Wichita Eagle.

VOL. VIII. NO. 48. WICHITA, KANSAS, THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 12, 1888. WHOLE NO. 1142

Munson and McNamara.

123 and 125 Main Street.

SPECIAL ON WRAPS THIS WEEK!

This week we will offer our entire line of plush and astrachan wraps regardless of cost or value. If you want a garment come this week. we will give them to you at a lower prices than we will name again this season. We want your money and will give you 150 cents for every dollar now.

We open Monday morning, January 2, a sale of special interest to those who buy fine dry goods. Our entire stock will be put on sale at cost and less than cost to reduce it and convert it into cash before our annual inventory. We come now to the ending of a very prosperous year, taking it altogether, and we will make big cuts from now till stock taking to clean up with as much cash as possible

DRESS GOODS STOCK.

Another special offer in the dress goods and silk. We have not only cut down the prices on all the dress goods and silks but will cut and fit them free of charge and give you this list of things. This list of linings given free with each dress over 50 cents a yard: 1 1-2 yards of sellsia, 6 yards of cambric, 2 spools of silk, 3 spools of twist and 1 spool of braid.

These dresses are all cut and fitted by either Madame Chambers or Macame Liggett, both first-class and accomplished modistes. We have also made a reduction in the price of making dresses if you should desire us to go on and finish up the dress.

Munson and McNamara.

123 AND 125 MAIN STREET.

SOME -:- ONE.

Of the following pieces of Wichita real estate must be sold by the first of April, 1888: 300 ft by 300 ft on Green and First sts., 100 ft by 140 ft on Orme and Topeka, 50 ft by 140 ft on Emporia ave., near First, 50 ft by 140 ft on Douglas, near Seneca, 100 ft by 140 on Mosley, near Second, 600 ft by 140 ft on Washington, between Third and Second. All of this property but one piece is near Douglas ave., the great artery of trade for this city. I came to Wichita ten years ago, have selected these pieces with reference to coming values. But to meet some engagements for 1888 I am compelled to part with a portion at a sacrifice. For further information address

H. WINSLOW ABBETT,

42 921 E THIRD STREET, WICHITA, KAN.

W. J. Wilson & Co

CLEARANCE SALE OF BLANKETS!

—AT—

W. J. Wilson & Co's

OPPOSITE COURT HOUSE

Special Sale of Blaknets!

In our enthusiam for Wichita we bught, this fall, too many fine blankets, which we have concluded to sacrifice. We will commence this morning a grand clearance sale of blankets at prices that mean loss, loss, loss to us. An elegant blanket for the price of a cheap one at

W. J. Wilson & Co

MORE KU-KLUXING.

HISTORY OF A SECRET BAND OF CUT-THROATS.

The Terror of Their Neighborhood Ever Since the War---Evidence Secured Against Them.

A Mexican Central Passenger Train Neatly Robbed by a Gang of Eight Men 3,000 Miles South of El Paso.

Inspectors-General for the Grand Army Appointed in All the States, to Report Immediately to Headquarters.

PARKERSBURG, W. Va., Jan. 11.—Detectives Alfred Burnett and Daniel Cunningham made public the facts in regard to an organization of out laws who have thrived as "good citizens" in Roan county since the war. Cunningham says that about the time the war broke out a number of families came from Clinch River, Russell county, West Virginia, and squatted on the Bruen estate, without either buying or leasing the land, and a secret band was organized which was to run the neighborhood as it pleased and protect their "rights" as squatters.

In regard to the recent doings of the band, the names of thirty-seven members, the pass word and so forth, are given. The "consolidated band" held meetings ever week and every meeting they took a new oath to divulge nothing upon penalty of death. In October, Rev. Ryan, methodist minister, was murdered and robbed of $400. About a week before Ryan was murdered they held a meeting at Kentuck, at which it was moved that they proceed at once to lynch George and Robert Duff, Frank Shamblin, Doc Jones and Jack Parsons. The motion was voted down by a very small majority. At this meeting four of the members, for whom it was getting too warm, withdrew from the band. The next week the Duffs and Chess Coon were lynched, sure enough, and Ryan's murder was charged to them. After George Duff had been fatally wounded by the lynchers, 'Squire Taylor ordered the arrest of Bob Duff and Chess Coon. The next evening 'Squire Gardee ordered them taken to Walton. The constables disobeyed orders. Coon was taken to Joe Cook's and Duff to Dave Cox's residences for the night. That night the band held a secret meeting at the Len Camp school house. It was decided to lynch Coon and Duff immediately.

"We have secured evidence enough to prove, and will prove, that the men who lynched Coon and the Duff boys were the same men that murdered Rev. Thos. P. Ryan. Five or six men engaged in the murder of Ryan. A number of original letters are also made public, in which prominent citizens have been warned to leave the country. The slightest offense on the part of any one was punished with warning, and persons warned generally found it was wise to leave."

TRAIN ROBBERY.

EL PASO, Tex., Jan. 11.—The Mexican Central passenger train due here this morning was held up last night about 300miles south of El Paso by a band of robbers. The train had stopped at a watering station at the Basota mountain, and just as the engineer was about to open the throttle valve, eight men suddenly made their appearance out of a piece of woods skirting the track. Two thieves covered the engineer and fireman with their revolvers; two others proceeded to the express car, and the balance stationed themselves at the doors of two coaches and terrified the passengers so completely that no effort was made to aid the express agent, who, in defending valuable property in his car, was being roughly handled. The robbers were said to have been Americans and were armed to the teeth. They finally succeeded in quieting the express agent and secured a considerable sum of money in gold and in Mexican and American bills. Quite a large amount of silver was stored in one corner of the express car, and the robbers undertook to carry it along, but owing to its great weight they were compelled to leave it behind. So far as learned no passengers were maltreated. The whole transaction did not occupy three minutes, and those on the train were so completely surprised that no attempt at defense against the robbers was made.

G. A. R. INSPECTORS.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Jan. 11.—Members of the Grand Army of the Republic are making preparations for a national inspection of posts to occur during the months of January and February. A circular was issued today from Grand Army of the Republic headquarters to all posts, asking them to get ready for inspection. The following named comrades were appointed assistant inspector generals and directed to report for instructions as promptly as possible to Inspector General Ira M. Hedges, of Haverstraw, N. Y.:

Arkansas—A. S. Ford, Little Rock.
California—E. A. Dakin, San Francisco.
Colorado—S. M. Clark, Denver.
Connecticut—Sanford E. Chaffee.
Dakota—S. N. Jumper.
Delaware—Peter B. Ayers, Wilmington.
Florida—Jacob Gunbinger.
Illinois—George Osporner, Batavia.
Indiana—David Paul, Liebhardt.
Iowa—A. J. Johnson, Montezuma.
Kansas—W. B. Shockley, Fort Scott.
Kentucky—T. E. Livesey.
Maine—Geo. H. Abbott, Portland.
Massachusetts—Thomas H. Haskell, Charlestown.
Maryland—Theodore A. Warrell, Northeast.
Michigan—Henry H. Appel, Bay Center.
Minnesota—R. H. Branton, Minneapolis.
Missouri—John M. Cowdry.
Montana—G. O. Eaton.
Nebraska—W. D. Wildman, Culbertson.
New Hampshire—Jas. E. Saunders, Petersborough.
New Jersey—Charles R. Parsons.
New Mexico—Wm. B. Berger, Santa Fe.
New York—Chas. A. Appleby.
Ohio—E. Peacock.
Oregon—E. B. McElroy.
Pennsylvania—Thos. F. Mahoney, Harrisburg.
Potomac—Hans Smith, Washington, D. C.
Rhode Island—Sam E. Waldron.
Tennessee and Georgia—G. Whittaker, Newmark, Tenn.
Texas—J. C. Degress, Austin.
Utah—J. E. Hudson, Ogden.
Vermont—A. A. Smith, West Randolph.
Virginia—Richard Bond, Fortress Monroe.
Washington Territory—Eugene M. Baxter.
West Virginia—Joseph A. Arkle, Wheeling.
Wisconsin—Earl M. Rogers, Viroqua.

THE LAST RAIL.

SENECA, Kan., Jan. 11.—The last rail on the Kansas City, Wyandotte and Northwestern railroad was laid yesterday evening, and at 9 o'clock this morning the first train over the road from Kansas City arrived at Seneca. Regular trains over the road are promised by the first of February.

LOST A FORTUNE.

The Confidence Racket Successfully Played on the Pacific Coast.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Jan. 11.—One of the worst swindles perpetrated here for a long time is that by which confidence men robbed J. A. Parker, of Oregon, of $6,500, the savings of many years of hard work. Parker came here from Jefferson county, Oregon, last November, with the plan of getting into some business by which he could earn a living. He struck two half-interest swindlers named Pilcher and Neanstadt, and put $750 into a half interest in a real estate agency which the pair claimed netted each $150 per month. Seeing how credulous the old granger was and learning that he had a valuable ranch in Oregon, they introduced a confederate named Simon Hamburg, who claimed to be eager to exchange city property for an Oregon ranch. The old farmer swalled the bait, and, without consulting a lawyer or searcher of deeds, agreed to exchange his farm for a business lot on Brannon street. He gave Hamburg $500 in cash, a draft on a broker in Missouri for $2,500 and a deed to his Oregon ranch.

The first suspicion he had of fraud was when a neighbor in Oregon wrote declaring a sharper had appeared and sold Parker's old ranch for $3,000 less than it was worth.

Then he began to investigate, and found that Hamburg never owned the Brannon street lot, but that he had once before deeded it to one of his dupes. The brother in Missouri was warned by telegraph not to pay the draft, but he had already cashed it.

Hamburg was traced to Butte City, Montana, where it is expected he will be arrested today and brought back here. He is well known to the police, but this is the first good evidence they have secured against him. Old Parker is entirely broken down by the loss of his little fortune.

SOME TANGLED STORIES.

BAY CITY, Mich., Jan. 11.—The Monitor township murder mystery seems now to be more of a mystery than ever. Mrs. Fisher has secured a lawyer and now denies her confession charging Wallace with murdering her husband. She says she was frightened into making the confession by the officer and maintains that her original story is true and that her husband has gone to Dakota. Nearly a dozen officers and citizens, accompanied by the 16-year old boy, Charlie Fisher, went to the scene of the supposed murder yesterday, but a diligent search revealed nothing of of the body. The boy, Charlie, minutely described the fracas, saying his mother struck his father in the head with a hammer, killing him at the first blow, because he refused to go after a pail of water. He described how his father fell, pointing out where his head was when he lay dead upon the floor. The lad says his mother and himself washed the blood from the floor, and that he assisted Wallace to carry his father's body to the woods, the mother carrying the spade to bury it, but that he was sent to the house when the woods was reached, and he did not know where the body was buried. Seeing that the search for the body was futile because of the deep snow, the officers returned to this city with the boy, when he denied the whole story and returned to his original yarn that his father had gone to Dakota. The boy is evidently a terrible young liar. This afternoon an order was discovered in the county clerk's office from Michael Daily, superintendent of the poor, for $3.30, dated November 4, to pay in part for a ticket from Bay City to Chicago for H. Fisher. Daily says Wallace Fisher and the boy Charlie secured the order from him. This seems to substantiate Mrs. Fisher's story, but the prosecuting attorney thinks it a link in the chain of evidence that the criminality between Wallace and Mrs. Fisher made it desirable to remove the impediment to their illicit intercourse, and so the order was secured, but that Fisher afterwards refused to go, and that murder was concocted and committed to dispose of him. The fact that Fisher was seen by neighbors several days afterward sustains this theory. The officers seem confident of a conviction.

DIVISION OF DAKOTA.

HURON, Dakota, Jan. 11.—The Constitutional convention met here today. This convention first met at Sioux Falls in September, 1885, under the authority of the territorial legislature, and drafted a constitution for South Dakota, which was ratified the November following by the people of the proposed state. The law creating the convention authorized it to adjourn from time to time, and under this power the constitution has been kept alive for the purpose of formally agreeing to any matters of detail which congress might insist upon with respect to the method of admission, or to submit to the people any proposition to change the constitution which might become necessary in order to conform to the requirements of the act of admission. The failure of the lower house of congress to pass the admission bill has disappointed the people of the proposed state; but if one may judge from the temper of the convention, it has not made them willing to accept the terms of admission proposed by the Springer bill, which provides for the admission of the whole territory as one state. The speakers in today's convention expressed an unfaltering adherence to the cause of a division of the territory and a separate statehood for North and South Dakota.

At the afternoon session a committee on resolutions was appointed, consisting of Myers, Spink county; Brookings, Minnehaha county; Kanouse, Sanborn county; Neil, Grant county; Owen, Kingsbury county. At the close of the afternoon session Waldo M. Potter, of North Dakota, addressed the convention. The convention will endorse a modification of the Harrison bill of the last session of congress, formulated by Senator Moody, who is now at Washington, and will also endorse the changes proposed by the senate committee on territories, chief among which are the substitution of the seventh standard of parallel for the forty-sixth parallel as the north boundary line and taking the name of South Dakota instead of Dakota, out of deference to North Dakota sentiment. The Blair bill to admit North Dakota will also be heartily indorsed. Telegrams have been received today from citizens of South Dakota encouraging the convention to stand firm on the question of division.

FOR ROBBING MAILS.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 11.—Thomas M. Peteck, the young man arrested last week for stealing registered letters from the transfer mail clerk at the depot, had a preliminary hearing today before United States Commissioner Thompson. The evidence against him was very strong and he was held to await the action of the federal grand jury. Today one of the attorneys for Peteck received a letter signed "A Penitent Man." The writer confessed the robbery and inclosed $60 of the money, saying he had spent the balance. The writer of the letter is unkown. The prosecution made no effort to fix it on Peteck.

ON THE WAR-PATH.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—Anthony Comstock, as the head of the society for the prevention of vice, at the head of a lot of city police, today made a raid on the anatomical museums of the city. About half a dozen of them were visited and their proprietors and employes arrested. The officers also seized some wagon loads of wax figures which were declared to be lewd and altogether unfit for public exhibition, and carted them off to a police station.

A LAND STEAL.

A GREAT FRAUD UNEARTHED IN CALIFORNIA.

Men Secured to Buy Government Land and Deed It to a Foreign Syndicate.

Workmen on a Railroad Attempt to Thaw Dynamite Cartridges, and Succeed to an Astonishing Degree.

Louisiana Politics--Democratic Nominating Convention in Hot Water—The Grangers Consulting on the Tariff Question.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—The Herald this morning prints a three-column letter from Eureka, Cal., in regard to a gigantic timber land steal. The correspondent states that a foreign syndicate is operating in the Redwood district, of which Eureka is the center, and that it has already gobbled up 64,000 acres of the finest redwood forests in the world.

The correspondent says: "Of all the numerous robberies of the government of the United States which have disgraced the western and Pacific slope during the past two decades, no one has possessed the monumental earmarks of unblushing fraud to a more startling degree than one about to be related. For rugged picturesqueness of roguery the California Redwood company robbery is unequalled. He then goes on to tell how the California Redwood company was organized in Edinburg in 1883. James Walker, an Englishman of San Francisco, was chosen president. Charles H. King, of San Francisco, and David Evans, of Eureka, were created general managers. A number of notorious land sharks were hired by the company and sent to Eureka, and they soon had plans perfected for the great scheme. The headquarters of the gang were in a back room of a tough sporting ginshop of Gordon Barnum. Three blocks away from Barnum's saloon was located the United States land office. It was necessary to obtain 400 persons who were willing to aid in the fraud. The sum fixed by the Redwood company as the maximum price was $50. For that paltry sum men were to be called on to go to the land office and make a statement that land they entered was for their individual use and occupancy. As soon as the entry was made the men were escorted to headquarters of the syndicate, where the land was transferred to the "canny Scotchman."

THAWING DYNAMITE CARTRIDGES.

ROCKFORD, Jan. 11.—Two Italians, C. Prideino and Vincinzo Destofono, were terribly injured yesterday while in a blacksmith shop on the line of the new railroad. Workmen had placed two dynamite cartridges near the fire to thaw. They exploded, blowing the building to pieces. Six men were seriously injured and these two very seriously.

LOUISIANA POLITICS.

BATON ROUGE, Jan. 11.—All hopes of nominating a third man are gone. Col. Jeffries' refusal to come over to the anti-Nicholls side has left but one available candidate—Cunningham. His delegation will support him for governor, but in case he cannot be nominated they will vote for Nicholls. The fight now hinges on the rest of the ticket and threats are being made by several parishes that in case they get no representation on the ticket they will not assure majorities in their parishes for Nicholls. Nichollites have been caucussing for the ticket, but thus far have been unable to agree. It is rumored that they will offer the anti-Nicholls side two places on the ticket—auditor and superintendent of public education.

THE GRANGERS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11—Representative Grangers from different sections of the country began a session this morning at the Fifth Avenue hotel. At the session they will secretly disenss the tariff question from the farmer's standpoint.

MISSING MARTIN EARLEY.

GEORGETOWN, O., Jan. 11.—The Hamersville mystery still continues a mystery and gets deeper in the shadows with every hour. All today hundreds of men on foot and on horse have been searching the country in every direction, and yet no trace of Mart Earley has yet been found. A visit to the home of the missing man disclosed a scene of mourning. Earley left a wife and two little children. The wife is almost heart-broken and mourns as one almost without hope. The aged father of Martin Earley lives near the station in Hamersville. The old man has been blind for about two years and bewails the fate of his son in the most pitiful manner.

A theory now generally accepted by the people is that Earley was thrown from his horse near Excelsior school house with such force that for a time he lay unconscious. After awhile he got up with the intention of going home; but, being dazed and bewildered by the shock, he wandered off, and will probably be found dead in some out-of-the-way place. This is the belief of a part of the people, though many cling to the theory that he has been murdered, and that his body has been hid away. A few days ago he settled with the railroad company, paying over about $500. When he left home he had but about $5 or $6 with him, leaving his pocket-book, containing about $40. He was a man universally respected, and had not a known enemy in the world. The whole affair is shrouded in mystery, and whether it will be unraveled is doubtful.

SWIPES WON.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—Jim Burke, of this city, and Tom White, Swipes the newsboy, fought five rounds with bare knuckles at a down town sporting resort this morning. Burke is 24 years old and weighed 120 pounds. White is 20 years old and tipped the scale at 118 pounds. The first round was slightly in favor of Burke, after some hard fighting. In the second round, Swipes started to reverse matters. The second round ended by Swipes swinging his left with terrible force on Burke's right eye, partly closing it. Bids were freely offered at 5 to 10 on Swipes, with no takers. In the third round, Swipes again swung his left on Burke's damaged optic, closing it. Burke repeatedly clinched to avoid punishment. From the third round Swipes had everything his own way. At the end of the fifth round Burke said he had enough, and could not be induced to fight any more. The referee then awarded the fight and purse, $50, to Swipes. Burke's face was badly disfigured while Swipes came out without a scratch.

A MAD MOTHER.

DENISON, Tex., Jan. 11.—Late yesterday afternoon Mrs. Louis Davount, wife of a farmer living at Carpenter's Bluff, a few miles from this city, became wildly insane and while her guard was not watching seized her 7-months-old baby, rushed to a well and cast it into the water. Before it could be fished out it was dead. She had been subject to crazy spells for some time and a close guard had been kept over her.

A SWINDLER CAUGHT.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—The central office detective believe they have dropped upon one of the boldest swindlers in this country and England, in the person of W. G. Richie, who is locked up in the Yorkville police court prison on a charge of larceny. They are satisfied that his claim that he is a son of a member of parliament and heir to a title is a lie, and it is intimated that Richie is wanted in various states for swindling. No authentic facts have been obtained as yet, but the resemblance to an English swindler whose operations were notorious in this country some years ago led the detectives to believe that Ritchie and he are the same person. Every effort will be made to learn something definite of his past career. The impression is, that having been detected in extensive operations in the west of a criminal character he had to come to this city under an assumed name. Fearing detection he limited his present endeavors to trivial offenses until he should have an opportunity to return to England with safety.

To a reporter who visited him in his cell Ritchie looked anything but a person of noble parentage. He has red hair and his manner is affected in the extreme. Among other things he said: "It is true that I visited Chicago, but there was nothing wrong about that. Because of a shortness of cash I had to pawn about $10,000 worth of diamonds. I have property in England worth thousands of pounds and just as soon as my father hears of this matter he will cable me an order for money."

A SENSATIONAL CASE.

JACKSON, Tenn., Jan. 11.—The suit of the Rev. Dr. Frederick Howard, pastor of the Central Baptist church of this city, for $50,000 damages against sixteen of the leading members of the First Baptist church, including the pastor, and also against the Forked Deer Blade, of this city, the Tennessee Baptist, at Memphis, and the Baptist Reflector, at Chattanooga, was on trial here yesterday and today. The three papers in the suit published a strong article in 1886 signed by sixteen members of the First Baptist church, in which the past record of Dr. Howard was painted in very dark colors. They charged that he had borne two or three aliases in South Carolina and Georgia, such as Howlett, Hulett and Howard, and that he had eloped with another man's wife in South Carolina, had associated with negroes and had been guilty of malfeasance while an official, and other damaging charges. Howard is an Englishman by birth and his father lives in London. Both sides have taken voluminous testimony in Europe, and attorneys E. L. Bullock, for the defense, and S. D. Hayes, for the plaintiff, have just returned from South Carolina and Georgia, where they have searched court records and taken depositions innumerable. The written evidence, statements and depositions comprise hundreds of papers. Some startling revelations are promised, and the issue of the case is looked forward to with great interest by Baptists generally throughout the south.

INDIANA DEMOCRATS.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 11.—A largely attended conference of Indiana Democrats was held here today in response to a call issued recently by the Hendricks club of this city. From 1,500 to 1,600 men were present, and all sections of the state were represented. The conference assembled in Masonic hall and was called to order by A. W. Conduit, president of the Hendricks club. Committees on resolutions, permanent organization and club organization were appointed. The committee on permanent organization reported the name of Governor Gray for permanent chairman and the choice was approved. The governor was received with great applause, and in response said: "I am gratified, as every Democrat must be, to witness the increasing enthusiasm of the Democracy at a time when there is no political excitement. The Democratic armor was never in better order, and after the next convention I think it will be found that the Republican party is a thing of the past. This is no time for speech-making, and I simply add here that whatever there is of me, all of me, will be devoted to making Democracy triumphant in the coming election."

The resolutions indorse the administration of President Cleveland, welcome his recent messages and recommend Governor Gray to the Democracy of the nation as a candidate for the vice-presidency nomination.

WISCONSIN'S OLDEST CITIZEN.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Jan. 11.—A dispatch from Manchester, Green Lake county, this state, announces the death of Michael Kroeger, the oldest person in Wisconsin. The announcement attracts local interest from the fact that Mr. Kroeger has four sons residing in Milwaukee, and to whom it was daily expected he would make a visit. He was to have arrived here Wednesday last, but in consequence of some trifling circumstance was detained, and word came that he would arrive Saturday. That day he was taken ill from a severe cold, which has resulted fatally. Mr. Kroeger was nearly 114 years old, having been born at Posen in 1774. He came to America thirty years ago and soon after moved to Milwaukee, where he remained until a few years ago. He removed to Manchester to reside with his son John, a farmer. His four remaining sons, who reside in Milwaukee, are Gottlieb, Martin, Michael and Stephen, all of whom have children and grandchildren, making a small army of the old man's descendants. One of his granddaughters, who visited him last summer, says that he was then hale and hearty, and was in the habit of driving the cattle to and from pasture, besides doing work in his garden. He was a short, heavily built man, of great strength, temperate in his habits, and did not use tobacco in any form.

REAL ESTATE SCHEME.

EL PASO, Tex., Jan. 11.—A movement is on foot in western Texas and southern New Mexico to secure federal aid, if possible, in building a monster irrigating canal from 200 to 250 miles long for the purpose of reclaiming vast tracks of land, which are now arid wastes. It is proposed to start the canal at a point on the Rio Grande about the Jarnado del Murto in New Mexico and carry it along the highlands of the Rio Grande valley as far below El Paso as it is found practicable.

The federal government will be asked for a subsidy in the form of a grant of land on the ground that such an outlet would bring on the market a large tract of government lands that are now worthless. A conference of citizens of El Paso and delegates from southern New Mexico was held here yesterday and it is probable that one or more representatives will be sent to Washington soon to further the plan.

SATISFACTORY CONSULTATION.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Jan. 11.—The committee representatives of the merchants of Pottsville, Shenandoah and other towns in the Schulkill valley mining regions appointed to consult with Mr. Austin Corbin, with the object of bringing about a settlement of the differences between the management of the Philadelphia & Reading company and its employes, was received by Mr. Corbin at the company's office on Fourth street at 11 o'clock this morning. The conference lasted about three-quarters of an hour. A member of the committee said their conference with Mr. Corbin was entirely satisfactory to them and that they would leave the city for their respective homes this afternoon.

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

Mr. Hale, in the Senate, Discloses the True State of Affairs Existing at the Present Time.

A Comparison of Administrations Since Lincoln to Date—Figures Showing the Removals Among Public Officials.

"I Promised to Divorce the Offices of the Country From Being Used for Party Services."

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Among the bills introduced and referred in the senate were tne following:

By Mr. Henderson—To provide for a minimum invalid pension of $8 a month.

By Mr. Hoar—A resolution regulating the report of congress on the report of the Pacific railway commission. Adopted.

The resolution offered by Mr. Hale on the 12th of December for a select committee examine fully into the present condition of the civil service was taken up and Mr. Hale addressed the senate in explanation and advocacy of it. He declared that his object in offering it was to secure an investigation with a sincere purpose of bringing before congress the present actual condition of the civil service of the country and also the performances of certain high and low officials of the government.

At the commencement of Mr. Lincoln's administration the public offices were filled with the adherents of that party which was the exponent of the doctrine that to the victors belong the spoils. Under that administration the chief test of fitness was loyalty. Not a few of those then appointed had within the last three years been earned on the cold charities of the world to make place for men who never had any sympathy for the principles of which Mr. Lincoln had stood as the great representative. General Grant and President Hayes had during their administrations recognized the growing sentiment of the unity in favor of civil service reform, and had endeavored to conform appointments to the reasonable demand of that agitation. The Forty-seventh congress (Republican) had enacted the civil service statute and President Arthur had, with sincere good faith, appointed the civil service commissioners and gave support and encouragement to them. But he was content to do it in a quiet way. If he (Hale) were to make any contrast between President Arthur's course on that subject and the course which had since been pursued, it would be simply to call attention to the fact that President Arthur made no proclamation, no promises, no pledges, but contented himself with carrying out the law according to its purpose and spirit. Both the great parties in 1884 declared themselves in their platforms, in favor of civil service reform, but as the campaign progressed it was seen that a considerable body of men who had before that affiliated with the Republican party had determined to oppose its candidate, and it soon became clear that not only was that body of men bent on opposing the Republican candidate, but was looking about for reasons to support his opponent, Governor Cleveland. The candidate of the Democratic party had not failed to observe this, and he accordingly professed adherence to civil service principles in his letter of acceptance. Mr. Cleveland's declarations in that respect had their effect. In the close states, they had influence enough on the voters to be decisive of the result, and Mr. Cleveland was elected president.

Mr. Hale quoted from an interview with Mr. Cleveland, published in Boston in 1885, in which Mr. Cleveland is represented as saying: "I have tried to be true to my own pledges and the pledges of my party. We both promised to divorce the offices of the country from being used for party services." There they had, as clearly as words could give them, the pledges of the civil service reformers. The administration had been elected, as Mr. Geo. W. Curtis and others had frequently asserted, on the strength of such pledges. He (Hale) had never believed in the sincerity of the pledges, because if the Democratic party believed in any one thing more than another it was in the doctrine that "to the victors belong the spoils." He had before him a table showing the sweeping changes in all departments of the government up to the 11th of June, 1887. That table shows that out of 2,379 presidential postmasters there has been 2,000 changes; out of 52,609 fourth-class postmasters there had been 40,000 changes; out of thirty-three foreign ministers, thirty-two changes; out of twenty-one secretaries of legation, sixteen changes; out of 111 collectors of customs, 100 changes; thirty-two surveyors of customs were all changed; not one of the six naval officers remained; of the thirty-six appraisers but two remained; of thirteen superintendents of mints and assays offices there had been eleven changes; the nine assistant appraisers were all gone; of the eighty-five collectors of internal revenue eighty-four had gone; of the eleven inspectors of steam vessels eight were gone; of eighty-nine district attorneys (a semi judicial office) sixty-five were changed; of territorial judges (judicial offices) twenty-two were changed; of territorial governors all were gone; of eighteen pension agents two remained; every one of the sixteen surveyor generals were gone; of 224 local land officers 190 were gone; of ten Indian inspectors and special agents but one remained; of fifty-nine Indian agents but eight remained, and of eighty-three special agents of the general land office but four.

At this time (June 18th, 1887,) the Democratic administration had been but little over two years in power. The best comment that he (Hale) could make on the term referred to was to quote the editorial headings of a leading Democratic newspaper when it exultantly published that list. These headings were: "The civil service, practical exclusion of Republicans from employment under the national government; only a small class of public servants protected by the dependant acts; the changes effected with as little derangement of business as possible; spoilsmen not satisfied."

Mr. Hale hoped to have in a few days a further table showing how this conquering march of the Democratic party in pursuit of office had continued down to the beginning of this year. This showing was amazing; he had not realized it himself until he had looked into the figures. The country had not realized it. The country did not appreciate that under the banner of reform with its watchword written on every fold of the administration banner, this ruthless proscription and these removals and changes in office had been going on at a rate unexampled in any other administration in American history. It could not be said that most of those changes took place because of the expiration of the terms of the incumbents, because scrutiny disclosed the fact that nineteen-twentieths of all the changes which had occurred were places where there was no fixed time of office, but where the incumbents were removed at the pleasure of the president. Secretary Lamar had recently taken occasion to commend John C. Calhoun for his position against the spoils system, and had felicitated himself on the fact that he belonged to an administration which carried out