

THE EARTH SHAKEN.

Zante, Greece, Almost Destroyed by a Terrible Earthquake.

MANY DEAD BODIES ARE FOUND

In the Ruins--The People Flee for Their Lives to the Open Fields--The Roof of the Prison Falls in and Many of the Prisoners Wounded. The Hospital Shaken from its Foundations--A Second Shock Causes Houses to Fall in All Quarters of the City--The Government Sends Relief to the Homeless.

ATHENS, Jan. 31.--The island of Zante was shaken early this morning by an earthquake. In the town of Zante many houses were wrecked and the occupants ran in their night clothes into the street. The roof of the prison fell in and many prisoners were wounded. The guard was doubled to prevent the prisoners from escaping and to suppress disorder, consequent upon the panic among them. The walls of the prison which have been sprung and cracked were braced. The hospital was shaken partly from its foundations, all the floors settled, and the roof sank several feet. The attendants ran from the building and were induced with difficulty, half an hour later, to return and help remove the patients to another part of the town. Two hours later the town was shaken by repeated shocks, houses fell in all quarters and the prison became so unsafe that many prisoners were removed. The people in a panic fled from the houses and crowded the streets and market place. Scores of families left the town to camp in the fields on the outskirts.

Many dead bodies have been found in the ruins, and a hundred or more reported to have been injured severely. It has been impossible to get further details. The government has sent out troops with tents and provisions for the relief of the homeless.

THE POISONING CASE.

Beatty on the Stand--He Denies the Charges Against Him.

PRITTSBURGH, Pa., Jan. 31.--The defendant in the Homestead poisoning case, Robert J. Beatty, was on the stand nearly all day, and made a general denial of the charges against him. The witness said he was acquainted with the cooks, Gallagher, Davidson, Guildfoyle and McKinney, and admitted that he engaged the two first named to go to Homestead, but it was not for the purpose of placing poison in the food of the non-union workmen.

Beatty was sharply cross-examined, but without other result than to show that he had been in correspondence with the Homestead advisory board and had written to William Gacher, treasurer of that board.

The letter was put in evidence and Beatty was asked what was meant by charging expense to "doctors and working men?" Witness replied, "that was dictated to me by Gallagher."

Beatty said that besides being paid by Dempsey that he had also received money from David Lynch and Thomas Crawford, of the strikers committee at Homestead.

OHIO JOURNALISTS.

Editors of Dailies Addressed by William Henry Smith.

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 31.--William Henry Smith, general manager of the Associated Press, delivered the annual address to-night at the board of trade before the Associated Ohio Dailies. His topic was, "Influence of Journalism on Men of Action." He gave Charles Hammond, of the old Cincinnati Gazette, and John Brough, who was connected with several Ohio papers, as his subjects for illustration. With Hammond Mr. Smith had been associated on the old Gazette, and Mr. Smith was secretary of state while Brough was governor, so that he was able to give many valuable reminiscences, as well as matters of historical value. The members of the legislature and of the Hocking Valley and Ohio editorial associations were in attendance, constituting a highly appreciative audience, after which plates were turned in honor of the distinguished ex-secretary of state and Ohio editors who had not visited the capital of this old state for years.

A STRANGE COLD WAVE.

It Strikes in Spots--A Heavy Blizzard Raging.

ST. PAUL, MINN., Jan. 31.--A heavy blizzard is now raging throughout the northwest and its violence is still unabated. In this city a high wind accompanied by a fall of snow has made it very uncomfortable for pedestrians. Wires are prostrated, trains are delayed and it is very difficult to obtain authentic news from outside points. The cold wave has acted strangely, as at 8 o'clock this morning it was 48 below at Helena and at Missoula, 100 miles north of there, it was 10 above at the same time. At Helena there was a high wind from the west and another at Missoula from the east. In Duluth it was 6 below, Winnipeg 10 and Jamestown 8, while at Fergus Falls, Grand Forks and Fargo it was fully twenty degrees warmer, with high winds from a different point in each one of the six places.

The Ice at Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 31.--Ice has been running in front of the city all day, and about fifty barges from above went over the falls. The head of the Cincinnati gorge reached here last night. The river is still rising, but it is believed that the worst is over. A conservative estimate of the damage to date is \$155,200.

Stenograph News.

QUEENSTOWN, Jan. 31.--Arrived--Marjestic, New York for Liverpool. BALTIMORE, Md., Jan. 31.--Arrived--Chicago, Rotterdam.

ANTI-OPTION BILL PASSED.

It Goes Through the Senate With a Good Majority--The Vote in Detail.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 31.--The senate got rid to-day of the legislative incubus under which it has labored since the first day of the session. The anti-option bill reached the point at which voting began at 3:15 p. m. The first vote was on the amendment offered by Mr. Vilas (Dem., Wisconsin) to the George substitute, and the amendment was rejected--yeas 21, nays 50. Then the George substitute itself was rejected--yeas 19, nays 51. And finally the bill was passed by a vote of 40 to 29. There were many members of the house of representatives, at times almost as many of them as there were senators, present in the senate chamber during the votes and preliminary discussions of the bill, and the deepest interest was manifested in the proceedings on the floor as well as in the crowded galleries.

The Chandler resolution requesting the President to enter into negotiations with the commissioners from the provisional government of Hawaii for annexation of the islands was taken up and after a brief discussion was laid aside without action--the anti-option bill pushing it out of the way.

The following is the vote on the anti-option bill in detail: Yeas--Messrs. Allison, Blackburn, Call, Carey, Chandler, Cockrell, Callom, Davis, Dubois, Faulkner, Felton, Frye, Gallinger, Gordon, Hale, Hansbrough, Hawley, Higgins, Hutton, Irvin, Kyle, McMillan, Manderson, Mitchell, Morgan, Morrill, Peffer, Perkins, Pettigrew, Proctor, Sherman, Shoup, Squire, Stockbridge, Teller, Turpie, Voorhees, Walcott, Washburn and Wilson--40.

Nays--Messrs. Berry, Blodgett, Butler, Caffery, Cameron, Coker, Daniel, Dawes, Dixon, Gibson, Gorman, Gray, Harris, Hill, Hiscok, Hoar, Jones (Ark.), McPherson, Mills, Palmer, Platt, Pugh, Ransom, Sawyer, Stewart, Vest, Vilas, White and Wolcott--29.

Pairs were announced between Messrs. Carlisle and Paddock; Aldrich and Quay; Bate and Allen; Jones (Nev.) and Saunders; Pasco and Casey; Vance and Warren.

In the House.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 31.--The house resumed to-day in committee of the whole the consideration of the sundry civil appropriation bill.

When the paragraph making appropriation to continue the building of the library of Congress was reached, Mr. Enloe moved an amendment providing that the chief of engineers shall award all contracts for material to the lowest responsible bidder, and the preference shall be given to home over foreign products when material of equally good quality of home production is offered at equal or lower prices.

The amendment was adopted. In speaking to a formal amendment Mr. Brand gave notice that he would demand in the house a yeas and nays vote on the amendment relative to marble for the Congressional library. It was plain to him that a Democratic house which was opposed to protection should not put itself in favor of Tennessee marble and in opposition to Italian marble. It was a protectionist proposition.

Mr. Buchanan, (Rep., of New Jersey,) thanked God that the Democratic house even in a moment of forgetfulness had done an American thing. [Laughter.] Mr. Enloe said that the gentleman from Missouri had misinterpreted his amendment. It did not contain any provision for the use of Tennessee marble, nor did it contain any principle of protection.

Mr. De Armond offered an amendment suspending for one year the civil service law so far as it applies to government employes provided for by this act. He asserted that the civil service policy as practiced in this country was a fraud and a sham. It was not based upon manhood, upon conviction, and did not require even fitness for the examinations were school boy affairs and did not show a capacity or ability for the work to be performed. The committee then returned to the section relative to public buildings, and shortly after adjourned.

THE FIRE RECORD.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Jan. 31.--The entire plant of the Warner's Portland Cement Company, located at Warner's, eleven miles west of this city, with the exception of the office and boiler room, was destroyed by fire last night. Loss \$175,000; insurance \$100,000.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 31.--The eight-story building of the American Book Company, on Baker alley between Vine and Walnut streets, caught fire this morning at 1:30 o'clock. The loss is estimated at \$40,000; insurance unknown.

CHICAGO, Jan. 31.--Eight hundred patients were impelled by an ugly blast in the Danning insane asylum this morning. Fortunately a panic was averted. The loss is about \$20,000.

LONDON, Ky., Jan. 31.--Last night fire destroyed a number of business blocks, a church and several residences. Loss \$100,000; small insurance.

OTTAWA, ONT., Jan. 31.--The collegiate institute, one of the leading city schools was burned to the ground last night. Loss \$40,000.

Has Made No Protest.

LONDON, Jan. 31.--It is learned on excellent authority that the British government has not instructed Sir Julian Pauncefote to protest against American interference in Hawaii, as the British government does not expect the United States to take any step to which Great Britain would be likely to object.

Her's Condition.

LONDON, Jan. 31.--Dr. Branton, an eminent specialist, and two Bourne-mont physicians to-day signed a bulletin that Cornelius Hara is suffering severely from diabetes and enlargement of the spleen, and that he must remain in bed for some time.

Will Lose Nothing.

ROME, Jan. 31.--In the chamber of deputies to-day Premier Giolitti gave assurances that the holders of notes of the Bank of Rome would not suffer loss, however the liquidation might be carried out.

OPINIONS DIFFER

On the Question of the Annexation of Hawaii

BUT THE GENERAL SENTIMENT

Is Favorable to the Proposition--Another Resolution Presented in Congress--An Informal Discussion by the Cabinet--The President Will Make No Recommendation Without Due Consideration after Conference With the Commissioners, Which Will be Next Saturday.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 31.--It is stated to-day that the report of last night that the protest of England against the annexation of Hawaii by the United States would be presented to-day was premature. It was said at the state department that it had not been received and there was no intimation that it would come to-day. Dr. Mott Smith, the Hawaiian representative here, expects England to protest, and to protest vigorously. He thinks there will be a concentration at Honolulu as rapidly as possible of the naval forces of England now in the Northern Pacific for the purpose of making a demonstration.

But it is not improbable in the opinion of Dr. Smith that this will affect the sentiment of the people in any way. The commercial interests of Hawaii are practically all with the United States and, although the sympathies of the native population, under the influence of the members of the royal families, are undoubtedly with the English, still the property interest is in favor of political incorporation with the United States. In Congress, the situation continues to be privately discussed by members.

Mr. Harmer, (Rep. Penna.) a member of the house of foreign affairs committee, to-day said: "I approve of the steps already taken by the representatives of the United States at Honolulu, as it has prevented the government of Great Britain from assuming a protectorate over the islands--which would have resulted in absolute possession in the near future which if to avoid we were compelled to accept the proposition for annexation at once, I would favor it. Our government should look to its own interest first, which Great Britain never fails to do. No European power should be allowed to seize Hawaii at any time, and especially while the representatives are begging at our doors for annexation."

Representative Sanford (Rep., N. Y.) to-day offered for reference the following: "Resolved, By the house of representatives that it is the sense of this body that the time has now come when the preservation and extension of our commerce and the upholding of our flag demand that prompt action be taken by this government looking toward the immediate annexation of the Hawaiian Islands to the United States."

The discussion of the Hawaiian question at the cabinet meeting to-day was informal, and there being nothing before the body for its consideration no action was taken. The matter of the reception of the commissioners of the provisional government of Hawaii concerns only the President and secretary of state, with whom their business must be transacted. The commissioners, of course, will be received courteously and their proposition listened to with sympathy, but the recommendation that may be made thereon will be determined by its terms. It may be said that there will be no precipitate action upon the matter; it cannot be disposed of in a day, nor in a week. There will be no message to Congress from the President until after the commissioners have been heard, and then only, it is surmised, in case a favorable recommendation upon their proposition shall have been decided upon.

Representative Harter, of Ohio, is one of the congressmen who have decided opinions upon the question of the annexation of Hawaii, which are antagonistic to the expressions of a large number of his associates.

"We don't want the islands," said Mr. Harter, "under any conditions, and I am decidedly opposed to making them a part of our territory. The whole scheme is a job intended to benefit the few sugar planters who are anxious to secure the two cents a pound bounty paid by the United States on the native product. Their crop amounts to many million of pounds a year, as I recollect, and if they should get that bounty there will be a nice sum of from \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 to divide among these sugar planters. But we'll knock that out shortly and then you'll hear no more about annexation."

There is seemingly no preparation being made at the navy department for sending vessels to Honolulu to support the Boston. The statement made that nine hundred marines would be sent to Honolulu on the steamer Mariposo lacks confirmation. The flying squadron there, consisting of the cruisers San Francisco and Charleston. The gunboat Yorktown and cruiser Atlanta are expected at Barbadoes in a few days on their way to this country to take part in the naval display next spring, and they can easily be reached there by telegraph if it is decided to send any of them to Honolulu. It is probable, however, that no extraordinary action will be taken by the United States government until after a conference has been held between the Hawaiian annexation commissioners, now on their way to Washington, and the secretary of state. This conference will be held Saturday morning at the state department.

British Men of War for Hawaii.

LONDON, Jan. 31.--The officials at the Admiralty say that the British warships have been ordered to proceed to Hawaii from Australia.

Suicide Epidemic.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 31.--A suicidal mania seems rampant. Since yesterday four men have died from self-inflicted wounds and a fifth made an attempt to take his life. Louis Bender, a convict in the prison south at Jeffersonville, who, after setting fire to his bed clothing, lay down on the blazing couch; Lee Hadrick, a drunken bar-keeper who killed policeman Joe Boyle, shot himself; ex-policeman William Hatch, took morphine, and carpenter William D. Friedly, Audanum; Albert Bowers took morphine unsuccessfully.

POINT PLEASANT POSTMASTER.

The Facts Regarding the Shortage--No Criminal or Political Features--Everything Made Good.

POINT PLEASANT, W. VA., Jan. 31.--Postoffice Inspectors Naylor and Hooten have just completed the examination of the postoffice at this place, and have departed, leaving ex-Postmaster Hay in charge of the office. The sureties upon the bond of Postmaster Whaley asked the department that they be relieved from liability as such sureties, which necessarily brought on an investigation. The result showed a shortage of several hundred dollars. After Mr. Whaley had raised what he could the sureties paid the balance, a little over \$400, and asked that he be not arrested. There is a great deal of sympathy with his young family. It is another case of too much whisky.

A dispatch in the Register a few days ago tried to create the impression that the investigation was prompted by ill feeling or political manipulation; there is nothing of the kind in it. One-half of his bondsmen are Democrats and half are Republicans, and were only prompted to ask to be relieved because of fears that were fully justified by the facts. The Register correspondent also claimed that it would affect the Republican party by reason of factions. There is not a word of truth in this. There are no factions here in the party, and while all are sorry for Mr. Whaley, it cannot affect the party in any way. It is only a lamentable personal affair.

PARKERSBURG NOTES.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. PARKERSBURG, W. VA., Jan. 31.--Benjamin Lemon's house at Rockport was burned yesterday with all its contents. Not a single article was saved. Loss \$2,000; no insurance.

Some miscreant went into Doc Anderson's stable last night and cut the throat of a valuable horse.

Squire Melrose lost four head of cattle by a straw stack falling on them.

The ice is running out of the Ohio all right. No damage has been done here. In the Kanawha the big Oreston gorge is still solid and not likely to move this thaw any farther. D. M. Miller estimates his loss so far in the Kanawha at \$20,000. J. A. Hore loses 15,000 ties and Lewis Pope & Sons 10,000 ties. The Parkersburg Mill Company is building a boom here and hope to save some of their property.

Two unknown men, standing on an upturned boat, passed this port to-day in the Ohio river ice, waving signals and making efforts to land the boat. They passed on out of sight and their fate is unknown.

M. C. C. Church's elegant stone residence, with all contents, fine furniture, books, costly works of art, etc., is advertised to be sold at trustee's sale on February 25. Mr. Church's many friends are sorry to learn of his troubles.

Railroad Extension.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. STEUBENVILLE, O., Jan. 31.--The city council to-night passed a resolution inviting an extension of the Lake Erie and Alliance southern road from Barchol, in the west end of this county, to Steubenville, distance twenty-one miles. The road has been surveyed several times and partly graded. There are good prospects that the road will be built.

Lost His Leg.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. HUNTINGTON, W. VA., Jan. 31.--Albert Johnson, a railroad employe, had his right leg cut off by an engine on the Chesapeake & Ohio to-day. He attempted to step on to the foot board and missed it, falling with his leg across the rail. He is in a critical condition from exhaustion.

Better Late Than Never.

LONDON, Jan. 31.--Sir George B. Powlan has dispatched to Washington Great Britain's reply to the Bering Sea case. Sir Charles Russell, Sir Richard Webster and John Rigby assisted in the preparation of the reply.

Mine Explosion.

VIENNA, Jan. 31.--A disastrous coal gas explosion has occurred in the Skalp pit, near Gratz, in Styria. Five miners were killed and ten are reported to have been injured.

Troops Will Not Go.

LONDON, Jan. 31.--In view of the settlement of the Egyptian crisis, some of the reinforcements ordered to Egypt will not be sent.

A Big Leap.

CHRISTIANA, Jan. 31.--In the snow shoe Derby here to-day Roll, a Norwegian, leaped seventy feet in a running jump contest.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

The main supply pipe of the natural gas at Peru, Ind., burst in the middle of the Wabash river, caused by moving ice. Everything is shut off and much distress is prevailing. All the factories and large consumers are cut off.

For sixteen days the three sailors rescued from the Norwegian ship Thekla subsisted on human flesh. The three straggled a fourth companion and lived on raw strips of meat cut from his corpse.

Stromboli, the northeasternmost of the Lipari lands in the Mediterranean, off the north coast of Sicily, was visited by a severe earthquake. The volcano on the island became active.

Luke Tatum, the negro wife murderer, was hanged at Camden, Ark., yesterday. He declared his innocence to the last, even while the black cap was being drawn over his head.

Chairman Wall, of Wisconsin, says that for personal reasons he could not accept a place in Mr. Cleveland's cabinet were it offered him.

At last night's session of the trustees of Lane Seminary it was decided to decline to accept the resignation of Rev. Henry Preserved Smith.

The special committee of the German Reichstag on the army bill began discussion yesterday of the several articles of the bill.

Desperate Rush Morgan was shot and killed near Hubbard Springs, Ky., last night. Morgan had killed seven men.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH

Opening the British Parliament Brief But Pointed.

SALISBURY'S SEVERE CRITICISM

Of the Home Rule Feature--He Has No Confidence in the Good Faith of the Gladstone Government--A Promise that the Home Rule Bill Will Sustain All Pledges Creates a Laugh--The Parliament Begins With the Usual Ceremony--No Guy Fawkes Found in the Vaults.

LONDON, Jan. 31.--The attendance at the house to-day included nearly all the members, the Right Hon. Wellesley Peel, speaker, presided. Arch Deacon Farrar, chaplain to the house of commons, offered up prayer for a divine blessing on the deliberations. Then the members were summoned to the house of lords to hear the queen's speech. The majority followed the speaker to the upper house where Baron Herschel, speaker of the house of lords and lord high chancellor, read the speech. There was a brilliant throng of ladies to witness the opening ceremonies of the house of lords.

A careful search of the vaults of the house of commons this morning failed to discover any lurking Guy Fawkes, or barrels of gunpowder, or dynamite bombs. Nobody expected to find any, but the ancient ceremony was performed with the same formality and ceremony as for nearly thirty years past. One of the members grimly remarked that it was not necessary now for Guy Fawkes to conceal himself in the vaults of the house of commons. After the preliminary orations there was the customary race for seats.

The following is a synopsis of the queen's speech opening the session: MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN--My friendly and harmonious relations with all the powers continue. Their declarations from every quarter are favorable to the maintenance of European peace. In connection with the approaching evacuation of Uganda by the British East Africa company, I have deemed it expedient to authorize a commissioner of experience and ability to examine on the spot with adequate provisions for his safety into the best means of dealing with the country and to report to the government.

In view of recent occurrences in Egypt, I have determined upon making a slight augmentation of the number of British troops stationed in that country. This measure does not indicate a change of policy, or a modification of the assurances my government has given from time to time respecting the British occupation of Egypt.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS--Estimates of the charges necessary for the public service during the coming financial year have been framed and will be laid before you at an early date.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN--I have observed with concern the wide prevalence of agricultural distress in many parts of the country. It is to be hoped that among the causes of the present depression some are of a temporary nature, but without doubt you will take this grave matter into your consideration and make it the subject of careful inquiry. The proclamations recently in force which placed Ireland under exceptional provisions of law have been revived, and I have satisfaction in informing you that the condition of that country with respect to agrarian crime continues to improve. A bill will be submitted to you at the earliest available occasion to amend the provisions for the government of Ireland.

There will be proposed to you various bills bearing on the condition of labor, among which there will be measures in relation to the liability of the employers, the hours of labor of railway servants, and a bill to amend the law of conspiracy.

Your attention will likewise be invited to measures for the further improvement of local government, including bills for the creation of parish councils, for an enlargement of the powers of the London county council for the prevention of ecclesiastical establishments in Scotland and Wales, and to establish direct local control of the liquor traffic, together with other public good.

In the house reassembling Mr. Gladstone took the oath as minister and was followed by his colleagues.

William Coddington, conservative member of parliament for Blackburn, raised an objection to the action of the government in having granted the Children Hundreds to Joseph Spencer Balfour, liberal member of parliament for Burnley, who is accused of frauds in connection with the Liberal building society and other institutions.

Mr. Coddington said that Balfour had committed enormous frauds and should not have had such a favor extended to him.

Sir William Vernon Harcourt, chancellor of the exchequer, replied that the office of stewardship of the Children Hundreds was a mere fiction and the government had neither the right nor the means to inquire into cases of suspicion before granting it.

A writ was issued for an election in Burnley of a successor to Mr. J. S. Balfour.

In the house of lords several new peers, including Lord Playfair, took the oath prescribed for new members of the house. The Prince of Wales and his son, the Duke of York, had seats on the cross-bench. They remained through part of the debate on the address in reply to the Queen's speech. Lord Brassey moved the adoption of the address. His motion was seconded by Lord Thring. Both mover and seconder spoke in support of the government.

Lord Salisbury, who to-day appeared in opposition, after passing a compliment on Lord Thring, said he declined in the meantime to question the foreign policy of the government. So far as known, in the absence of official papers, the policy of the new ministry seemed to be founded on sound principle and to be executed with judgment and skill. Events in Egypt rendered the difficulties surrounding the British occupation more numerous. The government must postpone the withdrawal of British troops, but this in no wise modified the

assurances that had been given to foreign powers concerning Egypt.

Touching upon the question of home rule for Ireland Lord Salisbury said that the one object of the government during the past six months had been to get the support of a class of men who hitherto no politicians in England had to conciliate. The key-note of the Irish policy of the government was to get the support of the criminal classes.

The reference in the queen's speech to home rule was the most peculiar sentence he had ever seen in a public document. It seemed to think that the government opinion of the whole Irish question with which parliament had to deal was that it was right for one portion of the Irish to place their heel upon the neck of the Protestant population.

With regard to the other measures indicated in the queen's speech, Lord Salisbury declared that nobody believed that they were ever to be undertaken. They were simply a repetition of the programme adopted by the Liberal conference at New Castle.

The earl of Kimberley mildly remonstrated with Lord Salisbury for accusing the government of having sympathy for Irish criminals. He promised to introduce the home rule bill in the house of lords as soon as it passed the house of commons. When the promise was heard faint laughter rippled over the benches. The earl of Kimberley also promised that the home rule bill would not be a milk and water measure.

Upon the motion of the marquis of Londonderry the debate was then adjourned.

The early evening was passed in the house of commons in giving notices of motions. Notice that Mr. Gladstone would introduce his home rule bill next Monday elicited prolonged Liberal cheers. After the notice of the continued conclusion of the debate on the address, Col. Nolan, Parnellite for North Galway, tried to raise a discussion of priestly intimidation in Ireland by moving a suspension of the issue of the writ for South Meath, where Patrick Fulam, anti-Parnellite, was unseated recently.

Upon Mr. Gladstone's suggestion Colonel Nolan agreed to postpone the motion.

At 9 o'clock the house filled like magic when Arthur J. Balfour arose amid a storm of opposition cheers and began in a sneering tone a general criticism of the government. He spoke at some length and was replied to by Mr. Gladstone, who was loudly cheered.

EXCITING SCENE

In the French Chamber--The Attacks on the Savings Banks Decried--A Measure to Stop Them.

PARIS, Jan. 31.--M. Bourgeois, minister of justice, introduced in the chamber of deputies to-day a bill providing that the authors of unwarranted attacks upon savings banks be punished with imprisonment for a term not longer than two years and not shorter than two months.

M. Tirard, in defence of the bill, said some such measure had become imperative in view of the imminent harm done to perfectly sound institutions by frivolous newspaper articles. Not only had the savings banks been embarrassed by these attacks, but also the national credit had been weakened.

Deputy de Cassagnac replied that the government must be going crazy on the subject of libel laws. The ministers should look nearer home if they wished to discover the cause of distrust among bank depositors. Probably the newspaper articles described by M. Tirard had not caused the withdrawal of a dozen accounts in Paris. The suspensions which had undermined public confidence centered upon those former ministers, especially upon those former ministers who had squandered the money of the Panama company.

This statement evoked a tumult. The Republican deputies protested, the Royalists cheered and applauded, and M. Floquet shouted above the confusion that he had been calumniated and the day of justice was approaching. Deputy de Cassagnac replied with violent gestures, but his words were lost in the uproar.

M. Ribot deprecated attempts to spread the belief that the savings banks had suffered from a panic. The total withdrawal of deposits, he said, had been small in view of the amount left with the banks, and the strong efforts making daily to propagate general distrust. The people knew that behind the savings banks was the greatest of all French guarantees, the national funds. Nobody could deny, however, that the campaign against the banks had done some harm and threatened more.

The government felt no great anxiety but at the same time could not tolerate the suggestions and slanders now published.

The bill was then passed by a vote of 326 to 156.

The chamber also decided by a vote of 335 to 59, that the speeches of M. Ribot and M. Tirard be placarded throughout France.

STARVING POOR OF LONDON

Make a Demonstration--Well Fed Police-men Stop the Procession.

LONDON, Jan. 31.--About 250 wretched looking victims of poverty and privation gathered on Tower Hill this morning and resolved to make a display of their rags and misery before the lords and commoners of Parliament. The mob had no settled plan of procedure; they were too hungry for that; but one and all then started in the direction of the parliament houses, the stronger and more resolute taking the lead. It was a miserable looking procession. A force of constables halted the procession at the Thames embankment and told them they could go no further. The unfortunates huddled together to discuss what they would do. One of them began to address the others.

A stout well-fed policeman rushed into the crowd, and seized the orator by the neck. Some of the unemployed got angry at this interference and tried to fight the police. A general melee ensued, several of the rioters being apparently anxious to be arrested with the result of getting something to eat. The police laid about with their batons, and injured a number of the rioters.

Weather Forecast for To-day.

For West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania and Ohio, fair, preceded by rain or snow cold; on Wednesday night, winds shifting to northwesterly Wednesday.

TEMPERATURE YESTERDAY.

As furnished by C. SHERMAN, druggist, corner Market and Fourteenth streets.

7 A. M. 39 10 P. M. 41
8 A. M. 38 11 P. M. 41
9 A. M. 37 12 P. M. 41
10 A. M. 36 1 P. M. 41
11 A. M. 35 2 P. M. 41
12 M. 34 3 P. M. 41
1 P. M. 33 4 P. M. 41
2 P. M. 32 5 P. M. 41
3 P. M. 31 6 P. M. 41
4 P. M. 30 7 P. M. 41
5