



ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA. WEDNESDAY, MAY 26.

An unsuccessful effort was made, yesterday, in the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church North, in session at Cleveland, to reconsider the action of the body on the report of the Conference committee with the Southern branch of the Church.

Belgium retains its serenity and avoids a ministerial crisis. The Senate, at Brussels, yesterday, passed a vote of confidence in the government. In view of the Duchesse affair, in which, it is alleged, that person proposed the assassination of Bismarck, the Belgian government will suggest an amendment to the law by which proposals of murder will be made punishable the same as threats.

The chiefs of the Sioux having been induced to return to their original habit quarters, and their guardians having subdued their refractory dispositions and got them into a presentable condition, they were taken up to the White House to-day for a "big talk" with the President, who, it is supposed, will make them a proposition for the cession of the Black Hills country to the Government.

The American Agriculturist gives statistics of the western hog trade, by which it appears that over five and a half millions of hogs were packed in western tons the past season, an excess of nearly 250,000 over any previous year.

The State commissioner of immigration in Oregon reports that although large numbers of immigrants arrive weekly in Oregon, mostly farmers from the Western States, all are satisfied and provided for, and there is room for thousands of farmers and sheep raises for years to come.

The Mark Lane Express, in its weekly review of the breadstuffs market, says drought has been felt in France and a poor yield is probable. This, coupled with the appearance of grasshoppers in the United States, will make low rates of short duration, notwithstanding Continental markets are down sixpence to a shilling.

The annual examination of cadet midshipmen will commence at the Naval Academy on the 10th of June, and will close about the 20th, after which the graduating class will be granted a leave of absence preparatory to being ordered to duty.

A Brooklyn paper announces that General Ryer A. Pryor will appear no more in the Beecher case. His health is far from good, the bad air of the court room having produced serious effects on his constitution.

Post-mortem examinations of the horses that have died of the disease prevailing in St. Louis made by some of prominent physicians and veterinary surgeons, have shown conclusively that the disease is cerebro-spinal meningitis. The malady, it is said, is not spreading much and yields quite readily to treatment.

It is stated that the receipts from newspaper postage under the present law will not be more than one-half the amount realized under the old system, but that the present law is quite effective and saves much clerical labor, and appears to be satisfactory to the publishers.

Detectives have recovered in Philadelphia \$2,000 worth of furs, \$5,000 worth of cutlery, \$1,000 worth of plated cutlery, and a case of cloth stolen from various stores in New York that had been sent to Philadelphia and some of them sold at auction on commission.

The opponents of Prohibition in Rhode Island consummated their victory at the polls in the formal election of their candidate for Governor by the Legislature yesterday. One of the first measures proposed was the substitution of a liquor license law for the prohibitory law.

The French Assembly, yesterday, elected thirteen members of the new Committee of Thirty, all of whom belong to parties which support the present constitution. Seventeen members remain to be elected. No Bonapartists offered themselves as candidates.

France, through her President, has sent a circular to the great powers, assuring them that her intentions are peaceful, and that she desires no unfriendly controversy with other nations.

An effort was made yesterday in Philadelphia to sell the country seat of Jay Cooke, at auction. It was started at \$1,000,000, and ran down to \$300,000 and was withdrawn, not a bid being made.

An order will be issued by the President closing the departments on the 29th instant, "decoration day."

THE GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE.—Gentlemen who have arrived in Washington during the past two or three days from those parts of the West which were last year devastated by grasshoppers, assert that the reports of injury already done to crops or anticipated this spring are greatly exaggerated. Especially is this said to be the fact in regard to Nebraska. While in some limited sections of the State the young grasshoppers are now hatching out and destroying the tender grain, the crop prospects in the State at large are excellent. In spite of the grasshoppers, a much larger crop of small grain will be harvested in Nebraska this year than ever before. The sections of the West that are in danger of devastation by grasshoppers are those which are on the frontier. Civilization seems to be fatal to these pests, and it has been the almost universal experience in the West that, after the land has been generally brought under cultivation, grasshoppers never come in sufficient numbers to do great damage. The home of the grasshopper is on the plains, and when by long prevailing westerly winds a swarm of them has been brought into the settled portions of the country, they have rarely penetrated the first year beyond the third or fourth tier of counties from the frontier. In those, which are generally visited the first year in July and August, they have often destroyed nearly the whole crop; but, while they have caused great local suffering, their devastations, being confined to a section in which only a small percentage of the land has been broken up, have not perceptibly reduced the aggregate of the entire country, or affected the price of grain. The grasshoppers which come from the plains the first year deposit their eggs on the fields they visit, and in the following spring these are hatched out about the time the grass and winter grains start. Before their wings are sufficiently developed to enable them to fly, they eat up every tender thing which comes within their reach. The corn, spring wheat and later garden vegetables are not likely to be injured by these undeveloped insects. When they become able to fly they go away, and may penetrate still further into the older settled country; but the life of the second generation is a short one, and they soon die, leaving no eggs to be hatched out next year.

NEWS OF THE DAY. "To show the very age and body of the Times." As the result of addresses before a large meeting of ladies and gentlemen in St. Louis, Mo., Monday night, by Mrs. E. G. Gillespie, of Philadelphia, president of the women's national executive committee, and Mrs. Dr. Dickson, of the Missouri committee, an executive committee of one hundred and twenty-five of the most prominent ladies of St. Louis, headed by the wife of General W. T. Sherman, was appointed to take active steps in that city and State in behalf of the Philadelphia exposition.

The case of the mutineers of the schooner Jefferson Borden was before the Bow-street Police Court, London, yesterday. One of the wounded seamen testified to ill treatment of the crew by the captain of the vessel; that they were often made to work thirty-six to forty six hours, with bad and insufficient food. The witness was unable to conclude his evidence, on account of illness, and the examination of the case was postponed for two weeks.

A March Chunk telegram says that Lentz Bowman & Co.'s collieries at Mahanay City resumed operations on Monday. The workmen went in at a 20 per cent. reduction on the basis of 1874 for one month, after which a new and permanent arrangement will probably be made. The fact that over one hundred miners applied for work above the necessary force needed, speaks favorably and hopefully for an early resumption in the entire anthracite region.

Rev. John McCloskey, President of Mount St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, states that the commencement exercises will take place this year, June 23, instead of June 30 as heretofore. This change is made to meet the convenience of Cardinal McCloskey, who has promised to be present, together with the Papal Emissary and a large number of the alumni of Mount St. Mary's.

A well-known thief calling himself Philly, has been arrested in Philadelphia for robbing the Miners' and Mechanics' Bank of \$1,600, and the messenger of the Manufacturers' National Bank of \$2,900 in notes and \$7,000 in checks some time ago. He is also charged with robbing the county treasurer at Reading, Pa., last fall.

Thomas W. Piper, the murderer of the little girl Mabel Young, was arraigned yesterday in Boston. The proofs of his guilt are accumulating, he having been recognized by one witness as the man whom he saw clambering from the belfry window to the ground. The prisoner confessed that he was not in his right mind on Sunday, but maintained his innocence.

The Postoffice Department has asked the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to furnish facilities for the dispatch of an extra mail from New York to Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, leaving Washington not later than 4 a. m. The reply of the Company is to the effect that such a train will be put on if the Government will pay for it.

A large meeting of the Black Hills expeditionists was held in Philadelphia last night, at which the leaders of the proposed Philadelphia, New York and Boston expeditions took active part. A resolution was adopted asking the government to take speedy action on the acquisition of the Black Hills.

Recent estimates of the defalcation of Abraham Jackson, the missing Boston lawyer, swell the amount to over \$700,000. It is stated that Jackson is in Vermont, but its more generally believed that he has carefully provided against arrest, and is on his way to Europe. No steps have yet been taken to secure him.

The London Daily News special dispatch from Vienna says a person has been arrested in that city, who was bearer of an anonymous letter containing an offer to assassinate Bismarck for a million florins. The writer of the letter has not been discovered.

Mayor Vansant, of Baltimore, yesterday vetoed the ordinance appropriating \$6,000 to the Fifth Regiment for the expenses at the Bunker Hill Centennial. A majority of the First Branch of the Council endorsed the Mayor's action.

The Seventeenth Annual Convention of the New York State Association for the protection of fish and game will be held at Watertown, New York, on the 31st instant.

CITY COUNCIL. There was a regular meeting of the City Council last night.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN. In the Board of Aldermen the resolution for the repair of the street in front of the Hydraulic engine-house was passed, and the communication of the Mayor, notifying Council of the suspension of officer Ogden, was received.

Dr. Johnson offered a resolution for the reinstatement of police officer Webb and readyman G. W. Jones, dismissed by the Mayor for sleeping while on duty.

Mr. Smoot asked whether the Mayor would have the power to restate.

Dr. Johnson contended that the Mayor had the right to reinstate at the instance of the Council, the Mayor being only the agent of the Council.

Mr. Janney coincided in the views expressed by Dr. Johnson.

Dr. Johnson said his action was in no wise to be construed as giving license to police officers, but to be looked upon as a pardon.

Mr. Lyles wanted to know why Mr. Jones should be restored.

Dr. Johnson explained that it would be unfair to reinstate one and not the other.

Mr. Smoot said he could not vote for the resolution.

Mr. Janney said he should also object. These men were out and he thought that they had better remain out, especially as they were not needed.

Dr. Johnson thought that humanity would dictate that both men should be reinstated.

Mr. Janney said that he was humane in his feelings as anyone, but he thought that these officers had better remain out.

Mr. Lyles repeated that he favored Mr. Webb's reinstatement, but could not vote for Mr. Jones being put back.

Dr. Johnson again explained that his action was dictated entirely by feelings of humanity.

The resolution was lost—yeas 2, noes 3.

A resolution for the appointment of a special committee to take into consideration the propriety of selling certain city property, and investing the proceeds in Corporation bonds, coming in from the Common Council.

Mr. Moore did not think any property could be sold now except at a great sacrifice, and moved to lay the resolution on the table.

Dr. French was in favor of selling some of the property and paying off the debt of the city.

Dr. Johnson explained the origin of the debt and the funding of the same, and contended that there could be no reputation as this was a mere body corporate, unlike the State or Government. He was in favor of selling the unproductive property.

Mr. Moore was in favor of selling the American coal wharf and the wharf at the foot of Duke street. He was opposed to selling the Market Building, Gas Works, or Fish Wharf.

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CITY COUNCIL. OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN. At a regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen, held May 25, 1875, there were present: Samuel H. Janney, esq., President, and Messrs. Smoot, Moore, Johnson, French and Lyles.

A petition of F. Francis to have the lot and gutter paved in front of his houses on Cameron street, between Columbus and Washington; also a resolution in regard to repairing the street in front of house of the Hydraulic Engine Co.; also a bill of Thos. Buckingham, \$2, as clerk of election; also communication from the Mayor in regard to the suspension of policeman Geo. Ogden, were received from the Common Council and their action concurred in.

The following resolution was introduced and read: Resolved, That the Mayor is hereby requested to restore to the respective positions on the police force policeman E. Webb and readyman G. W. Jones; provided, such restoration will not be detrimental to the public interest.

A report of the Committee on Streets on the petition of R. C. Lee for the removal of the pump corner Washington and Queen sts.; also a bill of J. R. Nicklin, \$3, as registrar; also a report of the Committee on Streets on the bill of Chas. Stewart; also a petition of sundry citizens for the removal of railroad track on St. Asaph street, were received from the Common Council and their action concurred in.

A resolution appointing a committee to inquire into the expediency of selling the public property was received from the Common Council and read on the table.

The Board then adjourned.

JNO. J. JAMIESON, Clerk.

COMMON COUNCIL. At a regular meeting of the Common Council, held May 25, 1875, there were present: George R. Shinn, esq., President, and Messrs. Wood, Hopkins, Eichberg, McKenzie, Harlow, Rishchell, Schofield, Beach, Hughes, Lucas, Harris and Mitchell.

Mr. Rishchell, from the Committee on Streets, to whom had been referred a petition for the removal of the old pump at the northwest corner of Queen and Washington streets, presented a report recommending that the pump be removed and the well filled up, and the report was adopted.

Mr. Rishchell, from the same committee, to whom had been referred a bill of Chas. Stuart, amounting to \$21, for curb stone for Christ Church, presented a report recommending that the bill be referred to the Corporation Attorney with instructions to report to the Council whether or not the city can make the owners of the property pay for the materials used, and the report was adopted.

A bill of J. R. Nicklin, amounting to \$13, for election services, was ordered to be paid.

A petition from J. H. McVeigh, W. H. Irwin, C. E. Suttle and other property owners of St. Asaph street, asking for redress of grievance resulting from the use of that street by the A. & W. R. Co., was referred to the Committee on General Laws, with instructions to consult the Corporation Attorney.

Mr. Hopkins offered the following resolution, which was adopted: Resolved, That a committee, consisting of two from each ward, together with the Corporation Attorney, be appointed to take into consideration the expediency of disposing of property now owned by the Corporation, with a view to investing the proceeds thereof in Corporation bonds, and report to the City Council.

Mr. Hopkins offered the following resolution: Resolved, That the Corporation Attorney be requested to inform Council whether, in his opinion, it would be legal to tax Corporation bonds held by non-residents; if not, to advise the City Council of a legal mode whereby bonds of this character may be reached.

It is to be hoped that there will be no scratching of tickets by the Conservatives of the First Ward. The gentlemen on the ticket are all worthy of the utmost confidence, and should receive the earnest support of all who desire to see the triumph of Conservatism.

This being the "Derby Day," the English House of Commons, yesterday, resolved to adjourn over by a vote of 206 to 81.

The Italian government will take part in the exhibition of 1876, to be held at Philadelphia.

A Paris telegram announces the death of Monseigneur Plantier, Bishop of Nismes.

The well-known Boston magazine Old and New has been consolidated with Scribner under the latter title. By this union Scribner secures the pen of Edward Everett Hale, the former editor of Old and New, who will write a serial on an historic theme for the next year. Mr. Hale has gained a wide reputation through his short stories, such as the "Man Without a Country," &c.

The Penn Monthly, for June, has been received. Contents: The Month; Electric Phenomena in the Rocky Mountains; Law Reform; Industrial Education; Hawaiian Reciprocity Treaty; The American Evangelists in England; Ismailia; New Books; Books Received. Published by the Penn Monthly Association, 506 Walnut street, Philadelphia.

CITY COUNCIL. OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN. An act fixing the salaries of the municipal officers of the city of Alexandria for the fiscal year commencing July 1st, 1875, and terminating June 30, 1876, passed by this Board, but amended by the Board of Aldermen, was received from that Board, still further amended, and passed by the following vote: Ayes, Messrs. Eichberg, Hopkins, Harlow, McKenzie, Schofield, Rishchell, Harris, Lucas, Mitchell and Mr. President—11. Noes, none.

The Board then adjourned until the night of Thursday, the 27th instant.

At a called meeting of the Common Council, held May 26, 1875, there were present: George R. Shinn, esq., President, and Messrs. Eichberg, Hopkins, Broders, Harlow, Rishchell, Schofield, Hughes, Harris and Mitchell.

The President having stated that the meeting had been called by the Mayor for the purpose of appointing commissioners to hold the municipal election to be held on the 27th instant, introduced the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved by the Common Council (the Board of Aldermen concurring) That the following named persons be appointed to hold the election on Thursday, May 27, viz:

1st ward: J. H. Burroughs, A. D. Warfield and R. Bell, jr.

2d ward: L. H. Kell, E. S. Fleming and Louis Stein.

3d ward: A. B. Crupper, J. W. Summers and J. T. Beckham.

4th ward: W. L. Milburn, Thomas Devitt and L. McK. Bell.

And that the polls be held at the following places: 1st ward: No. 34 Prince street. 2d ward: Sun Engine House. 3d ward: Old Court House. 4th ward: Perperer's house, on Duke street, between Columbus and Alfred.

The Board then adjourned.

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