D., December 8.—Lieutenant-Governor Fletcher confirms the report of the great destitution among the people of South Dakota. He declares the boomers are trying to conceal the facts, and says that in seven counties, on account of the loss of crops through drought during the past three years, farmers are entirely destitute and will starve unless aided.

National Live Stock Association.

CHICAGO, December 8. — The Live Stock Association of the United States assembled this afternoon in annual meeting. The association elected a Board of Directors and officers for the ensuing year. The president is P. W. Creswell. What other business was transacted, if any, was kept a profound secret.

Stabbed by Two Dastards.

NEW YORK, December 8.—Peter Dempsey, while endeavoring to save Mary Allen, a 16-year-old girl, from criminal assault by two Poles in Brooklyn last night, was probably fatally stabbed. The assailants were arrested.

Shot His Wife and Suicided.

NEW YORK, December 8.—Late this afternoon Earnest Kettler shot his wife in the arm and then shot himself in the left temple. He died instantly. The woman's wounds are not dangerous.

COMMERCIAL DISASTERS

A SERIOUS FLURRY AMONG THE HAT DEALERS.

Three Hat Firms Go Under at the Same Time—The Delamater Bank Failure—A Bankrupt Postal Card Contractor.

NEW YORK, December 8.—Roberts, Cushman & Co., importers of hatters' materials, who have made an assignment, stated their liabilities to be in the neighborhood of $500,000. Their capital was from $750,000 to $1,000,000 and their credit good.

A member of the firm said tonight the failure of the firm was due to the fact that the Philadelphia firm of Price, Sherman & Co. was under heavy financial obligations to them, and asserted that the house had been carrying the Philadelphia concern until it was impossible to do so longer. Hence the suspension. He also asserted that Roberts, Cushman & Co. expect to meet all claims, even though the individual property of the firm's members will be used to meet the indebtedness.

THE DELAMATER FAILURE.

MEADVILLE, Pa., December 8.—The reports continue to come of new sufferers in the collapse of Delamater & Co's. Bank. It is stated that a cautious estimate of the liabilities finds that they will not be less than $500,000, and may reach $800,000. The extent of the damage done to the trade of this section of the country, especially this city, is very great. The bank did a large percentage of the business of this city.

The assignee of the Delamater Company made a statement this afternoon, showing assets of $473,000 and liabilities of $545,000. How much the assets may shrink cannot be estimated now. All the members of the firm have surrendered all of their personal property.

STILL ANOTHER HAT FIRM FAILS.

NEW YORK. December 8. — H. M. Silverman & Co., dealers in hats, caps and furs, assigned today. The firm has failed twice before, in 1878 and again in 1879, the liabilities each time being compromised at about 33 cents on the dollar. A statement on March last claimed assets of $174,000 and liabilities of $126,000. It is said they bought considerable from Roberts, Cushman & Co. A tight money market is given as the cause of the failure.

A PHILADELPHIA ASSIGNMENT.

PHILADELPHIA, December 8.—The hat firm of Price, Sherman & Co. assigned today. Their assignment precipitated the failure of Frederick Asherman. Price, Sherman & Co. are rated from $200,000 to $300,000, and their general credit is high.

POSTAL CARD CONTRACTOR A BANKRUPT.

BIRMINGHAM, Conn., December 8.— The postal card contractor, A. L. Dagget, was today declared bankrupt on petition of creditors. The amount of the claim is unknown. His debts in this State will probably exceed $50,000.

FEDERATION OF LABOR

BEGINNING OF THE ANNUAL CONVENTION AT DETROIT.

Suggestions and Statistics From President Gompers' Address—An International Congress Recommended.

DETROIT, December 8.—About eighty delegates to the American Federation of Labor assembled this morning.

President Gompers delivered the annual address. He advised the convention to avoid controversal questions and to concentrate effort on such issues as the members most agreed. During the year the Federation has established 274 local branches and the National Trades Union 913. During the year 1163 authorized strikes had taken place; 989 succeeded, seventy-six failed and ninety-eight were compromised. He approved of an international labor congress in 1893, coincident with the World's Fair, and recommended legislation on a number of matters.

When the Committee on Credentials went into session, President Gompers appeared before them to object to receiving any papers from the Central Labor organization. The committee decided to allow the Socialists to present their case to the convention tomorrow.

ECONOMIC MEASURES

Discussed by the Ocala Convention.

Various Legislative Demands Formulated.

The Convention Finally Adjourns After a Demonstration of Sectional Bias.

OCALA, Fla., December 8.—Early in the forenoon session of the Farmers' Alliance, the financial policy of the order came up for discussion under the report of the Committee on Legislation. It contained the following amended demands:

First, the abolition of National banks and the establishment of sub-treasuries in the several States to loan money direct to the people at the rate of interest of 2 per cent on non-perishable farm products and real estate with a proper limitation upon the quantity of land and amount of money, that the amount of circulating medium may be speedily increased to not less than $50 per capita.

Second, that Congress shall pass laws to effectually prevent dealing in futures on all agricultural and mechanical productions, preserving a stringent procedure in trials to secure the prompt conviction of offenders and under such penalties as shall secure the most perfect compliance with the law.

The third paragraph condemns the silver bill recently passed and demands a free and unlimited coinage of silver.

The fourth demands the passage of laws prohibiting alien ownership of land and that Congress take prompt action to devise some plan to obtain all land now owned by aliens and foreign syndicates and that all lands held by railroads and other corporations, in excess of what are actually used and needed by them, be reclaimed and held for actual settlers only.

Fifth, "Believing in equal rights to all and special privileges to none, we demand that our National legislation be so framed in the future as not to build up one industry at the expense of another. We further demand the removal of the existing heavy tariff from the necessities of life that the poor of the land must have. We further demand a just and equitable system of graduated taxation upon incomes. We believe the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people and demand that all national and state revenues be limited to the necessary expenses of government, economically and honestly administered."

Sixth, "We demand the most rigid, honest and just State and National control and supervision of the means of public communication and transportation, and, if this control does not remove the abuses now existing, we demand Government ownership of such means of communication and transportation."

A spirited debate followed the introduction of this report.

Loucks, of South Dakota, offered an amendment to strike out the word "farm," but after discussion, changed it to read "merchantable" instead of "farm."

Then Davie, of Kentucky, offered a long amendment, and speeches for and against went on for a long time.

President Hall, of the Missouri Alliance, declared himself uncompromisingly opposed to the sub-treasury plan as unconstitutional and opposed to the principles of the order. It is unjust, very extravagant and would bring financial ruin to the farmer and all other classes of business. It would have, and is now having, the effect of drawing the minds of the farmers and other laborers to that greatest curse of the age—class legislation. In conclusion, he said that if such a step were taken it would destroy the order in Missouri in less than ninety days.

Congressman-elect Simson, of Kansas, and Clark, of Texas, favored the Sub-Treasury plan. An amendment by Livingston, that the circulation shall not be less than $50 per capita was agreed to. Many other speeches for and against the Sub-Treasury scheme were made, and a vote finally taken resulted in its adoption by ninty-nine to seventy-nine.

At the afternoon session, Wardell, of South Dakota, moved to reconsider the vote by which the Alliance protested against the passage of the Elections bill, stating as his reason that there would be a protest that would retard the progress of the Alliance in the North and West.

On motion of Hall, of Missouri, Wardell's motion was laid on the table by a vote of 56 to 23. There was considerable excited discussion over the matter. The States voting with Wardell were Illinois, Texas, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, South and North Dakota. There was a divided vote in the delegations from Arkansas, Missouri, West Virginia, Florida and Kansas.

Mr. Carr, of North Carolina, presented a memorial to Congress approving and asking for the passage of the Paddock Pure Food bill and emphatically protesting against the passage of what is known as the Conger Lard Bill, which is denounced as a measure tending toward more taxation and discrimination against the cottonseed oil of the South, and sectional legislation, against which the industrial movement declares unceasing hostility. The memorial was adopted.

At the night session a resolution was passed urging the establishment of a postal saving bank.

Just before adjournment Buchanan took occasion to denounce those members who had given information to the press representatives as scoundrels, liars, knaves and traitors.

After passing the customary resolution of thanks, the National Alliance, at 1 o'clock this (Tuesday) morning, adjourned.

The Sub-Treasury bill, as it now stands, does not include loans on lands, but this feature does appear in the formal demand today.

An Arizona Prisoner Pardoned.

COLUMBUS, December 8.—Doc Smart, a United States prisoner, serving a life sentence in the Ohio prison from Tucson, Arizona, for attempted train robbery, has been pardoned by President Harrison, an investigation having proven him innocent.

CALIFORNIA VITICULTURISTS

Investigating the Workings of the Sweet Wine Bill.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 8.—The State Board of Viticulture held its semi-annual meeting today.

C. A. Wetmore and Professor Rising were appointed a committee to ascertain if the tables in the Sweet Wine bill are correct.

C. A. Wetmore was continued as chief viticulturist.

George West, J. DeBarth Shorb and I. DeTurk were appointed a committee to study the question of the treasury regulations under the recent sweet wine regulation of Congress, and to report the result of their investigations to the Treasury Department.

ACROSS THE POND.

Parnell's Correspondence With America—A Mission to the United States.

LONDON, December 8.—Parnell has sent dispatches to Milwaukee, Wis., declining an offer of $15,000 for 100 lectures.

Parnell will send a mission to the United States, to place before the American people his side of the controversy.

WM. O'Brien sent a cable dispatch to Parnell today, appealing to him to suggest some way whereby Ireland might be saved. Parnell replied: "It is now too late to rescue the seceders from their false position. I shall be glad to consult with you on your arrival in Europe."

Gold to Be Sent to New York.

LONDON, December 8.—It is stated that £100,000,000 gold is to be shipped from London to New York this week for the assistance of the banks there. It is doubtful if any assistance will be sent by the Bank of France.

Tipperary Declares Against Parnell.

DUBLIN, December 8.—The Tipperary town commissioners have adopted a resolution declaring they have lost confidence in Parnell.

Another Good Man Gone Wrong.

SAGINAW, Mich., December 8.—Louis D. Sanborn, a member of the Methodist Church, and always considered an exemplary young man, has left the city, having raised from forged paper money to the extent of $30,000. Previous to his departure he made an assignment to his mother. His liabilities are estimated at $100,000.

Opposed to Sunday Closing.

CHICAGO, December 8.—It is reported at the World's Fair headquarters that a number of prominent Germans have protested against paying their subscriptions until such time as they are given positive information as to whether the exposition is to be closed Sundays or not. They are decidedly opposed to Sunday closing.

FROM ORIENTAL SHORES

A BUDGET OF NEWS FROM CHINA AND JAPAN.

Explosion of a Japanese Powder Magazine—Steamship Collision in the Yellow Sea—Crops in China.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 8.—The steamer China arrived this morning from China and Japan, bringing Chinese advices to November 13 and Japanese advices to November 20.

It brings the details of the blowing up, on November 2, of the Government powder mills at Tai Ping Foo. The details are meagre, but agree in stating that 300 lives were lost, and that all the houses in the vicinity were wrecked. Fifty persons are said to have been at work in the mill at the time of the accident, and of their remains only two limbs have been found. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

One half of the city of Pa Chou, in the province of Fuhiver, is reported destroyed by fire, originating from another powder explosion.

It is reported at Shanghai that on November 6 the steamer Wenchew and the steamer Toonan, en route from New Chwang to Shanghai, had collided. The Wenchew sank, while the Toonan had to be beached to keep her from sinking.

Crops in the north of China are, on the whole, reported good. In Foo Chow district the tobacco crop is said to be in bad condition.

The steamer brought from Hong Kong today Mate H. A. Martin, William Griffith, James Cook and John Peters, who, with two others, left the sailing bark Charles W. Morgan in the Okhotsk Sea in pursuit of a whale. They became lost in the fog, and when the Morgan arrived at this port some weeks ago, they were supposed to have perished. The men, however, succeeded in reaching Vladivostock, whence they were transferred to Hong Kong, where two of them have remained.

Murder and Suicide at Cleveland.

CLEVELAND, O., December 8. — At Wellington, Ohio, this afternoon, David Hoke shot and killed S. L. Page and then suicided. Both men are old citizens. Sage kept a grocery and Hoke worked for him. Sage caught Hoke stealing groceries and demanded a settlement, whereupon the shooting occurred.

Los Angeles Items.

LOS ANGELES, December 8.—Palma, the Italian who shot young Donald, was captured at Azusa today. The coroner's jury today exonerated Deputy Attorney Dunn from blame in shooting and killing Major Mitchell while hunting yesterday.

Assisting New York Bankers.

LONDON, December 8.—The writer of a financial article which appears in the *Times* this morning says he thinks it will be necessary to assist New York banks to cope with their difficulties of getting gold from London.

RAILWAY COMBINATION

A Move to Consolidate All Traffic Business.

Chairman Walker Deprecates Scalping.

A Plan Suggested Whereby the Railroads Could Work to Their Mutual Profit.

NEW YORK, December 8.—The *Journal of Finance* today made public for the first time a lengthy letter recently written by Chairman Walker, of the Interstate Committee of the Railway Association to various railroad presidents on the general condition of railway affairs, and a plan for reform in the present methods.

He says the present legislative attitude of Congress and the States is injurious, but the railroad difficulties are not due to that cause. Competition, as it now exists among the carriers, is ruinous. This situation, he says, pleases the unreflecting public, and a necessary inference is that the railroads are playing their adversaries' game. He refers to the fact that during the past fifteen years about one-third of the railway mileage in the United States has been reorganized or passed through foreclosure proceedings. He does not believe that this suicidal process is beyond control, but says that radical changes are required.

He points out the wars in passenger and freight rates brought about by scalping, secret agreements, rebates, etc., and says that 90 per cent of all the tariff changes made are reductions. He accuses the roads of systematic passenger-rate cutting and calling it competition. Such wild and reckless methods are not in the interests of the public, and are ruinous to the railway systems.

He calls on the presidents to recognize the essential unity of railway interests and to make a new treaty based on disarmament. He says the first few months of the life of the Inter-State Railroad Traffic Association is referred to as a period of comparatively successful administration among Western roads. It was really an armed neutrality, as every line maintained its freighting force, fully armed and equipped. The lines should rid themselves of the machinery for rate cutting, either open or secret.

The fundamental principle of the association should be concentration of authority and unification of interests. A traffic division should control the handling of the business; a rate division should have the exclusive right to contract with connecting roads in respect to change of business, division of joint rates and with shippers at all points outside of the associations' territory; joint agencies should replace the innumerable separate agencies now in vogue. This might be extended to the competitive points on the lines of the members. The work of the traffic divisions also might very properly embrace the clearing house idea, under which it would receive copies of all billing, adjust accounts between the companies, settle all loss and damage claims, etc. Under such concentration the danger of rate cutting, either secret or open, would be eliminated, the net revenues of every line protected and the public better served.

VALLEY ORCHARDS

Inspected by Professor Brandt, of the University of Arizona.

W. J. Murphy yesterday took a party of gentlemen, among them Professor Brandt, of the Experimental Agency of the Agricultural Department, for a drive over the valley, taking in the orange groves under the Arizona canal, and different orchards.

The Professor expressed himself as highly pleased at what he saw, saying that the section he visited, was, without question, the natural home of the semi-tropic fruits. He was especially enthusiastic over some olive and apricot trees that he saw in the orchard of Mr. Shaw, a few miles from the city. He took samples of soil from different sections, and will send them to the University of California for analysis, as the laobratory of the University of Arizona is not yet in order for work.

DISTRICT COURT.

Proceedings of Yesterday's Session, Judge Kibbey Presiding.

The day was consumed yesterday in the District Court in the trial of Guild against Bunten. The plaintiff sues for recovery on a promissory note. Defendant sets up that the note was given as part of the consideration in the purchase of a jack, and that the jack was worthless and not as represented, and prays that plaintiff take nothing in his suit, and for judgment against the plaintiff for the amount paid down when the sale was effected. The case will be continued today.

Evlyn Wharton vs. W. A. Davis and Fannie J. Davis was filed with the clerk.

Minister Ryan Returning.

KANSAS CITY, MO., December 8.— United States Minister to Mexico Ryan passed through the city for Washington today. He has been summoned to the capital by the Secretary of State, for some reason unknown to himself. He denied that he contemplated resigning.

Unsettled Silver Market.

DENVER, December 8.—The unsettled condition of the silver market is causing serious trouble among the Colorado smelters and mines producing low grade ores. Unless something is speedily done by Congress 100 low grade mines in this State will be compelled to close down.

Barbed Wire Trust Proposed.

CHICAGO, December 8.—Representatives of the barbed wire manufacturers of the United States met this morning, in response to a circular sent out by J. W. Gates, representing the St. Louis Wire Works. Gates said the object of the meeting was to form a trust and to raise the price 1 cent a pound.