

MR. BLAINE'S LETTER.

The Logic of the Situation as Viewed by Mr. Depew.

HARRISON WILL BE THE BEARER

Of the Standard and Lead the Republican Party to Victory, as He Did in 1888--Protecting, Reciprocity and Honest Money the Issues, and Blaine the Prophet of the Canvass--Leaders of Both Parties in Washington Concur in This Opinion--Mr. Cullom is an Exception, However, as He is a Candidate Himself.

New York, Feb. 8.--Hon. Chauncey M. Depew was asked to-day for his views regarding Mr. Blaine's letter declining to allow his name to be used as a candidate for the presidency.

"That," said Mr. Depew, with a grave nod, "is certainly the most important announcement that has been made in this presidential canvass. Blaine was certain of the nomination. There would have been no name put in opposition against him. He is still in a position to largely dictate the choice of the convention. The devotion of the party to Blaine, both in its leadership and rank and file has prevented the serious consideration of any other candidacy except the natural discussion of the re-nomination of President Harrison. It is usual for the opposition to the administration to concentrate upon a few strong men, and if they can combine they will beat the incumbent for re-nomination. This was the case with Arthur and with Hayes. The belief that Mr. Blaine would not refuse a nomination, if tendered, has prevented any concentration up to the present moment of the enemies of President Harrison--or, to put it in another form, of those who believe that some other candidate would be stronger."

"So, since Blaine has retired, the nomination to be expected is--?"

"This letter makes almost certain the re-nomination of Harrison," said Mr. Depew. "It takes time," he continued, "in the absence of men of national reputation and national following in a great party, to bring forward local leaders and make a national tendency of an administration to perpetuate itself for a second term. As it looks at this moment, on the first impressions upon reading this letter, the candidate will be General Harrison; the platform protection, reciprocity and honest money, as indicated by Mr. Blaine's letter, and the spokesman and prophet of the canvass, James G. Blaine."

"Don't you think it is possible that a dark horse may get the prize?" asked the reporter.

"It is difficult," replied Mr. Depew. "To get a dark horse unless there is a dark horse in existence who has developed some phenomenal strength. Now, Blaine was nominated over Arthur, but Arthur was a Vice President who had become a President, and had not before been placed in relation to national affairs which had secured him prestige and following; while Garfield, who received the nomination, had been for years the Republican of the house of representatives and had for years an ideal record as teacher, scholar, statesman, soldier, orator. It would be an interesting query who there is that fills just such a bill outside of Mr. Blaine. Of course John Sherman, Allison, of Iowa; Edmunds, of Vermont; Alger, of Michigan, are all brilliant Presidential possibilities."

"How about McKinley?"

"Well, I'd put him in that list. They are all brilliant presidential possibilities, but they are not dark horses. The sentiment of the country is rather against a dark horse or an experiment. Eliminate President Harrison and let the antagonisms which have heretofore disposed of gentlemen who have been candidates before national conventions count, and Mr. Robert T. Lincoln looms up as a very potential figure, though not a dark horse. However, I am not nominating a Republican candidate for the presidency within five minutes after I have read the peremptory declaration of a gentleman whom I have recognized as the party leader for nearly twenty-five years."

"Supposing the New York delegation goes to Minneapolis solid for you, Mr. Depew?" suggested the reporter.

"The rocking chair swayed back and forth rapidly, while the occupant looked at the ceiling and remarked: 'I really don't know anything about what the New York delegation may do.'"

THE GENERAL OPINION.

Politicians at Washington Say the President Will be Re-nominated.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.--The announcement of Secretary Blaine that he will not be a Presidential candidate has created a profound stir in Washington.

Notwithstanding the fact that it has been anticipated for a long time, speculation has centered upon the possibility of his being made the candidate by his numerous admirers without any declaration on his part one way or the other. He has now taken a stand which has materially altered the situation as it existed a week ago.

There is one universal prediction, and that is, with Blaine out of the race President Harrison will inevitably be nominated. This is almost the unanimous opinion of Republicans and Democrats, yet it is a fact that Mr. Blaine's withdrawal has drawn into the field candidates who have not been heretofore seriously considered. Senator Cullom to-day formally announced that he is a candidate.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

The Expenditures of the World's Fair Commission to be Investigated--The Debate.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 8.--"If the gentleman who occupies the position of director general of the World's Columbian Exposition is worth \$15,000 per annum, then every member of this house should receive a salary of \$25,000 a year."

This was the closing sentence of the arrangement of Director General Davis by Representative Henderson, of Iowa, in the house of representatives to-day, and to the stirring argument of the gentleman from Iowa was due the action

SEARCHING THE RUINS

Of the Hotel Royal for the Bodies of the Victims of the Fire.

NEARLY HALF THE OCCUPANTS

Are Either Dead or Injured--Only a Few Bodies Recovered--Seventy Persons Missing--Startling Story Regarding the Cause of the Disaster--A Watchman Fought the Fire Fifteen Minutes Before He Gave the Alarm--People Buried Beyond Recognition.

New York, Feb. 8.--Despite the fact that the work of digging out the bodies of the unfortunate who lost their lives in the Hotel Royal early Sunday morning was stopped temporarily at an early hour last evening, crowds lingered about the place during the night and hung on the outskirts of the fire lines gazing at the weak and tottering walls. At 7 o'clock this morning, when the ghastly search was resumed, the crowd of the night was swelled to five times its size.

The firemen at 9 o'clock this morning found the body of a woman in a room on the fifth floor of the portion of the building still standing in Fortieth street. A few minutes later the body of a man was found beneath a pile of debris under the site of the dining room. The work of clearing away the ruins is being carried on by 125 Italians in charge of Contractor Gilligan. Seven bodies had been found at 9:30, but how many charred and mangled bodies are still buried beneath the ruins of the Hotel Royal is a question of horrible uncertainty. The bodies of many others may lie hidden in the mass of steaming wreckage which chokes up the wide space between the blackened and disfigured walls.

THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS.

From a careful examination of the hotel register and the journal which was furnished by the night clerk, L. Underwood, the number of persons in the building when the fire broke out was 152. Of these eight are known to be dead. Eighty-one were rescued by the firemen, assisted by citizens, before the walls collapsed, and sixty-one are still missing.

Among those who were rescued from the flaming building are twenty-four who are more or less seriously burned and bruised.

Three of these are at Bellevue hospital and there is one each at the New York and Presbyterian hospitals. The others have been cared for by their friends at neighboring hotels or at their homes.

In taking out the seventh body quite a pit had to be dug under where the dining room was and a number of other bodies were brought to view. Every effort was made, when it was discovered that the wall on the 40th street side was tottering and threatening the lives of all the workmen, and so the search was suspended for a time under that the wall might be torn down. As soon as this was done work once more resumed.

At 11:30 o'clock the eighth body was found about ten feet from where the seventh was discovered. It was that of a woman without clothing, about 25 years old and 5 feet 2 inches in height, beneath the body were found a black cambric skirt, a bunch of keys and a check book on which was written "C. A. Hulley, Philadelphia."

NEEDS INVESTIGATION.

Victor Follern, a waiter who worked in the hotel some time ago, gave in an interview this morning some interesting facts that may throw some light on the origin of the fire. He said that while he was working there it was the habit for rubbish to accumulate in one corner of the kitchen. This pile of rubbish on three different occasions caught fire, but was quickly extinguished by pails of water. Nothing was thought of it at the time, but Follern believes that it was here that the fire originated. This morning it is learned on good authority that Herbert Harding, the fireman of the hotel, who first discovered the fire, fought the flames fifteen minutes before he raised an alarm. This was the general belief among people who saw the nature and swiftness of the fire, but Harding denied it. It is now said that he has confided this fact to a friend and by the friend's indiscretion some of Inspector Byrnes' men have learned the fact and are investigating.

At noon the ninth body was found in the immediate vicinity of the spot, where the eighth was discovered. It was also that of a woman about 35 years old. It is thought she was an employe of the hotel.

Up to 2 o'clock this afternoon four bodies had been found and removed to the morgue. Three of the bodies were those of women and the fourth that of a man. Added to the five bodies at the morgue yesterday this makes nine in all recovered from the ruins. Of these only one, that of Harry L. Levy, has been identified. The bodies recovered to-day are all terribly burned and identification may be impossible. The sixth body found is thought to be that of Fanny Clark, of this city.

Late in the afternoon the men found a foot in the ruins. At 3:50 a body was found in the ruins. It was so badly burned as to be unrecognizable and was sent directly to the morgue. At 6:35 the eleventh body was brought to view. The legs were almost gone and the body terribly mutilated.

One hundred men are at work on the debris and will be kept going night and day until they have completed the work of clearing away the ruins, which will, in all probability, take about three days.

MILLION DOLLAR FIRE

At Memphis--Two Large Stores and a Hotel Burn Rapidly.

MEMPHIS, TENN., Feb. 8.--At 9:30 to-night the building No. 230 Main street, occupied by the Bruce, Eoin Hat Company, dealers in hats, caps and straw goods was discovered to be on fire. The entire rear portion of the six story building from basement to top seemed to be a blaze in an instant.

The fire quickly communicated to the front portion and by 10 o'clock the firemen were forced back from the roaring furnace of hats and straw goods, and directed their efforts to saving the trunk

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West Virginia--C. G. Lashley, Davis. New York--Mr. Rathbun, Elmira.

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THE SILVER QUESTION.

Francis Newland on the International Conference Phase of It.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 8.--Francis G. Newland to-day addressed the house committee on coinage, weights and measures on the international monetary conference phase of the silver question, opposing the proposition. He reviewed the history of the silver question, and then went on to show why the United States should adopt free silver coinage now and why nothing could be expected of Europe.

Gold was being diminished every day by the demands of arts and dentistry and it was held that the store of gold coin was being invaded to meet these demands. We were a wealthy nation in everything except money. We utilized all the money we could borrow, and owed to Europe in national, state, municipal and railway debts more than the entire volume of money existing in this country.

THE OPTION WAR

Hearings Continued Before the Agricultural Committee.

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