

Congressional.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Lapham introduced a bill to amend the act establishing the territorial government of Utah and change the name to Altamont.

The bill vests the executive power over the territory in a Governor appointed for four years and continues the present Governor until the end of his term.

The committee on public lands reported a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Interior to report the gross annual earnings and net earnings of the Central Pacific, Kansas Pacific, Union Pacific and the Central branch of the Union Pacific from the commencement of operations until the present.

Adopted. The House committee of the whole considered claims of over \$10,000,000 for transportation of mail by rail and the motion agreed to by \$5 to 49 providing the mails to be carried with extra charge on the fastest trains when ever the Postmaster General thinks desirable and upon failure to comply with this provision the compensation on the roads will be reduced 50 per cent.

Dawes presented a petition on behalf of the Indians and said Congress should recognize the universal demand of wealthy and intelligent citizens for the just treatment of the Indians.

The House committee decided to vote on the Cannon-Cannon case Friday. The appropriation bill is up in the Senate. No amendments offered.

Called a resolution, which at his instance will be printed reciting the interests of peace between nations, the obligations and rights which are reciprocal between the United States and all other people; that the government of the United States in some proper form should adopt measures to settle the controversy between Chile and Peru and prevent the forcible dismemberment of Peru; that a Congress to be convened in Washington City and composed of representatives from the people and the governments of North and South America and Central America for the purpose of agreeing upon some just method of settlement of questions existing or to arise between the governments that would be beneficial.

The resolution was placed upon the calendar. Logan asked to have taken up as first in order the bill to place General Grant on the retired list.

Vest objected, but the bill was taken up and the amendments of the commission there adopted without objection. Washington, Feb. 21.—The resolution declaring the law granting arrears of pensions ought to be repealed and the amendments thereto again came up as unfinished business. After several amendments were offered and rejected the whole subject was tabled—yeas, 26; nays, 23.

On motion of Logan the Grant retirement bill was taken up and laid over as unfinished business for Thursday. After an executive session the Senate adjourned till Thursday.

HOUSE. Washington, Feb. 21.—The resolution for the relief of the destitute of the South passed. The bill to promote the efficiency of the life saving service passed.

The bill authorizing the payment of the Japanese indemnity fund of \$1,750,000 to the Japanese Government, with the exception of \$250,000 which shall be paid to the officers and crew of the U. S. ship Wyoming, passed amid applause.

The House then took a recess. Singleton (Ills.) offered a proviso providing for the discontinuance of steam boat mail service on the Mississippi river between St. Louis and St. Paul, Minnesota, as long as navigation remains open, was ruled out.

The clause for the transportation of mails across the St. Louis bridge was amended to authorize the Postmaster General to pay for the special service there a sum not over \$28,000 annually, or more than the lowest private bid for the mail service.

The clause relating to star route transportation being reached, Springer offered an amendment providing that no part of the appropriation shall be paid for expedited or extended increased service, the cost of which would exceed \$1,000 unless there had been a new advertising and letting.

Page opposed the amendment as entailing a needless expense. The clause Springer had defended the amendment it was rejected.

Holman offered an amendment authorizing the Postmaster General to terminate any mail contract with a subcontractor at a higher price than that for which he had agreed to perform the service.

Page heartily approved of this as being the only honest amendment yet offered. Pending action the committee rose and adjourned till Thursday.

Miscellaneous. Lansing, Mich., Feb. 21.—The town of Liberty, twenty miles from here, is reported burning. There are no particulars.

Parliamentary.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—In the House of Commons this afternoon Sir Stafford Northcote announced that he would oppose the introduction of Gladstone's resolution, and that inquiry into the working of land would be injurious to the interest of good government in Ireland.

Labouchere, Liberal member from Northampton, moved that a new writ be issued for an election in Bradlaugh's constituency, as the latter was disqualified by a resolution of the House.

This motion is supposed to be a trap to draw a declaration from the government in favor of Bradlaugh. Lord Randolph Churchill, Conservative, moved an amendment that Bradlaugh was legally disqualified.

The Attorney General advised the House to vote neither for the amendment nor the motion, but permit Bradlaugh to swear subject to subsequent legal liabilities.

Both motion and amendment were rejected, the former by a vote of 307 to 18. Bradlaugh then walked up to the table, took the oath, signed his name without waiting for the clerk, and declared that now having taken the oath he would take his seat.

The speaker told him to withdraw below the bar. Mr. Bradlaugh said he would obey, but would claim his seat. Lord Randolph Churchill moved that a writ for a new election, Bradlaugh having by his action vacated his seat.

The Sprague Divorce Suit. PROVIDENCE, R. I., Feb. 21.—In the superior court at Kingston this afternoon, a formal hearing of Chas. E. Sprague for divorce was had. By agreement of counsel Sprague's petition was withdrawn and all charges of adultery were eliminated from Mrs. Sprague's petition and the hearing was had on Monday on the question of non-support by Mrs. Sprague. The petition was practically granted but the license of divorce is not yet entered. The mother retains the custody of the three girls and the boy remains with his father.

Star Routes Indicted. WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—The grand jury indicted A. C. Soteldo for assault with intent to kill on Clarence Barton and of manslaughter in killing A. M. Soteldo. It also brought the following additional star route indictments: M. E. Irredell, private secretary to ex-Senator Dorsey for subordination and paying Jno. W. Dorsey, brother of the ex-actor, for perjury in connection with a route in Colorado; J. R. Peck, J. R. Miner, and J. C. Studepot for perjury in connection with the routes in the territories.

A Canal Set at Rest. WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—A Western press reporter this morning interviewed several leading Democrats in regard to the reported scheme to run Blaine and Voorhees as candidates in 1884. Voorhees characterized the story as too absurd to be noticed. Senator Morgan pronounced the whole thing a fiction, saying: "I don't think Blaine would ever trust his political fortunes to such Democrats as Voorhees, Jere Black and myself. I like Mr. Blaine very much, personally, but I believe the straight, unadulterated Democracy would rather associate with a simon pure Democratic candidate than with by coalition and a mixture of principles." Among Democrats the story is laughed at, but a few, however, were inclined to shake their heads and say things are drifting that way.

Mutilated Silver. WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—The Director of the Mint has just decided that coin once punched or mutilated can only be considered as bullion thereafter, even though the holes are filled with the same quality of metal.

The Snow Storm East. OMAHA, Feb. 21.—A heavy snow storm commenced this morning and continued all day. The fall extends over the northern and western portions of the State, and west to Ogden, Utah, and north into Idaho. So far as reported there is a slight drifting west, but trains are not interrupted.

The Chinese Bill. NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—Senator Miller of California, will today or to-morrow call up from the calendar the bill regarding the Chinese immigration treaty and press it after it has been discussed a reasonable length of time. Several Senators desire to speak on it. Representatives Page and Pacheco intend to press it in the House also in a few days. The Pacific coast people are not as radical in this matter as they have been. They do not demand that "the Chinese must go," but they want white labor protected from Mongolian by restrictive legislation. There is no passion exhibited in the matter this year at Washington; but, on the contrary, the Pacific coast people now talk plain common sense in their arguments.

Congressional Proceedings. WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—The House Committee on Territories this morning agreed to the bill to divide Dakota and make a Territory of North Dakota. The Ways and Means Committee this morning directed its report to report the Tariff Commission's report ready.

The Sprague Divorce Case Settled. PROVIDENCE, Feb. 21.—Mrs. Sprague's divorce petition is said will be settled. The three daughters will remain with their mother and the boy with his father.

High Waters. CHICAGO, Feb. 21.—Reports from various points show the Ohio and Mississippi rivers still rising. The weather generally is colder.

The Weather. NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—There was a thunder storm here to-night with lightning and a high wind. Reports from various sections of the middle states say remarkably stormy weather has prevailed the last 24 hours.

An American has won in the Paris billiard match, thus demonstrating the superiority of our republican institutions, and vindicating the national honor.

De Lesseps and the Panama Canal.

PARIS, January 18.—To-day I called upon Count Ferdinand de Lesseps, the prince of canalists, and spent an agreeable hour in conversation with that vivacious gentleman. He received me in his cabinet or private office, at the headquarters of the Suez Canal Company, in the Rue de Charas, No. 7. I showed M. de Lesseps some clippings from several American papers, containing reference to that celebrated circular of Secretary Blaine concerning the diplomatic difficulties liable to arise out of the operations of the Panama Canal Company. Count de Lesseps laughed and said: "I do not intend to take any part in these diplomatic squabbles. They do not concern me in the least. I have been a diplomat myself for more than twenty years, and know something of the intrigues and maneuverings of the honorable gentlemen who conduct the public affairs of nations. But we—I and my friends and the stockholders of the Panama Canal Company—have gone into this matter simply as a business affair. We do not intend to meddle with the political aspects of the case at all. All we wish to do is to construct the canal and operate it after it is opened. We leave to the professional diplomatists and statesmen the privilege of wrangling over the diplomatic complications which they pretend to so much dread. Let them go on and enjoy themselves after their own peculiar fashion. I'm willing." Concerning the rumors of sickness among the employees of the Canal Company, M. de Lesseps says: "There is but little sickness, at present prevalent among our men. There are, of course, some men ill with fevers, etc., from time to time, and we have established a sanitarium for such cases. This is situated upon a small island in the bay of Panama, and is swept by the cool sea breezes, thus being an excellent site for such an establishment."

M. de Lesseps made the customary complimentary allusions to our country, such as: "I love your country, monsieur. 'Tis a great land, a noble country. I love your country. Your cities are wonderful in their rapidity of growth and marvelous development of commerce and trade. I have been in Chicago and was greatly astonished at what I saw there when I was making my tour of America. Chicago is the most flourishing city I know of anywhere."

M. de Lesseps informed me that this company is now purchasing in the United States large quantities of yellow pine and other lumber, also machinery, dirt-diggers, cars, etc. These supplies are being shipped constantly from various Atlantic and Gulf ports and from San Francisco to either Panama or Aspinwall.

He seems to believe that the American people are heartily in sympathy with him and his coadjutors in their efforts to pierce the isthmus. He acknowledged to me the great engineering difficulties to be met with there, and spoke particularly of the great wall of solid masonry, more than 3,500 feet in length, and from 100 to 170 feet in height, to be erected for the purpose of keeping back the waters of the Chagres River, and turning the course of that stream so that its periodical overflow shall not interfere with the operation of the interoceanic canal. He still claims that eight years will suffice for the entire completion of the canal, and confidently expects to live to see its opening. As to the possibility of his giving up his grand scheme for joining the two oceans, M. de Lesseps scents that as absurd and whimsical. He has not only staked his reputation as a civil engineer and a great "entrepreneur" upon the successful completion of this stupendous work, but has also invested very heavily of his own private funds in the shares, and induced all his friends to do so. He points with pride to the high quotations of the capital stock of the Suez Canal Company (about 3,000 at present, or three times the par value) and the large dividends paid by that Company as "knock-down" arguments against the sneers of his enemies, when he was urging the organization of the former canal enterprise, made rare sport of De Lesseps, using oftentimes precisely the same arguments as those to-day offered in opposition to his Panama Canal scheme. De Lesseps chuckled with delight when he quotes to you, now, the absurd denunciations which appeared some years ago in influential English journals, and he loves to read aloud those statements, which they seemed to prove so conclusively the utter impossibility of ever operating the Suez Canal with profit to its shareholders.

His triumph in that direction has been so complete that the great engineer can afford to smile now that the vapors and sneers of John Bull in the editorial chair.

The only absurd piece of management in connection with the financial administration of the Lesseps' Panama Canal company is, so it appears to me, this: Five per cent. interest is paid annually to all shareholders upon the amount of money already paid in, or to be paid in by them, during the process of construction and until the company shall begin to pay regular dividends. M. de Lesseps admitted to me that this is an indiscreet object to the public to secure subscriptions, but did not attempt to give an explanation of this novel financing.

The Floating Homes of Bangkok. How are the universal means of conveyance and communication, and a boat thus becomes a necessary adjunct of every person's household; to its deck every child is trained; men, women and children are equally accustomed. Perhaps the most common form is a stout skiff about twenty five feet long, turning up very sharply and high behind, like a Venetian gondola. It is broad in the beam, and two-thirds of its length is hooped over, leaving a little flat deck in front, and a still smaller one behind; behind stands the husband and wife; in front stands the wife, rowing and using a boat-hook to help their way through the crowds. The front of the boat is used for business, passengers or cargo. The rear third is given up to family and domestic furniture.

For, incredible as it may seem, we see that each boat is the home of a family—father, mother, girls and boys; who are born there, live there and die there. In the day time the children and the furniture are crowded into a space not over four feet square; at night they can spread out over great surface. I looked into these homes with attention, and never could enough wonder or admire how closely all was packed, without seeming to jostle or painfully crowd. Also that the children lived so happily and contentedly in a space no greater than a large-sized Saratoga trunk! It is probably a fact that there are many ten-year-old children on Bangkok river who have never walked over twenty feet in a straight line, in short, who never have been on land. But then, when they come in proximity to boats whose little inmates they knew, they would—boys and girls, from five to twelve—jump out of their boat-houses, and dive and swim away to visit and gambol around together; now free in the water, now hanging to the boat's sides or floating astride the scull oar. And a friend tells me that he has seen them in their visits take with them a baby, to whose shoulders mothers have prudently attached a hollow gourd or other light float to insure its safety.

In a minor excursion up a side canal I found myself at the city residence of the prime minister—whose name I have not now time to write out in full. I ran my boat all around through his pleasure grounds and wondered whether the worthy old gentleman considered whether he was living on land or in the river. In one part of his aquatic edifice I saw magnificent specimens of the victoria regia, whose leaves, round like a plate, were over two yards in diameter. Their rim was sharply turned up in a ledge an inch high, and on the raft thus formed were settled, quite at home like a family of frogs. They, too, seem to fall in with the humors of the country.—Prof. Henry A. Ward in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

Land Office Decisions. The case of Mary Middendorf, contestant, vs. John S. Neubert, applicant, which has been pending for some time before the Helena Land Office, was yesterday decided in favor of the contestant. The case involves forty acres of land in section 13, township 24, north of range 7 east, lying within a few miles of the Benton townsite. Neubert sought to amend his homestead entry by leaving out a forty-acre tract formerly included there and embracing the tract in dispute. Miss Middendorf claimed the disputed tract as a pre-emption, alleging prior settlement, improvement and cultivation thereon. Neubert claimed that Miss Middendorf was not 21 years of age at the time of her alleged settlement, that the improvements claimed by her belonged to her uncle, W. S. Stocking, and were merely turned over by him to the contestant for the purpose of enabling her to enter the land for Stocking's benefit, because Stocking had improved and cultivated more land than he could hold under the law, and that the contestant had not in good faith made her continuous residence upon the land embraced in her claim. On all these questions the Register and Receiver found in favor of Miss Middendorf and held that Neubert's application to amend his homestead entry should not be allowed. The case has been warmly contested and attracted considerable attention partly, from the fact, no doubt, that young ladies so seldom seek to avail themselves of the benefits of the pre-emption or homestead laws. The testimony taken before Judge Tattan, of Benton, covered about 200 pages of legal cap. Miss Middendorf, the contestant, was represented by Jno. J. Donnelly and Max Waterman, at times of Benton, assisted by Massena Bullard, of Helena, and Mr. Neubert had as counsel Messrs. W. B. Settle and H. P. Rolfe, of Benton, assisted by E. P. Sterling, of Helena. We understand that the applicant intends to appeal to the Commissioner of the General Land Office.—Helena Independent, Feb. 17.

TERRITORIAL NEWS. The Bismarck Tribune says if the situation of our Montana exchange are reliable the Miles City post office is a third-class concern, yet the postmaster receives a salary of \$500 a year.

Another mining camp has been located in Montana. It is only four or five miles from Bozeman, and is known as the Bridge District. Some years since, says the Gallatin News, the company known as the Bozeman Mining Company was organized to work gold placer just this side of the canyon, at which time considerable work was done, and although gold indications were found, work was abandoned only, we understand, on account of inexperience of some of the miners.

About the middle of last month an army of builders, estimated to have been a million, debouched into the Yellowstone valley from O'Fallon Creek. Numbers of people went from Miles City to look at the wonderful sight and to hunt. One brought back the first party of the skin of a white buffalo. We quote the above from the Helena Herald for no other purpose than to caution the reading public, a trust taking any stock in it. This white buffalo story which is put upon its records every year, is as absurd as the white-headed story.

SIDE DISHES. The Philadelphia Chronicle says that Dr. F. W. White, of Philadelphia, because his necks and shoulders are so utterly gone.

The author of the following forget to leave his name. "Why is a stout gentleman like a turnip? Because he is a little better."

The latest style is among the ladies when reproving their admiring gentlemen friends is: "You flatter too awfully perfectly much."

What is called respectability is a great help to many men. Once they have attained it they can put in a lie where it will do the most good.

Why is it that whenever you are looking for anything you always find it in the last place you look? The reason is, because you always stop looking when you find it.

A New York newspaper says that in that city hundreds of old coin are all the rage. In Chicago the rage is furnished by the man who receives a bill for the bracelet.

A Western officer received a letter from a subscriber asking him to publish a cure for his eye worms. He replied that he could not suggest a cure until he knew what ailed the worms.

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PROBATE NOTICE.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SILVER Bow County, Montana Territory. Notice is hereby given that the above named Adam Rutherford, deceased, to execute and record a will, said court room, at 10 o'clock, A. M., on the 25th day of February, 1884, at the court room in Butte City, in said County of Silver Bow, has been fixed for the hearing of said petition, when all interested parties may appear and show cause why the prayer of said petition should not be granted.

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF ADAM RUTHERFORD, DECEASED. Edwin B. Waterbury, Administrator of the estate of Adam Rutherford, deceased, to execute and record a will, said court room, at 10 o'clock, A. M., on the 25th day of February, 1884, at the court room in Butte City, in said County of Silver Bow, has been fixed for the hearing of said petition, when all interested parties may appear and show cause why the prayer of said petition should not be granted.

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