Historical Society X

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OUR HARBOR DEFENSES.

Samuel J. Tilden Makes Good Suggestions.

OUR PRESENT NEED.

What the Great Statesman Has to Say on That Important Subject.

NEW YORK, December 5.—Mr. Samuel J. Tilden sent the following letter to Hon. John G. Carlisle:

GRAYSTONE, YONKERS, N. Y., December 1, 1885.

Dear Mr. Carlisle: As public opinion points to you as the Speaker of the next House of Representatives, I desire to submit a suggestion as to one of the public objects for which an appropriation ought to be provided and a liberal one. In considering the state and management of public revenues the subject involves questions whether we shall extinguish the surplus by reducing the revenue or whether we shall apply the surplus to payments on the public debt, or whether we shall seize the occasion to provide for our sea coast defenses, which have long been neglected. I am of the opinion that the latter is of paramount necessity and ought to precede the reduction of revenue, and ought also to precede an excessive rapidity in the payment of the public debt. The property exposed to destruction in twelve seaports, Portsmouth, Portland, Boston, Newport, New York, Savannah, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Charleston, San Francisco and Galveston cannot be less in value than five billions of dollars. This must be added to

THE VAST AMOUNT OF PROPERTY

dependent for its use on these seaports. Nor does this statement afford a true measure of the damage which might be caused to the property and business of the country by a failure to protect these seaports from hostile naval attacks. They are the centers not only of foreign commerce but of most of the international trade and exchanges of domestic productions. Interruption of the current of traffic by the occupation of one or more of our principal seaports by foreign enemy, the destruction of them by bombardment, or the holding over them of a menace of destruction for the purpose of exacting contribution or ransom, would inflict upon the property and business of the country an injury which can neither be foreseen nor measured. The elaborate and costly fortifications which were constructed with the

GREATEST ENGINEERING SKILL

are now practically useless. They are not capable of resisting the attacks of modern artillery. A still greater defect exists in our coast defenses. The range of the best modern artillery has become so extended that our present fortifications designed to protect the harbor of New York, where two-thirds of the import trade and more than one-half of the export trade of the whole United States is carried on, are too near to the great populations of New York City, Jersey City, and Brooklyn, to be of any value as protection. To provide effectual defenses would be a work of years. It would take much time to construct permanent fortifications. A small provision of the best modern guns would take several years. Neither of these works can be extemporized in the presence of immergent danger. A million soldiers with the best equipments, on the heights commanding the harbor of New York in our present state of preparation, or rather in our total want of preparation, would be powerless to resist

A SMALL SQUADRON OF WAR STEAMERS.

This state of things is discreditable to our foresight and prudence. The best guarantee against aggression, the best assurances that our diplomacy will be successful and pacific and our rights and honor be respected by other nations, is in their knowledge that we are in a situation to vindicate our reputation and interests. While we may afford to be deficient in the means of offense, we cannot afford to be defenseless. The noteworthy fact that we have neglected ordinary precautions of defense invites a want of consideration in our diplomacy, injustice, arrogance and insult at the hands of foreign nations. It is not more than sixty years since we announced to the world that we should resist any attempts, from whatever quarter they might come, to make any new colonizations upon any part of the American continent; that while we should respect the *statu quo*, we should protect the peoples of the different nations inhabiting this continent from every attempt to subject them to the dominancy of any foreign powers or to interfere with their undisturbed exercise of the

RIGHTS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT.

This announcement was formally made by President Monroe after consulting Madison and Jefferson. It was formulated by John Quincy Adams. Our Government has fairly adhered to the Monroe doctrine, and even as late as 1865 warned Napoleon III. out of Mexico. It is impossible to see from the indecent scramble of European powers for the acquisition of colonies, how soon an occasion may arise for our putting into practice the Monroe doctrine. It is clear that there ought to be some relation between our assertions of that doctrine and our preparations to maintain it. It is not intended to recommend any attempt to rival the great European powers in the creation of a powerful navy. The charges which have rapidly occurred by diminution of the relative resisting power of defensive armor of ironclads, and by the increased efficiency of modern artillery, which on the whole has gained in competition, suggests that we should not at present enter into the creation of armored vessels. In the questions that besets this subject until they have reached a solution, we should content ourselves with adding but sparingly to our navy. But what we do add should be the very best that science or experience can indicate. This prudential view is reinforced by the consideration that the annual expense of

MAINTAINING WAR VESSELS

bears an important proportion to the original cost of constructing permanent fortifications and providing an ample supply of the best modern artillery. In the latter the annual cost of maintenance is inconsiderable. Nearly the whole expenditure is in the original outlay of construction. If we do not make the expenditure now which is necessary to provide for our sea-coast defense, and while we have a surplus and have no need to levy new taxes, we certainly will be compelled to make these expenditures when we have no larger surplus in the Treasury. To leave our vast interests defenseless in order to reduce the cost of whisky to its consumers would be a solecism. The present time is peculiarly favorable for providing for this great natural necessity, too long neglected. Not only does the surplus in the Treasury supply the means to meet this great public want without laying new burdens on the people, but the work can now be done at a much lower cost than has ever before been possible.

DEFENSIVE WORKS

would consist almost entirely of steel and iron. These materials can now be had at unprecedently low prices. The vast supply of the machinery of labor called into existence by the great velocissitude of iron and steel industries offers itself to our service. We should have the satisfaction of knowing that while we are availing ourselves of supplies which would ordinarily be unattainable, we are setting in motion important industries and giving employment to labor in a period of depression with the encouragement and guarantee of work perhaps by the government itself, furnishing the plant. The inventive genius of our people would be applied to the creation of new means and improved machinery, and establishments would spring into existence capable of supplying all of the National wants and rendering us completely independent of all other countries in respect to the means of National defenses. I endeavored to impress these ideas upon Mr. Randall the last time I had the pleasure of seeing him.

With highest regards to Mrs. Carlisle and yourself, I remain, very truly yours.

S. J. TILDEN.

MR. CARLISLE'S VIEWS.

WASHINGTON, December 5.—Speaker Carlisle, when asked for an expression of opinion regarding Mr. Tilden's letter, said: "I have not yet received it, although it may now be with my mail at the Capitol. Any suggestions made by Mr. Tilden concerning public matters are entitled to the most respectful consideration, and when it is received I shall give it careful attention."

AN EDITOR ASSAULTED.

Materialized Spirits Follow in the Wake of a Missoula Ghost.

Special to THE MINER.

MISSOULA, December 5.—This morning D. J. Plume, his brother and another confederate assaulted Harrison Spaulding, editor of the Missoula *Times*, on Front street. Plume was arrested and fined $15. Plume has just arrived from Flathead. The assault was made on account of an article appearing in the *Times* about a ghost story published a few weeks ago, which THE MINER published at the time.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The Most Important Recommendations Made by the Secretary.

WASHINGTON, December 5.—The annual report of the Secretary of War, issued yesterday, shows that the expenditures of appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1885, were $45,851,000, of which $2,023,000 was for salaries and contingent expenses, $2,754,000 for the Army and Military Academy, $15,164,000 for public works and river and harbor improvements, and $4,859,000 for miscellaneous. The above figures include $716,000 credited to the subsidized Pacific Railroads for the transportion during 1885 and prior years. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884 the expenditures were $31,762,000, of which only $2,248,000 was for public works. The estimate for the fiscal year ending June, 1886, amounts to $87,782,000, which the Secretary of War reduces to the following amounts: Salaries and contingent expenses $2,058,000, military establishments, army and military academy, $25,680,000; public works, including river and harbor improvements, $16,466,000; miscellaneous, $4,000,000; total $48,604 000. The report speaks of the operations of the troops in Oklahoma and Arizona at some length, and cites the fact that Lieutenant General Sheridan is now investigating in person as to the condition of affairs in the latter Territory. The Secretary concurs in the recommendation of General Sheridan of concentrating troops and putting large garrisons in the vicinity of large cities, and the addition of two companies and two majors to each regiment of infantry. The Secretary also concurs in the recommendation that legislative provision be made authorizing the retention of

WEST POINT GRADUATES

to serve as additional Second Lieutenants in the army, provided vacancies in the army are not sufficient to accommodate all those who graduate from the Academy. The report recommends that militia and State troops be armed with the same weapons as the regular army. The report of the Judge Advocate General shows that eleven hundred enlisted men of the army were tried by court martial during the year, but a majority of the offenses charged were trivial in character. The report recommends that power to punish a soldier for minor offenses should be rested in the commanding officers, obviating the necessity for numerous court martials. The Secretary says that the Judge Advocate General having been convicted of

CERTAIN GRAVE OFFENSES

and suspended from duty for twelve years that a new judge advocate general be appointed in his place, or that there be some legislation by Congress to meet the case in view of the fact that it will be impossible for the suspended judge advocate general to occupy the office, as before the expiration of the sentence he will be retired from the army by operation of the law. The report recommends legislation to enable the arrest of deserters by civil process to limit the claims of officers and enlisted men for losses of personal property in time of peace, the enlistment of a trained cook for each company, troop and battery, and a baker for each garrisonal post. The Seeretary speaks of the reports submitted upon the necessity for coast defenses and improvement of the Mississippi river, but makes no general recommendations. He urges the necessity for the appointment of an assistant secretary of war.

A GENERAL STORM.

From St. Paul Down to the Isthmus—Much Damage.

CHICAGO, December 5.—The Associated Press reports from St. Paul, the northwestern country, Kansas, Omaha and as far west as Denver, are to the effect that the storm which set in last night has been universal in severity.

ON THE ISTHMUS.

PANAMA, December 5.—Meager advices from Aspinwall this evening report a severe storm off that coast last night and to-day. The wind reached the velocity of a hurricane and did great damage along the coast. Several vessels are known to have been wrecked, but it is believed that the crews of all succeeded in reaching the shore. The railroad at Aspinwall was damaged and no trains left there to-day. Telegraphic communication is interrupted by the storm, the real extent and seriousness of which cannot be known until to-morrow. From the location of shipping at Colon it is feared many lives have been lost.

CHINESE ADMISSIONS.

The San Francisco United States Grand Jury Find No Indictments.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 5.—The United States Grand Jury, which for some time past has been engaged in investigating the alleged frauds in connection with Chinese return certificates, made its report this evening. Over ninety witnesses had been examined. Among them were the publishers, editors and reporters of the newspapers of this city, and a number of custom officials. After referring to the careless manner in which the certificates were kept by the officials intrusted with their issuance, the report says: "While the evidence before us perhaps did not positively fasten the guilt of fraudulently issuing certificates upon any particular person, still, that they were so issued, the jurors have not the shadow of a doubt. It is equally clear that gross fraud has taken place in landing the Chinese since the restriction act went into effect. It would seem that the loose practices have grown up in connection with the landing of Chinese under writs of habeas corpus, and possibly frauds have been perpetrated in connection with it." The Grand Jurors express the opinion in their report that the authorities at Washington have not always afforded the needed facilities for carrying out faithfully the provisions of the restriction act. The report concludes by saying: "We are convinced that gross irregularities and frauds have been perpetrated, and that these could not have been done except with the connivance or assistance of certain officials connected with the customs department." The whole matter is then left to a future Grand Jury without any indictments being found.

Very Severe on the Congregation.

DETROIT, December 5.—The latest action in the church troubles was made public last night. Bishop Borgess promulgated a decree of interdiction against St. Albert's Polish Catholic Church on account of the scandalous conduct of the congregation in disturbing religious services in the church, and nearly precipitating bloodshed in front of the holy edifice. The decree shuts the entire congregation from all privileges of the church. No masses can be observed, no children baptized, no sacraments celebrated, and in fact the church is outlawed. This decree is very rare, having been promulgated hardly a dozen times during the Christian era.

A Cruiser Launched.

CHESTER, Pa., December 5.—The Government cruiser "Chicago" was launched here this afternoon.

The Bank Statement

NEW YORK, December 5.—The weekly bank statement shows a reserve decrease of $406,000.

THE COMING CONGRESS.

Both Parties Selecting Their Officers to Vote For.

SUCCESSFUL ONES.

Sherman for President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Carlysle for Speaker.

WASHINGTON, December 5.—All the Democratic Senators, except four, were in conference to-day. Senator Voorhees was instructed to put in nomination for president *pro tem* Senator Harris, of Tennessee. Senator Harris accepted the nomination.

The Republican caucus nominated Senator Sherman for president *pro tem*. Senator Sherman, rising said:

"*Senators*: I return my hearty thanks for the high honor you propose to confer upon me. Your choice doubtless has been influenced by the fact that I have long been a member of the Senate. Still, the duties hitherto have not given me that practical experience necessary for a good presiding officer. I can only say that I will do all I can fairly and impartially to observe and enforce the rules of the Senate, and shall rely greatly upon your forbearance and courtesy."

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It was then determined that bills relative to the President's election and also to the presidential succession, which had passed the Senate during the last Congress should be introduced as soon as practicable, and after proper reference and consideration should be promptly passed.

LATE NOMINATIONS.

The President made the following appointments to-day: Receiver of Public Moneys—John Montgomery, of Idaho, at Oxford, Idaho; Lynne Bell, of Idaho, at Visalia, California. Register of Land Offices—Frank W. Beame, of Utah, at Salt Lake City.

RULES OF THE HOUSE.

Since the adjournment of the last Congress, a movement has been going on very quietly looking to a change of certain rules of the House. Messrs. Adams, of New York, Collins, of Massachusetts, and other friends of the National Banruptcy bill, which failed of passage in the House at the last session, have been the leaders in the movement. They have secured pledges from forty Democratic members of the next House to favor a change of these rules, and they expect to have at least 100 votes in the caucus to-morrow night for the resolution, which will be offered, demanding such a change as will take it out of the power of a few members to defeat a measure that has the approval of a majority of the House.

WHAT RANDALL SAYS.

Randall to-day gave to a reporter of the Associated Press his views respecting the proposition to change the rules of the House so as to take from the Committee on Apportionment jurisdiction over some of the apportionment bills. "The Democratic party came into control of the Federal Government," he said, "in the distant understanding that it would adhere to an economical administration. This cannot be overlooked or evaded if it expects to remain in power. In all governments the preparation of suitable bills to meet the expenses has been confided to one organization. Nothing can be done until by a careful and comprehensive scrutiny, the amount of necessary expenditure has determined upon. Taxation depends upon the amount of expenditures, and an increase in expenditures means an increase of taxation. To

KEEP DOWN EXTRAVAGANCE

to the appropriation estimates made by the heads of the departments, subjected to question and examination, item by item. The treasury has been protected by every safeguard which could be devised. It is now proposed that nearly all the safeguards shall be broken down and the treasury thrown open. Increased appropriations, judging from the expenses, will inevitably follow as each of the many committee to be authorized by this change is to consider appropriations, and into which the appropriation committee, as now constituted, is to be divided, will naturally enhance its own importance. Instead of one committee having charge of the expenditures and checking unnecessary appropriations there will be men acting independently of each other, and nobody will know the aggregate of the annual appropriations till it is too late to avoid the disaster of a deficient treasury, which may at any time in the near future be precipitated on the people. The proposition is too plain to need argument, and there is not a business man in the country who will not appreciate the correctness and force of this statement.

THE SURPLUS REVENUE

we now have will not continue forever, and the habits of extravagant appropriations cannot be changed at once. The agricultural and river and harbor bills were taken from the Committee on Appropriations, and here is an evidence of the failure of the venture. It is known that the expenditures under the first have been wastefully made and it is not curious that much of the money appropriated in the latter might as well have been thrown away. The appropriations for the Agricultural Department for 1877 to 1880 inclusive, when they were under the control of the Committee of Appropriations averaged $190,947 per annum. From 1881 to 1886 the agricultural appropriation bills, being under the control of the Committee on Appropriations, the appropriations averaged $439,616 per annum. The appropriations for rivers and harbors from 1876 to 1880, when this subject was controlled by the Committee on Appropriations, avereged $7,390,928 per annum. From 1881 to 1885 inclusive, during which time the Committee on Commerce and Rivers and Harbors have had this subject in hand, the annual appropriations have averaged $13,991,243. If this

ENORMOUS INCREASE OF EXPENDITURE

characterized the first experiment of the withdrawal of these two subjects from the protecting safeguards heretofore enforced under the existing rules and generally since the foundation of the Government, who can foretell the devastation of the public finances when the treasury doors are thrown wide open to the unrestrained and unrestricted machinatians and combinations of every character? Such a combination might even enter Congress, and the General Government would then be a hot bed, to start into existence every dangerous policy. The same reasoning that would take from the Committee on Appropriations some of the regular appropriation bills, and would likewise devolve the functions of the Appropriation Committee on nearly every other committee of the House, as for instance the reasons that would turn the naval bill over to the Committee on Naval Affairs, would just as logically send the estimates for public buildings to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds; for surveying and other expenses of the public domain to the Committee on Public Lands; for the expenses of the United States Courts to the Committee on Judiciary; for public printing to the Committee on Printing; for light house establishment, the revenue cutter service and the life saving service to the Committee on Public Service;

THE MINT AND ASSAY OFFICES

to the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures; for Territorial expenses, to the Committee on Territories; for the legislative expenses of Congress, to the Committee on Accounts; for the library of Congress and botanical garden, to the Committee on Library; for the Patent Office, to the Committee on Patents; for the Bureau on Education, to the Committee on Education; for the improvement of the Mississippi river, to the Committee on Levees and Improvement of the Mississippi River: for claims certified by the accounting officers of the Treasury, to the Committee on Claims; for pensions, other than those growing out of the late war, to the Committee on Pensions. In addition to preparing the regular appropriation bills for the service of each fiscal year these Commissioners would and should, by the same method of reasoning, be charged with providing for all deficiencies on the separate bill, making two regular bills to come from each committee, thus multiplying the number of appropriation bills each session from the present number, fourteen, to not less than fifty. To commit the power to

CONTROL THE APPROPRIATION BILLS

to the standing committees, coupled with their present legitimate powers, would cut the House off from every avenue of information touching the public service except through the committee thus controlling each particular branch, thus breaking down what is now a most wholesome check possessed by the House through the Appropriation Committe over each committee, and by all of the committees over that of appropriations. A potent fact to be considered in connection with this proposition is the statement of the Treasurer that the estimated expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year aggregate $339,598,000, while the estimated revenues for the same period amount to only $315,000,000, being an estimated excess of expenditures over revenues of $24,000,000.

THE SPEAKERSHIP.

The Democratic members of the House of Representatives met in caucus to-night and nominated Carlisle, of Kentucky, for Speaker.

THE REPUBLICANS.

The Republican members of the House of Representatives met this afternoon in caucus, and organized by the unanimous election of Cannon, of Illinois, as Chairman, and McCommas, of Maryland, as Secretary. These officers will act throughout the Forty-ninth Congress. Nominations for the office of Speaker being first in order, McKinley, of Ohio, presented the name of Thomas B. Reed, of Maine, while Phelps, of New Jersey, performed the same duty for Frank Hiscock, of New York. No formal seconding of either nomination was made, though several brief speeches were delivered in behalf of one or two other candidates. Of the 141 Republican members of the House 33 were absent and the first ballot disclosed the presence of 108 members. This left 55 votes necessary for a choice. Reed received 63, Hiscock 42 and Ryan, of Kansas, 3. The announcement of the result was received with applause, and on motion of Hiscock the nomination was made unanimous. Reed bowed his acceptance of the nomination, but made no speech of thanks. Balloting for minor offices of the House was then proceeded with and the following ticket was nominated without serious opposition:

For Clerk, Colonel W. O. Crosby, of Iowa; For Sergeant-at-Arms, Captain Albert O. Marsh, of Indiana; Door Keeper, Colonel James R. Seldon, of Connecticut; Postmaster, A. W. Adams, of Maryland; Chaplain, Rev. Dr. F. T. Britton, of Nebraska.

Price, of Wisconsin, offered a resolution for the appointment of a committee of three members to prepare and urge the passage of a bill guarding against the possibility of a vacancy in the office of President of the United States, but subsequently withdrew it and offered the following, which was adopted without opposition.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this caucus that immediate action be taken to provide for the Presidential succession.

On motion of Thomas, of Illinois, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the caucus favors the passage of a properly guarded Mexican pension bill, with provisions for pensions for Union soldiers in the late war for their widows and orphans as provided in the Mexican bill passed by the Senate during the session of the Forty-Eighth Congress, and we declare in favor of the unconditional repeal of the limitation on the payment of arrears of pensions.

Adjourned.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS.

The Democratic members of the House of Representatives met in caucus to-night to nominate candidates for the offices of the Forty-ninth Congress. Tucker, of Virginia, was made temporary chairman, and Leach, of New York, and Breckenridge, of Kentucky, acted as secretaries. No permanent organization was effected. The caucus immediately proceeded to select officers, and Hon. John G. Carlisle, who nominated for Speaker by Willis, of Kentucky, and unanimously elected. A committee consisting of Randall, of Pennsylvania; Hewitt, of New York, and Willis, of Kentucky, was appointed to notify Carlisle of his nomination. When that gentleman appeared on the floor he was greeted with applause. He returned thanks and said: "For the first time in a quarter of a century we find ourselves in political accord with the Executive Department of the Government, and therefore charged with responsibilities which have heretofore rested upon our opponents. Already I think it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of all reasonable men that the interests of the country are safe in our hands, notwithstanding the gloomy predictions made before our accession to power. I trust that during the time we are associated here in the Forty-Ninth Congress we may be able to diminish the expenditures of the Government, lighten the burdens of the people, reform abuses in the public service, complete a restoration of confidence and fraternal feeling among the people in all sections of the country and give such assurances of a wise and patriotic policy, as well as guarantee a long run of Democratic administration. There is much to be done, and the responsibility for its accomplishment rests largely on the gentlemen who are assembled here this evening."

OTHER NOMINATIONS.

The caucus then proceeded to nominate minor officers as follows: John B. Clarke, of Missouri, (the incumbent) for Clerk of the House; Leedom, of Ohio, renominated Sergeant-at-Arms; Samuel Donelson, of Tennessee, for door keeper. The name of Trainor, of New York, was withdrawn. Postmaster Dalton was also renominated. For the Chaplaincy, Rev. W. H. Milburn, the blind preacher of Chicago, was nominated. The nominations agreed upon will be presented in the House on Monday by Mr. Tucker.

Adjourned.

WATCHING THE MORMONS.

The United States Troops Ordered to Fort Douglas, Utah.

OMAHA, December 5.—Late last night it became known that mysterious orders had been received at the military quarters here (the Department of the Platt). General Howard, the commanding officer, was out of the city, but was telegraphed for and returned at 6 o'clock this evening. He refuses to give definite information on the subject. It is learned, however, that Battery B from Omaha, was ordered to Fort Douglas, Utah, at once. They left at 2 o'clock this afternoon. It is under stood that all the troops in the department have been ordered to be in readiness for movement at a moment's notice. From the fact that the troops are bound for Utah the general impression prevails that Mormon troubles are expected, but exactly of what nature all efforts to find out have failed to disclose. One theory is that an outbreak of some kind is feared from the information in the possession of the Government. Another is that the President's message will contain expressions on Mormonism which may create a disturbance. As there are no Indian troubles in the section to which the troops have been ordered the conjecture is confined to the Mormon theory.

THE ISTHMUS STORM.

Many Lives and Several Vessels Reported to Have Been Lost.

PANAMA (via Galveston). December 5.—A terrific storm, which commenced in Colon on Wednesday afternoon and continued with great severity on Thursday, did considerable damage to shipping in the harbor. Of twenty-nine vessels anchored there, only fifteen can now be seen. Many of them were sunk with their crews. The loss of life cannot at present be estimated. Several docks were badly injured—notably that of the Royal Mail Company and the Pacific Mail and Canal Company. The newly built office of the Royal Mail Company is in a very critical condition. It was dislodged from its foundation. Traffic on the Panama Railroad has been suspended. The track at Ahorca and Largarte is submerged.

HELENA BUDGET.

Opening of the Helena Mining and Stock Exchange.

THEATRICAL CHAT.

Talk of a Libel Suit—Who is the Butte Miner Correspondent?

Special correspondence of THE MINER.

HELENA, Montana, December 4, 1885.

THE Helena Mining and Stock Exchange was opened last night, with a grand blast of trumpets, concluding with a banquet. The Mayor and other prominent citizens, including the Helena press, were invited, speeches made, toasts drank, and "yet they were not happy."

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SOME two months ago it was suggested through the *Independent* what a happy, valuable addition to Helena interests, a Mining Exchange would be. Was there money in it? Oh yes, lots of it to the incorporating members! The scheme carried. Thirty-five members subscribed twenty dollars each believing that they were on the ground floor instead of in the garret. Tickets were issued of the following import:

This certifies that —— is a member of the Helena Mining and Stock Exchange, and is entitled to the privilege of the floor for the year ending December 31, 1886. This membership certificate being issued and accepted subject to the constitution of the said Stock Exchange and to all rules and by-laws which may be enacted or passed by the directors thereof.

T. H. KLEINSCHMIDT, President.
R. H. HOWEY, Secretary.

The purchasers in every instance of these *tickets* (they are not certificates) supposed that they would be entitled to all the rights and privileges of perpetual membership, and some of them were speculating on the probability of having a voice in the election of the President, Board of Directors, Secretary, etc., and also on the probable advancement of the value of their supposed certificates of membership, and an increase of the yearly dues to about $50.

In spite of a grand banquet at the Grand Central Hotel, *bontonieres*, champagne, cigars, etc., their hopes were shattered, by the cruel announcement that the Helena Mining and Smelting Exchange had been incorporated for $30,000; that $15,000 had been taken up by fifteen of the incorporators, and that there was $15,000 worth of stock freely offered to the other gentlemen who had generously subscribed $20 each—if they wished to take it. The President, T. H. Kleinschmidt, and the Secretary, Rev. R. H. Howey, explained the matter, but the murmurs were loud and deep on the part of some of the members.

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THE matter may possibly be adjusted when the incorporators see the necessity of making it a *Public Exchange*, letting the original subscribers into the enterprise on an equible basis, with the right to control and vote the interest they have subscribed.

As it stands at present, thirty-five men have subscribed $20 each to furnish the hall and pay for the banquet, and yet have no voice in its management. One indignant gentleman offered to sell his privilege this morning for $10. Another on being asked "how often will this kind of a banquet be set up?" replied, "so long as there are suckers enough to pay for it!"

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"Dear little bucket shop,
Sweet little bucket shop,
Soft little bucket shop—HI!!!!"

A leading Helena lawyer, and one of the most prominent authorities in the Territory, gave your correspondent the actual status of the Helena Mining and Stock Exchange, viz: Under the laws of this Territory in relation to corporate bodies, any company composed of seven or more citizens can incorporate and organize a company for the transaction of business and sell the privileges they have to offer on their terms. Consequently, the only question at issue is whether the present incorporators did or did not deceive the subscribers who paid their $20. The membership ticket, of course, is only a trading privilege, but if they were induced to subscribe in the idea that they were all on an equal footing, then it is a grave moral wrong.

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ON DIT. There are several pastors and preachers actively engaged in the development of mines and mining interests here, and a good story is going the rounds in relation to them. One wag said they were still following the original scriptural instruction—"Feed my lambs." But—but, said he, "I guess it is only with the intention of increasing the weight of the fleece and then shearing them."

***

ONE indignant member on the outside said to one of the inside clique, "For God's sake, if you must have something, let us all go for the outsiders and not begin by eating each other up."

***

MR. STEVENSON, arrested for assaulting the *Pioneer-Press* correspondent a few days ago, was fined $10 and costs, amounting to $20.80, before J. W. Eddy, Justice of the Peace.

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HELENA is trying hard to get up a mining boom, and undoubtedly has good prospects.

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THE definition of a bucket shop in Chicago or St. Louis is supposed to be a place where men can trade in options or actual stocks without paying for the floor privilege, and where the proprietors (private firms) depend upon the percentage they reap from the bulls and bears, though they always endeavor to keep the opposing accounts equally balanced. In Montana the proprietors want to hold four aces all the time.

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NEXT Tuesday, the 10th inst., the new City Hall will be opened. It is a substantial, though plain brick building. There will be a reception, possibly a collation, and Chief Curtis will give an exhibition drill of the Fire Department, sliding down the pole, attaching the horses to engine, etc., showing the electric alarm system and the rapidity with which the fire boys do their work. The firemens' parlor is one of the most attractive rooms in the building. It is understood that the chief fire marshal of Butte and possibly some others will be invited. They will enjoy themselves if they come.

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MISS HELEN P. CLARK essayed to-night the difficult part of *Meg Merrilies*., in the drama of "Guy Mannering," supported by an amateur company selected from Helena society circles. We have seen Charlotte Cushman, and while comparisons in such an instance would be out of place, must say this lady is far above the amateur and would put many well known professionals to shame. In physical and personal characteristics, she is perfectly suited to the character she represented and displayed positive genius. We understand from the outside that the lady had never seen the play performed and was following her own intuitive perception as to the business, which was undoubtedly original, and really first rate. She was fairly well supported and the play passed off smoothly, the only objection being the music. Sir Henry Bishop's beautiful glees being set aside for miserable doggerel. "The Chough and Crow" solos (with chorus) known in English composition—being sung to a common ditty.

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THERE is considerable enquiry here as to the identity of the BUTTE MINER correspondent. He is all right; everybody will know him.

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E. J. HODGSON, by telegram, announces his intention of coming to Helena at an early date, and, explaining his connection with the court house scheme, asking the public to suspend judgment in the meanwhile. Let him come. He is wanted.

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THE first thing a culprit does if he is caught in an offense, is to talk libel. Some of the good folks here do not understand that it is the *duty* of newspapers to give the news, without fear or trembling. They are so unused to having their toes trodden upon that the first tread makes them howl with pain. I wonder if they are aware of the fact that it is not too late to find indictments against them.

The editor
sat in his
well-worn
chair, and
read of a libel
suit. He
threw himself back and
smoked
then said
don't seem to
us in Butte.
not take
from any old
as some of the fresh ones suppose. And he laughed a loud
laugh, which extended its ring, Then put up
his hand to his nose.

his hair,
they
know
We do
water
plug,

BROKEN UP.

The Labor Convention In San Francisco Closed by the Socialists.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 5.—The convention called by the Knights of Labor, which opened last Monday, closed to-night. Sessions were held every night of the week except two. The convention opened under excellent auspices, and with hopes of accomplishing much toward practically solving the labor question of the Pacific coast, but has accomplished nothing. Many good results that might have been obtained favorable to the Workingmen were defeated by the nonsensical resolutions offered by the Socialists, who were largely represented. The problems submitted for the consideration of the convention were the Chinese question, convict labor and the cause of the present commercial depression. At the meeting a resolution was adopted that the Chinese be notified to leave San Francisco within sixty days. This was finally amended to read "immediately," and that the owners of property occupied by the Chinese be notified that unless they turned the Chinese out their property would be endangered. The Knights of Labor delegation immediately left the hall and the same evening they informed the convention that they could not endorse any resolutions tending toward violence, and gave notice of their withdrawal. This practically ended the convention, as their example of withdrawing from it was followed by a number of other organizations.

AN IDIOT'S DEED.

He Kills Two Persons with an Ax and Is Himself Shot.

JEFFERSON CITY, MO., December 5.—Meagre particulars have been received here of a triple tragedy to-day at Lynn creek, in Camden county. Dr. Lyons, residing on a farm near that place, has for several years as a matter of charity cared for an imbecile named Williams, who has been hitherto considered harmless. To-day without a word of warning the idiot snatched up an ax and struck Dr. Lyons on the head, cleaving his skull and killing him instantly. He then attacked the Doctor's fourteen-year old daughter and killed her also. A young son of the Doctor, hearing of the disturbance, came upon the scene just at this juncture, and procuring a rifle shot the idiot dead.

DOREMUS DISCHARGED.

The Conductor of Train No. 13 Released on the Charge of Negligence.

Special to THE MINER.

MISSOULA, December 5.—Conductor William Doremus, of train No. 13, which was one of those in a collision a week ago today, between Turah and Wallace, and against whom a charge of manslaughter had been made, was to-day discharged by Judge Sloan, after the examination was had.

Bulgaria and Servia.

BELGRADE, December 5.—Three successive councils resulted in an absolute rejection of the Bulgarian terms for an armistice, but owing to the Powers having summoned Servia to suspend hostilities the commanders are ordered to await Bulgarian attacks.

MARTIAL LAW.

VIENNA, December 5.—A Belgrade dispatch says it has been decided to proclaim martial law throughout Servia.

France's Interests.

PARIS, December 5.—The Chamber of Commerce to-day unanimously resolved that the commercial interests of France required the occupation of Tonquin as far as the Chinese frontier.

THE ENGLISH ELECTION.

Seventy Precincts Yet to Vote—The Result Still in Doubt.

LONDON, December 6.—The latest returns show that 313 Liberals, 243 Tories and 70 Parnellites have been elected. Seventy constituencies are yet unpolled. Of these twenty-two are English, one is Welsh, four are Scotch and seventeen are Irish. A careful estimate of the probable results in the unpolled districts by the News Association shows that the House of Commons will almost certainly be composed of 331 Liberals, 255 Conservatives and 84 Parnellites.

The political situation to-night is one of perlexity to all parties. The Liberals close the week with a tie with the Tories and the Parnellites combined. There are, however, enough constituencies yet to vote to make the whole issue one of absolute untertainty. The liberals have elected 313 candidates, the Conservatives 243 and the Parnellites 70. While Gladstone has therefore 70 majority over the Tories, they and the House Rulers tie him.

California Races.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 6.—This was the fith and closing day of the Blood Horse Association races.

First race, for all ages, three-quarters of a mile—Ichi Ban won. Time, 1:18.

Second race, two-year-olds, one mile—Ed Corregan won. Time, 1:51½.

Third race, for all ages, one mile and a half—Alta won. Time, 2:40.

Fourth race, handicap, for all ages, one mile—Duke of Monday won. Time, 1:50.

Last race, consolation, seven-eighths of a mile, John A. won. Time, 1:31.

Stock Convention.

DENVER, Colo., December 6.—A call was issued this afternoon by the Secretary of the International Range Cattle and Horse Growers' Association of Mexico, Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Oregon, Nevada, California, Dakota, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona Washington Territory, Idaho, British Columbia, New Mexico and the Indian Territory for delegates to the first annual meeting at Denver, on January 27th next. The representation allowed is one delegate for each 50,000 cattle and horses. All range men are invited, whether delegates or not.

A Tailor Arrested Under Peculiar Circumstances.

Yesterday morning about 3 o'clock, as was mentioned in THE MINER, Alexander Duthie was arrested and locked up by Officers Dwyer and Young upon complaint of Thomas Denoon, under circumstances which place him in a very ugly position, and cast an entirely unwarranted odium upon his character. Mr. Duthie is a workman in the employ of F. W. Hunt, the tailor, in the same building with Mr. Denoon, and is vouched for by Mr. Hunt as one of the best tailors on the coast, and a thoroughly honest and upright gentleman. The particulars of the occurrence are these: Mr. Duthie last week purchased of Mr. Hunt the piece of cloth which was in his possession at the time of his arrest, and of course had a right to dispose of it as he wished. Yesterday morning, at the mentioned hour, he went to the work-room, over Mr. Denoon's store, and got the cloth, going down Main street to dispose of it. Mr. Denoon, knowing that a few days since some articles had been stolen from the same room, and not knowing Duthie, watched him and called the officers, his arrest following. When Mr. Hunt got up and was informed of the affair he explained the matter, and Duthie was promptly released. No blame can attach to Mr. Denoon or the police, as they all acted in good faith—just as anyone would do under similar conditions in desiring to protect the property of a neighbor. Neither can any stigma be placed at the door of Mr. Duthie, as he had, without a thought of doing any harm or arousing any suspicions, simply went to the shop and taken his own goods.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Mr. Jordan's Idea of Our Monetary System.

SILVER DOLLARS.

He Thinks They Are Accumulating Too Fast and Are Altogether Too Expensive.

WASHINGTON, December 6.—The annual report of United States Treasurer Jordan shows that the net revenue of the Government during the last fiscal year was $223,690,706, or $24,829,163 less than that of the presiding year, while the expenditure was $16,100,691 greater than that of the preceding year. The surplus available for the reduction of the public debt at the close of the fiscal year was therefore $40,929,854 less than was available on the 1st of July, 1884. The assets, according to the new form of the statement on September 30, 1885, were $574,708,256, or an increase of $55,078,007 over 1884. The liabilities were $330,381,777, an increase of $10,216,591 over 1884, and the balance, $194,326,478, an increase of $44,801,416 over 1884. During the same period there has been an increase of $33,464,633 in the gold assets; $22,095,016 in the silver assets; $6,776. 423 in the legal tenders assets; $171,284 in the National bank assets. The National bank deposits to the bullion fund or deposits in