

SENATE WAITING

For the Report of its Special Committee on Elections

BEFORE RECOGNIZING HOUSE.

Action Gives Rise to Many Sensational Rumors

FROM THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE.

The House, Passes Unanimously a Joint Resolution Declaring that West Virginia is in no way Obligated to pay any Portion of the Virginia State Debt, Arbitrarily set Aside as her Portion--The Senatorial Situation Rapidly Approaching a Solution.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Jan. 17.--The day has witnessed a practical deadlock between the senate and the house, made so by the senate adjourning almost immediately after convening until to-morrow without any communication with the house, which is proceeding the best way it can with business.

The senate is waiting on the report of its special committee on privileges and elections.

The session of the house was given up to receiving and referring a flood of bills and resolutions, among them some very important ones. In the meantime the house is yet to receive some communication from Governor Atkinson; even the message has not been formally presented. The effect of this has been to cause all sorts of rumors to arise, and the Democrats are charging that the delay is unnecessary.

An important feature of the house session this morning was the unanimous adoption of a joint resolution which disposes, at least during this legislature, of all talk on the famous Virginia debt question.

Virginia Debt Question.

The resolution, preceded by a preamble, somewhat lengthy, was introduced by Mr. Taylor, of Cabell county, and went through without a dissenting vote, every Republican and Democrat voting for it.

The resolution proper is as follows: "Resolved, By the legislature of West Virginia, that this legislature declines and refuses to take any action in regard to what is known as the Virginia debt or 'Virginia deferred certificates,' either by considering any proportion of adjustment or settlement so called or by authorizing the appointment of any committee having for the purpose, the consideration of the same, and that it is the sense of the legislature that the state of West Virginia is in no way obligated for the payment of any portion of said debt or certificates."

The eye and may vote stood 66 to 10. The unanimity with which the resolution was adopted is sufficient proof that Democratic charges during the campaign of a Republican pledge to "fols" upon the state a \$15,000,000 debt, was wholly baseless, just as the Intelligencer always said it was. A large number of other important measures were introduced, several of local interest to Wheeling, as will be noticed in the routine report.

SENATORIAL SITUATION.

Some Wild Democratic Dreams and Hopeless Expectations--Labor Leaders Endorse Scott's Record--Third District Republican Meeting in Favor of Governor Atkinson.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Jan. 17.--The developments to-day in the senatorial situation were few so far as any important changes were concerned. A feature is that some Democrats are beginning to claim that Mr. McGraw will become Senator Faulkner's successor, probably based upon the expectation or hope of being able in some way to overcome the Republican majority.

Another feature is the expectation on the part of McGraw's friends that it is possible to prevent any election at all, which will, they think, a distinct advantage for the future, McGraw having practically secured control of the situation sufficiently to give him prestige that will practically make him the head power in the next campaign. This does not seem to disturb the Republicans much, and so far as senatorial aspirations are concerned, they are still confident that they will retain control of a majority sufficient to choose the senator. Much depends upon the result of contests which are now pending.

In Republican Ranks.

In the Republican ranks matters are shaping up so that a choice may be arrived at without a long drawn out contest. All the candidates agree upon the caucus, and it only remains to ascertain the result. A conference was held to-day by about seventy-five prominent Republicans of this portion of the state in the interest of Governor Atkinson. They passed a resolution pledging themselves to use every legitimate effort possible to secure his election. There were no members of the legislature among them, but men friendly to his candidacy.

At the Scott headquarters there is an air of cheerfulness as to the result of the caucus. Mr. Scott himself expresses his entire confidence in the final outcome, and says that matters are moving along smoothly his way. The campaign from some sources against him on the lines that he is a labor crusher, and a good many other things too numerous to mention, have reacted in his favor, and workmen, and glassworkers, alone, but others, not denouncing letters in here denying the reports which have been extensively published.

Defending Scott's Labor Record.

A letter received to-day from friends in Belmont county, Ohio, state that much interest is manifested there in his candidacy. It says: "The falsehoods that are being circulated against you in regard to your position on organized labor are denounced here by people who have known you for years." Recent strikers at the Bellaire steel works denounce the charge that he is a labor crusher; that Mr. Scott took a prominent part during the strike in trying to effect a compromise. The executive head of the American Flint Glassworkers' Union, W. J. Smith, wires from Montreal, Quebec: "I cheerfully bear witness to the fact that

your position has never been unfriendly to the American Flint Glassworkers' Union, but has been friendly to it. I have known you in the flint glass trade since 1881, and you have always employed members of the American Flint Glassworkers' Union, and that association has always voted your house as strictly union."

These matters are referred to because Mr. Scott is being made a special target from various sources on this line. Circulars and "petitions" of this sort are numerous, and the relations of the candidates are cordial and Democratic reports of "deals" are entirely false.

GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION.

The Executive Mansion Crowded with Guests of Both Political Parties. Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. CHARLESTON, W. Va., Jan. 17.--The executive mansion is the center of attraction to-night. All the society of Charleston, visitors in the city, including the legislators, members of the bar association and others, are being received, and the parlors and reception rooms are crowded with guests.

Mrs. Governor Atkinson, the hostess of the occasion, is assisted by many visiting and Charleston ladies, and the occasion is one of the most pleasant of the regular passenger train being late. The hospitable doors are wide open, and political differences are for the present being forgotten. There is a brilliancy about it, mingled with plain democracy and republicanism, which is so characteristic of Americans wherever you find them.

Prominent Contractor Dead.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. CHARLESTON, W. Va., Jan. 17.--Mr. George Smallwood, contractor and builder, aged forty-eight, of this place, met with an accident last night at Berryville, near here, which resulted in his death. He left here yesterday for Berryville, expecting to return, but owing to the regular passenger train being late, Mr. Smallwood tried to board a freight train, and in some way slipped, falling under the moving train. Several freight cars passed over him, cutting off both legs.

CONDITION OF HAVANA

As Viewed by an American Officer.

How the Spaniards Left the City.

HAVANA, Jan. 17.--Some idea of the conditions here in Havana and of the real magnitude of the work before the military administration can be gathered from a letter sent recently by Major General Ludlow, military governor of the department of Havana to the late Mayor Marquis d'Esteban in reply to a letter complaining that certain United States staff officers had been operating in the mayor's sphere without consulting him.

General Ludlow says: "You must admit, however, that the city of Havana is in a deplorable condition. The Spaniards have left it bankrupt, unable to pay its employees, who have lacked their salaries for many months. The prisons, asylums and homes for the destitute are without supplies, food or medicine. The sanitary condition is frightful. Almost inconceivable abuses exist which are a continuing menace to the health of the city."

"The Spaniards have left Havana with scarcely an attribute to modern civilization, and practically in the sanitary condition of a city two centuries ago. For the time being, Havana, as well as the island, is in a helpless and destitute condition. The United States is provisionally in charge of the administration of affairs, military and civil. The American government has expended large sums of money for the regeneration of the island and is ready to spend more. The money which at this very moment is being used to maintain the charitable institutions of the city, is money allotted by the United States as a free gift for this purpose. We have given food rations by the million and employment to thousands who need it."

"The retiring Spanish authorities have pillaged almost every public building destined for use, stripping all of everything of value with few exceptions and leaving behind only the accumulated filth of generations. Within three months will come the wet season, with deplorable possibilities as to the outbreak of epidemics, particularly yellow fever, from which Havana suffers the year round, owing to the gross neglect of all sanitary precautions."

"The most serious circumstances faced by the gravest emergency, with immediate measures of relief necessary in every direction, with all public institutions to be reorganized and re-equipped, with the streets to be cleaned and paved, the sewers to be built, untold abominations by the thousand to be obliterated and the common people to be educated in the elementary principles of modern civilized life. It is simply impossible at this moment for the United States military authorities in every step they take, to go through the tedious processes imposed by Spanish methods upon local administration."

In concluding his letter, General Ludlow invited the Marquis to join him in measures tending to ameliorate the deplorable conditions under which Havana suffers.

GERMANY AND FRANCE.

The Possibility of an Alliance Between the Two Countries.

PARIS, Jan. 17.--Ever since the much discussed conference in Berlin on January 8, between Emperor William and the Marquis de Nonllans, French ambassador to Germany, a section of the French press has been actively discussing the possibility of a Franco-German alliance. Francophones have reacted to his favor, and workmen, and glassworkers, alone, but others, not denouncing letters in here denying the reports which have been extensively published.

Le Sol publishes to-day some alleged conversations of the late Prince Bismarck during the closing years of his life, according to which his dream was to found a colonial empire. Fearing, however, that this would alarm British interests, he determined to force France into colonial enterprises, hoping thereby to embroil her with Great Britain to drive her into the arms of Germany and Russia. This new triple alliance Bismarck believed would force England to draw back and Germany to establish colonies in complete equality.

This exposition of Bismarckian policy, says Le Sol, explains the true secret of the present attitude of Germany.

EAGAN TO BE TRIED

By a Court Martial Ordered by the President.

APPROVED BY THE CABINET.

The Specific Charge on Which the Offending Commissary General will be Tried will be Conduct Unbecoming an Officer and a Gentleman.

The Personnel of the Court has not yet Been Announced--An Order for Arrest will Probably be Served on Eagan To-day.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.--The president announced to the cabinet shortly after it assembled for its regular Tuesday session that he had decided to order a court martial to try Commissary General Eagan for the abusive and violent language he had used respecting Major General Miles while on the witness stand before the war investigating commission last Thursday.

Ever since the sensational event the president has been carefully deliberating over the matter and has had frequent consultations with army officials and others regarding the steps that should be taken, for he was convinced from the outset that the question for consideration was what action should be taken and not whether any disciplinary measures at all should be had. A determination to take some action was vigorously expressed at the last cabinet meeting, but the president reserved final action to to-day, just before the cabinet session, he held a conference with the secretary of war and Adjutant General Corbin. It was not long in duration, but the action to follow General Eagan's utterances was decided and when the cabinet met the president announced that he had reached his decision in the matter. He said that he had determined that there was only one course to adopt and that was to order a court martial to be convened at once to try General Eagan.

The decision, which was reached only this morning, notwithstanding reports that a court martial had been decided on yesterday, met the unanimous approval of the members of the cabinet. Three of the President's official advisers, Secretary Alger, Secretary Wilson and Postmaster General Emory Smith, were absent, but in each instance the views are known to coincide thoroughly with the President's decision. There was some discussion following the President's announcement, in which the case was threshed over to some extent, though the President himself took little part in this discussion.

Left to Secretary of War.

The details of the action were left to the secretary of war, who had withdrawn just prior to the session to return to the war department to put in motion the machinery for the convening of the court. While it was not definitely stated after the cabinet meeting what specifications would be made against General Eagan, it is understood that the specific charges on which he will be tried will be conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. The personnel of the court was not taken up, that phase of the action being held to be not a cabinet matter, but one that rested between the President and the secretary of war. The understanding, however, was that the orders for the court would be issued within a few hours, probably before the close of the department this afternoon. General Wesley R. Merritt, former commander in chief of the Philippines, has been mentioned as likely to preside over the court, and a cabinet official said to-day he would not be surprised at General Merritt's designation.

Contrary to the general expectation an announcement of the personnel of the Eagan court martial was made at the war department up to the close of business this afternoon.

Alger Refuses to Talk.

Secretary Alger to-night confirmed the announcement made by members of the cabinet to-day that a court martial for the trial of Commissary General Charles P. Eagan would be ordered. He made this statement as he was leaving the white house with Adjutant General Corbin after a conference of half an hour with the President. As to the charges to be preferred against the commissary general the secretary declined to say anything, nor would he talk respecting the personnel of the court, adding that this would be announced to-morrow night, about 9 o'clock. General Eagan has not yet been relieved of his duties in anticipation of his prospective trial, but it is understood that the order for his arrest preparatory to trial will of itself carry with it his relief from official duties.

It was said at the war department to-day that the order for arrest may be served on General Eagan by an officer of the army some time during the official day to-morrow.

NAVY PERSONNEL BILL.

Passed by the House--What Navy Officers Have Long Striven For.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 17.--The house to-day passed the naval personnel bill without division on the final passage, thus accomplishing what the officers of the navy have striven for during more than a decade. By its provisions the line and the engineer corps are welded into an amalgamated rank, but their command is limited to their own corps and a system of voluntary and compulsory retirement on three-quarters pay as next highest rank of forty officers a year is established, which is designed to remove the congestion in the lower rank at 45. The bill also practically equalizes their pay with that of army officers. Three other amendments were adopted. One creates a judge advocate corps; another abolishes prize money and a third provides for the retirement on three-quarters pay of enlisted men and petty officers in the navy after thirty years' service.

But the most important change in the bill as reported was the adoption after a hard fight of a substitute for the original that the corps is to consist of 6,000 enlisted men and petty officers with general officers and staff.

First Vote on Canal Bill.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 17.--Almost the entire session of the senate to-day was devoted to consideration of the pending Nicaragua canal bill. Speeches were made in support of the bill by Mr. Chilton (Texas), and Mr. Turner (Washington), and in opposition to it by Mr. Spooner (Wisconsin). The first vote was reached on an amendment offered by Mr. Rawlins,

(Utah), which in brief provided that the United States should have absolute control of the canal for military or naval purposes, with power to dictate the use of the waterway during the existence of war. The friends of the bill rallied against the amendment, and it was defeated by the decisive vote of 38 to 9. A provision was inserted in the bill providing that no more than \$5,000,000 should be paid the Maritime Canal Company for its concession and work already done on the canal. When adjournment was taken the substitute measure, offered by Mr. Caffrey, (La.), was before the senate.

A MORAL LECTURE

Delivered by Col. Bryan at Denver.

Story of Naboth's Vineyard Applied to Philippines--A Strained Parallel. DENVER, Col., Jan. 17.--Col. William J. Bryan made two public speeches in Denver to-day, both of which were listened to by audiences only limited by the capacity of the auditorium. The first was at 2 o'clock, in the hall of the house of representatives, to which only those who held tickets were admitted. The other was at 8 o'clock, at Coliseum Hall, the largest room in the city, where thousands struggled for standing room, while other thousands were turned away, disappointed in not even getting a glimpse of the great silver champion.

In his address before the legislature, Mr. Bryan devoted most of the time to a discussion of the duties of legislators and other public officers, whom he designated as servants, not masters, of the people.

After this address, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan repaired to the residence of Governor Thomas, where they were entertained at dinner, to which half a dozen of the leading Democrats of the state, including ex-Governors Grant and Adams, and a number of ladies, were present.

The crowd which greeted Mr. Bryan at Coliseum Hall to-night began gathering at 4 o'clock, four hours before the time set for the meeting. At 8 o'clock, when Hon. Milton Smith, chairman of the state central committee, called for order, there were 5,000 persons in the hall, and as many more on the outside, pressing for admission. Governor Charles S. Thomas was present as chairman of the meeting, and in a eulogistic speech he introduced Col. Bryan, who was received with prolonged applause. Mr. Bryan spoke in part as follows:

Naboth's Grief.

"The Bible tells us that Ahab, the king, wanted the vineyard of Naboth and was sorely grieved because the owner thereof refused to part with the inheritance of his father. Then followed a plot and false charges were preferred against Naboth to furnish an excuse for getting rid of him. 'Thou shalt not covet,' 'Thou shalt not bear false witness,' 'Thou shalt not kill'--three commandments broken--and still a fourth, 'Thou shalt not steal,' to be broken in order to get a little piece of ground. And what was the result? When the king went forth to take possession Elijah, that brave old prophet of the early days, met him and pronounced against him the sentence of the Almighty: 'In the place where the dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thus.'"

"Neither his own exalted position, nor the lowly station of his victim could save him from the avenging hand of outraged justice. His case was tried in a court where neither wealth nor rank nor power can shield the transgressor.

"Wars of conquest have their origin in covetousness, and the history of the human race has been a warfare of covetousness of blood because rulers have looked with longing eyes upon the lands of others.

"Covetousness is prone to seek the aid of false pretense to carry out its plans, but what it cannot secure by persuasion it takes by the sword.

"Senator Teller's amendment to the intervention resolution saved the Cubans from the covetousness of those who are so anxious to secure possession of the island that they are willing to deny the truth of the declaration of our own congress that 'the people of Cuba are and by right ought to be free.'"

Mr. Bryan then proceeded to apply the story of Naboth to the Philippine question, and argued that a war of conquest would be wrong in principle as well as expedient, and as harmful to the people of the United States as to the Philippines. He spoke at considerable length, and concluded as follows:

"Imperialism might expand the nation's territory, but it would contract the nation's purpose. It is not a step forward toward a broader destiny; it is a step backward toward the narrow views of kings and emperors.

"Dr. Zerkow has aptly expressed it in his 'Cry of the Flag,' when he asks: 'Shall we turn to the old world again with the penitent prodigal's cry?'

"I answer never. This republic is not a wayward son; it has not spent its substance in riotous living; it is not ready to embrace its steps, and, with shamed face and trembling voice, seek a humble place among the servants of royalty. It has not sinned against heaven, and God grant that the crowned heads of Europe may never have occasion to kill the fattened calf to commemorate its return from reliance upon the will of the people to dependence upon the authority which flows from royal birth or superior force.

"We cannot afford to enter upon a colonial policy. The theory upon which a government is built is a matter of vital importance. The national idea has a controlling influence upon the thought and character of the people. Our national idea is self-government and unless we are ready to abandon that idea forever we cannot ignore it in dealing with the Philippines.

"That idea is entrenched with our traditions; it permeates our history; it is a part of our literature.

MAY BE DEADLOCK.

Quay Falls Sixteen Votes Short of an Election

IN YESTERDAY'S BALLOTING

In Pennsylvania Legislature--His Total Vote was 112, Which is a Gain of Three Over the Caucus Vote--The Result no Surprise to Those Familiar with the Situation--Anti-Quay Republicans Divided on Congressmen Dalzell and Stone and Other Independents--Will Fight to the Last Ditch.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 17.--The end of the first day's fight in the battle for United States senator leaves the result very much in doubt. It is Senator Quay against the field, and the indications are that there will be a deadlock lasting some days at least. The Republicans are divided between Mr. Quay and eight "favorite sons," and the Democrats are united on George A. Jerks. The senate and house voted separately and they will take a vote to-morrow in joint session. There was no election to-day and should the ballot show no election to-morrow the balloting will continue daily until selection is made. Senator Quay's total strength in both houses was 112 votes, 16 less than the number necessary to elect on joint ballot, assuming that the full membership, 254, is present, a condition that does not seem possible, as there are several on the sick list now.

The chief events of the day were the change in the state administration, the balloting for United States senator and the delay in the cabinet appointments of the new governor. The custom is to send the cabinet appointments to the senate at a meeting of that body within a few hours after the governor takes his seat. There was doubt as to how Governor Stone's appointments would be received, and they did not reach the senate until after that body had adjourned for the day.

The governor nominates William W. Greist, of Lancaster, for secretary of the commonwealth; John P. Elkin, of Indiana, chairman of the state Republican committee, for attorney general, and C. E. Gerwig, of Allegheny, for private secretary. The appointments will be taken up to-morrow morning in the executive session for confirmation. A pretty fight is being made by the anti-Quay Republicans and certain Democrats on Mr. Elkin, and it is by no means certain that he will be confirmed. There is apparently no opposition to Messrs. Greist and Gerwig.

Was No Surprise.

The result of the vote for United States senator was no surprise to those familiar with the situation. It was conceded that there would be no election to-day, and not many people believe there will be one to-morrow. The first ballot showed that there is practically no break in the line of either of the Republican factions. Of the original signers of the anti-Quay pledge, Senator Samuel A. Lusch, of Schuylkill, and Representative John J. Shaw, of Allegheny, voted for Senator Quay. Representative Frank L. Snyder, of Luzerne, who was too ill to qualify when the legislature organized, took his seat to-day. He was claimed by both factions and pledged neither by voting for Alvin Marzelle, the Hamilton millionaire coal operator and banker.

The 11 Republican senators and members who have signed the second anti-Quay pledge voted as they promised. Representative Clinton Rogers Woodruff, of Philadelphia, who is opposed to Senator Quay, but declines to act with his opponents, voted for President Judge Charles E. Rice, of the superior court. This makes 52 votes which the anti-Quay Republicans claim. Senator Quay cannot get while he is a candidate. Representative Timlin (Democrat), of Lackawanna, cast his ballot for Superior Court Judge Peter P. Smith, of Scranton. He was the only Democrat who failed to vote for Jenks, the party candidate.

The essence of the situation is that so long as the anti-Quay Republicans are united and the Democrats vote for Jenks, Senator Quay cannot be elected. His friends are confident, however, that he will steadily gain votes after to-morrow, while the leaders of the other side are just as confident that he has reached the high-water mark. Governor Stone is the senator's friend and is aiding him in his campaign. The senator is on the ground managing his affairs and expects to stay during the early stages of the contest.

Anti-Quayites Divided.

The anti-Quay Republican senators and members have agreed to meet daily until the fight is settled. They are divided on Congressmen Dalzell and Stone and other independent Republicans. Their leaders say it is early to concentrate on one candidate against Senator Quay. There does not seem to be any prospect of a combination between the anti-Quay Republicans and the Democrats on the senatorship. Although not a single vote was cast in either house for Senator Chris L. Magee, of Pittsburg, he is regarded as a most important factor in the contest. He has for years been opposed to Senator Quay's control of the state, but he declined to stay away from the Republican caucus of which he was made the nominee and voted for him to-day. The Pittsburg senator and his friends took part in the caucus and showed their opposition to Mr. Quay by voting for B. P. Jones, of Pittsburg. Before the vote was announced Mr. Magee moved to make Senator Quay's nomination unanimous. The motion carried and the Pittsburg senator has since abided by the decision of the caucus. This has made him popular with the friends of Senator Quay and did not apparently diminish his popularity with the anti-Quay Republicans. Many Senator Magee's friends in both factions are predicting that their favorite will be chosen to succeed Senator Quay in the event of its being demonstrated that the latter cannot win.

Two Statements.

Senator Merriek, of Tioga, gave out a statement to-night, in which he claims Senator Quay was only twelve votes short of election to-day and that there are evidences on every hand that the opposition to Mr. Quay is disheartened and demoralized. "Senator Quay will be elected and vindicated."

Ex-Postmaster General John Wannamaker, one of the leaders of the opposition to Senator Quay, has this to say of the day's results: "It is certainly not satisfactory to the Quay people--we have had the first

show of hands--Quay has not got what he wanted, nor what he expected, nor what his followers and his newspapers this morning predicted. Our calculation was he would have 113 votes and he got 112. There were some surprises, but none to our side, for we have held our full number after herculean efforts of the Quay machine to pull down our organization. They have made the supreme effort of the machine and failed."

UNITED MINE WORKERS.

Lewis, of Bridgeport, Elected Vice-President--Effort to be Made to Organize West Virginia Mines.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Jan. 17.--When the United Mine Workers of America reconvened to-day the tellers appointed to hold the annual election of officers announced the following result: President, John Mitchell, of Illinois; vice president, T. L. Lewis, of Bridgeport, O.; secretary-treasurer, W. C. Pearce, of Indiana; executive board, Fred Dilleher, of Nelsonville, O.; J. Stephenson, of East Bank, W. Va.; Edward McKay, of Buena Vista, Pa.; W. R. Fairley, of Pratt City, Ala.; J. A. Jax, Boston, of Duquoin, Ill.; George W. Purcell, of Terre Haute, Ind.

Delegates to the A. F. and L. convention, John M. Hunter, of Steer, Ill.; W. C. Pearce, of Indianapolis; William Warner, of Pittsburg; Patrick Dolan, of Pittsburg.

Resolutions were adopted to use every effort to organize the miners of the country, especially Pennsylvania and West Virginia, before April 1, and providing for a sign of recognition between members.

A rising vote of thanks was given to Governor John H. Tanner, of Illinois, for his action during the Virden and Pana strikes. This was followed by three cheers for the governor.

Upon the announcement that the operators refused to postpone the opening of the joint convention until to-morrow the convention adjourned to meet the operators as agreed upon.

After adjournment of the joint convention of operators and miners, the miners met in executive session. It is learned that the scale committee made a partial report at this session. It asks for an advance of ten cents per ton for coal mined over screens, and a fraction of seven cents for run-of-mine; enforcement of the eight-hour rule; prompt semi-monthly payments and a machine rate 3-5 of that for pick mining. The committee is now preparing a scale for differentials for thick and thin veins.

Operators and Miners Meet.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Jan. 17.--The coal operators and miners met in joint session this afternoon, as per agreement, but little was done beyond organization and the appointment of the routine committees. Another session will be held to-morrow, when the two opposing scale committees are expected to make known their respective claims. The operators' scale will, among other things, demand a reduction of ten cents per ton for mining. It is learned tonight that the joint committee on credentials will report in favor of allowing only delegates of operators and miners from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois to vote in the convention, because these are the only states in competition represented in the inter-state agreement.

FIVE BOYS DROWNED.

Thaw Weakened Ice of a Pond, and They All Went Through.

SCRANTON, Pa., Jan. 17.--Five small boys met death in a drowning accident to-day at South Gibson, a small country hamlet near Foster, Susquehanna county. They were Merritt Rogers, son of Dr. W. M. Rogers; Gaylord Pritchard, Jay Tripp, Willie Holmes and Myrtle Howell. Their ages were from 7 to 10 years and they were members of five separate families.

After the morning school session the five mentioned and another boy got on a big sled and coasted from the roadway down a short steep hill, at the foot of which is a mill pond. A thaw had weakened the ice and it broke under the weight of the sled, which was going at great speed. The sled and all but one of the boys shot under the ice several rods. In his excitement the boy who occupied last valuable time by running back to the school to give the alarm instead of notifying residents near at hand. Large boys labored vigorously in hopes of rescue and possible resuscitation, but the bodies were far out from the shore and under the ice. Late this afternoon only four bodies had been recovered. While dragging for the bodies an old man named Anderson was half drowned. Physicians resuscitated him.

By the Gas Route.

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.--Theodore Alcan, thirty years old, a Western Union telegraph operator and his wife Carrie, twenty-five years of age, were found dead to-night in their room in a Third avenue hotel, where they had resided since last June. The proprietor of the hotel gained entrance by breaking in the door of an adjoining room and found the two dead bodies.

Lying in the bed, clothed in her night dress was Mrs. Alcan. Lying under a window in a position to indicate that he had made a desperate effort to open it and get air was her husband.

One theory is that Alcan waited until his wife had retired and was asleep and then turned on the gas jets. After the gas began to take effect on him it is suggested he tried to open a window and failed. The fact that he was unable to do this is his theory. A second theory is that the wife turned on the gas and the fact that she had complained to the landlord of her husband's absence from home Sunday night is mentioned to prove a possible fit of jealousy and a motive for such a crime. The room was in perfect order and there was no evidence of a struggle.

No Place for Laboring men.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 17.--The Associated Press correspondent of Manila writes as follows regarding the opportunities for investments in the Philippines: "Industrial enterprises offer the best inducements. American labor has no chance to compete with the native laborers, who can stand the climate, can live on the native foods and are in every other way more fitted to perform the labor of the country than Americans, and laboring men are warned to give the Philippines a wide berth in their search for new fields."

Weather Forecast for To-day.

For West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania and Ohio, threatening weather, followed by fair; much colder; brisk northerly winds.

Local Temperature.

The temperature yesterday was observed by C. Schuett, druggist, corner Market and Fourth streets, was as follows: 7 a. m. 47; 10 a. m. 47; 1 p. m. 47; 4 p. m. 47; 8 p. m. 47; Cloudy.