NAVIGATION.

THE RIVER AND HARBOR BILL IN THE HOUSE.

Some of Its Features—Senator Riddleberger on the War-Path Again—Tariff.

[From Our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, December 12.—The river and harbor bill was reported to the House to-day, and the North Carolina and Virginia items are with one or two exceptions precisely in accordance with the figures sent the other day to the Dispatch, and it is useless to give them all in this column as they are to be found elsewhere in the regular report of the Associated Press. It will be noticed that the James river below Richmond gets $125,000. With the amount appropriated in the last bill the James has been treated quite fairly. This success is due to the earnest and persistent efforts of Hon. George D. Wise, who is a member of the Committee of Rivers and Harbors in this Congress. The York river, it will be observed, gets only $15,000. This is an important stream, and when the bill comes before the House Mr. Wise will endeavor to have the York river item increased to $20,000. Norfolk harbor gets $300,000, or about half of the amount recommended by the engineers. The rule in framing the bill was to give each project about one third of the engineer estimates, but the existing works at Norfolk demand adequate provision in order to provide against destruction or damage to this plant.

WILL HE VETO?

The average member of Congress seems to think that it is almost useless to pass a river and harbor bill this session, as there is a feeling that the President will not give his approval to the measure. Last year he positively refused to sign the bill, and the measure of August 11, 1888, was approved only because the bill of the previous year had been pocketed. Mr. Cleveland appears to think that about $10,000,000 a year is ample enough to improve the harbors and rivers. Complaint is made that he looks at the matter through New York spectacles. The papers of New York city, forgetting that the harbor at the metropolis has had millions of dollars and has been put in good shape, don't want any other section of the country to have money enough to aid navigation. Improvements of permanent value cannot be made as long as appropriations are dealt out in such meagre sums and made only every other year. Congressmen whose constituents are directly interested in the bill will do their utmost to induce the President to approve this measure.

RIDDLEBERGER.

Mr. Riddleberger, of Virginia, made his appearance in the Senate chamber to-day for the first time this session. His voice was very husky, and he doesn't seem to be in good physical condition. Quite a number of the Republican senators shook hands with him. Shortly after 2 o'clock this afternoon, while Mr. Morgan, of Alabama, was making a highly interesting speech regarding the amendment to the tariff bill relating to the duties on cotton-ties, Mr. Riddleberger interrupted him in order to inquire what had become of the British extradition treaty, which, he said, it was generally understood would come up this month. Mr. Edmunds and Mr. Sherman were in the chamber when the Virginia Senator got up and they frowned terribly. The eccentric Senator from the Valley is simply a terror to Messrs. Sherman and Edmunds, and they are very sorry, no doubt, that he did not remain in Virginia or somewhere else. Mr. Riddleberger gave notice that he would every morning from now until the close of the session move during the morning hour to take up this matter in open session. He has been on the war-path ever since this treaty has been pending, and has made so much trouble for the Star-Chamber senators on the Republican side that they have very little regard for him politically or personally, and will doubtless feel relieved when Mr. Barbour comes into the Senate in Riddleberger's place, even though Mr. Barbour is a Democrat.

THE ANTI-MAHONEITES.

The meeting of the anti-Mahone Republicans at Richmond has attracted a great deal of attention at the Capitol, and those who are not fully acquainted have been making inquiries to-day concerning the men who attended the meeting, &c. They have been assured by those who are posted that the Richmond gathering included a much more respectable crowd than Mahone could possibly muster, and that to give Mahone a cabinet or any other position would be the worst thing that Harrison could do. Still, Mahone has some friends here who are saying that the Richmond meeting was composed of kickers who have no influence with the rank and file of the party, and that their protest ought not to be noticed.

The Dispatch correspondent had a conversation this afternoon with Senator Riddleberger about the Richmond meeting. He said that he had been so busy that he had not had time to read the details of the gathering, but, of course, had heard it discussed by many people around the Capitol during the day. "I believe I would rather express my views to-morrow," said the Senator when asked to state them. But, as the old saying is that "to-morrow never comes," the Senator was reminded that he had better express his opinion at least tomorrow. He then said: "Well, you can state that I am a member of the United States Senate the 4th of March, if I live, and while I am holding that position I shall endeavor to represent the people of Virginia to the best of my ability. Meanwhile, I do not propose to have anything to do with the factional fights among the Republicans in Virginia."

"Then you decline to be mixed up in the matter either one way or the other?"

"I don't say that I will not be some time mixed up with the matter. I expect to take a hand in local politics after my term of senator expires and then my friends will find out what position I shall take. I am a Republican because I believe that the protective policy of that party is better for the people of Virginia than the Democratic policy. That is why I am a Republican."

WILL FOLLOW HIS

As the Senator arose to return to the chamber he said: "I am going to follow up the British extradition-treaty matter in the Senate every day until the 4th of March. You may say that I propose to make it warm for some Republicans. I have got a cow-catcher on at both ends, and somebody is going to be pushed off the track, no matter which way I may come! There have been pledges made in this matter, and I intend that the Republican party shall keep them.

The House Republicans are feeling very uncomfortable over the bare majority of one, possibly, that they will have in the next House. They cannot have over three majority, even should they secure a member in West Virginia. Some of the Republicans say now, that they doubt exceedingly whether they can adopt any rule that will enable them to turn out a single Democrat whose seat is contested. The Democrats are talking the matter over among themselves, and they are making plans already to prevent the adoption of any rule that will enable the Republicans to revolutionize matters so as to give the Republicans a working majority regardless of the right and justice of the thing. There is a feeling among the Democrats that they must stand together, and in so doing the slender majority the Republicans are to have will do them very little good.

TARIFF.

There was a rattling tariff debate in the Senate to-day on the amendment of Mr. Jones, of Arkansas, placing on the free list all hoop-iron and wire used for tying cotton and baling hay. Mr. Morgan, of Alabama, made a telling speech, in which he scored the Republicans unmercifully, and said that the cotton-planters and hay-producers were not asking for protection, but simply for relief. He alluded to the tariff on tin-plate also, and said that although there were no tin-plate factories in the United States the Republicans insisted on collecting more than $6,000,000 annually on this article. It was the same way with cotton-ties. Mr. Morgan accused the Republicans of keeping on the tax, and thus oppressing even the negroes in the South who are engaged in cotton planting.

The amendment of Senator Jones to place cotton-ties on the free list was voted down by a strict party vote; and also an amendment offered by Mr. Coke, of Texas, to make the duty on cotton-ties 35 per cent. ad valorem.

DIRECT-TAX BILL.

The vote on the passage of the direct-tax bill in the House this afternoon was: Yeas, 178; nays, 66. Messrs. Bowden, Browne, GatES, Hopkins, Lee, John R. Brown, Bowen, and O'Ferrall, of the Virginia delegation, voted for the bill; Mr. Wise voted against, and Mr. Yost was paired in favor of the measure, but had he not been paired would have voted in the affirmative.

The North Carolina delegation voted as follows: For the bill—Messrs. Brower, Henderson, Latham, McClammy, Nichols, Rowland, and Simmons; against the bill—Messrs. Cowles and Johnston.

The vote to-day, including all the pairs, shows that the friends of the measure number four less than two thirds, and this is a fact to be noted, inasmuch as it is generally thought the bill will be vetoed.

One of the prominent members of the Ways and Means Committee told the Dispatch correspondent after the House had adjourned that he felt absolutely safe in saying the bill could not become a law during the present Administration. This seems to be the feeling also among some Democrats who supported the measure.

17TH. CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, December 12, 1888.

Senate.

There was but little morning business, so the tariff bill was quickly taken up, the question being on the amendment offered by Mr. Jones, of Arkansas, to admit "hoop- or band-iron" (cotton-ties, &c.) free of duty instead of taxing it two tenths of one per cent. per pound additional.

Mr. Berry said that the proposed tax illustrated the absolute injustice of the whole protective idea running through the Senate substitute. The article in question was not manufactured in the United States. If the tax were removed that fact would not injure any business interest in the United States. It was a mere proposition to force the farmers of the country to pay ¼ per cent. duty on the value of the article.

Mr. Hiscock, a member of the Finance Committee, avowed his own understanding that the substitute was a political measure. The division between the parties upon the tariff was a political division. The Republican Senators on the Finance Committee had prepared a substitute from a Republican standpoint, illustrating by it the principles of their party.

The tariff discussion was temporarily interrupted, and the motion of the Hale House bill making an appropriation for a contingent fund of the House was passed.

The presiding officer at 2 o'clock presented, as a special order for that hour, the Union Pacific funding bill; but, as Mr. Allison insisted on proceeding with the tariff bill and said he would do so until it was concluded, the funding bill went over, retaining all its rights as a special order.

Mr. Riddleberger gave notice that he would move, every morning, to take up his resolution for consideration in open session of the British extradition treaty.

Mr. Morgan characterized the proposition to tax cotton-ties as a very heartless and cruel thing. It was the duty of the Senate to try and lift the burdens off the southern people instead of raising (as the substitute proposes) the duty on cotton ties 100 per cent. He spoke of the increase of the cotton product of the South from 3,000,000 bales in 1860 to over 7,000,000 bales in 1888, and said that the increase was the product of the labor of white men, white women, and white children. The black women no longer worked in the cotton-fields as they did before the war, and the black boys no longer work at that or any other industry. In fact, the bedouins in the streets of Alexandria, in Egypt, were a more promising race of people to-day than were the young negroes of the South, and that was not the fault of the white people of the South. Referring to the suggestion that the cotton-ties industry might be successfully prosecuted in Alabama, he said that there was no doubt, but that he found two classes of people in his State—one class prospering and the other class continually going down; one earning money by tariffs or independently of tariffs, and the other losing money by the drainage of tariffs; and that it was his duty as a legislator to relieve those in distress, to try to build up the industries that need help, before trying to make men rich who now got rich in spite of the competition from Pennsylvania or England. That was the situation of the iron industry in Alabama. It did not need tariff legislation. He besought the Senate, in behalf of the great cotton industry, not to impose higher burdens upon it than now existed, but to reduce such burdens. But here was a bill, he said, that raised the duty on cotton ties 100 per cent.

Mr. Call argued that the tax on cotton-ties came within the constitutional inhibition of levying the tax on exports.

Finally the amendment was voted on and was rejected by a strict party vote—yeas, 18; nays, 25.

Mr. Coke moved an amendment reducing the duty on cotton-ties to 35 per cent. *ad valorem*. The clause in the substitute reads, "provided that the hoop- or band-iron or hoop- or band-steel cut to lengths or wholly or partially manufactured into the hoops or ties for baling purposes, barrel-hoops of iron or steel, and hoop- or band-iron or hoop- or band-steel shall pay two tenths of 1 cent per pound less duty than that imposed on hoop- or band-iron or steel from which they are made"; and Mr. Coke's amendment is to strike out all after the word "shall," and to insert the words "be admitted on the payment of 35 per cent. ad valorem." He made an argument in support of it. He declared that the substitute went out of its way to create the most glaring inequality against the cotton-planters by raising the existing tax of 35 per cent. to a tax of 135 per cent. Without action on Mr. Coke's amendment the Senate at 5 o'clock adjourned, after agreeing to the request by Mr. Platt that if the paragraphs on cutlery and firearms should be reached before Monday they should be passed over informally, as he would be absent from the Senate until then.

House of Representatives.

The river and harbor appropriation bill was reported to the House of Representatives this morning by Chairman Blanchard. Some changes were made in the bill, and, as finally agreed upon, it appropriates $11,906,850. The following are some of the principal items of appropriation: Norfolk and its approaches, $500,000; Charleston, including Sullivan's Island, $300,000; Winyaw bay, S. C., $100,000; Cumberland sound, Ga., $90,000; Mobile, Ala., $170,000; James river, Va., $125,000; Great Kanawha river, $150,000; mouth of St. John's river, Fla., $100,000; Black Warrior river, Ala., from Tuscaloosa to Daniel's creek, $100,000; Tennessee river, below Chattanooga, $250,000.

On motion of Mr. Hatch, of Missouri, the Senate amendments to the Department of Agriculture bill were non-concurred in and a conference ordered.

On motion of Mr. Sayers, of Texas, a joint resolution was passed appropriating $12,000 to meet the deficiency in the contingent fund of the House.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole (Mr. Springer, of Illinois, in the chair) on the direct-tax bill.

Mr. Walker, of Missouri, offered an amendment providing for the refunding of the tax on the basis of the present population of the States. Rejected.

Mr. Johnston, of North Carolina, offered an amendment appropriating $70,000,000 in eight annual payments for the support of the common schools.

Mr. Crain, of Texas, raised a point of order, which was sustained by the Chair, and the amendment was ruled out.

Mr. Johnston also offered an amendment for a refund of the surplus in the Treasury to the States which paid the same under the internal-revenue laws. Ruled out.

Mr. Elliott, of South Carolina, offered an amendment making it the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to pay to such person as shall apply therefor and furnish satisfactory evidence that such applicant was at the time of the sales hereinafter mentioned the legal owner or is heir at law or devisee of the legal owner of such lands as were sold in the parishes of St. Helena and St. Luke's, in South Carolina, under the acts of Congress, the value of said lands in the manner following: To the owners of lots in the town of Beaufort the value assessed for taxation by the United States direct-tax commissioners for South Carolina; to the owners of the lands which were rated for taxation by the State of South Carolina as being usually cultivated, or capable of cultivation, $10 per acre for each acre returned on the proper tax-book; to the owners of all other lands $1 per acre. In all cases where persons, while serving in the army or navy or marine corps, purchased any of the said lands, and such lands afterwards reverted to the United States, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to pay to such persons as shall in each case apply therefor, or to their heirs at law, devisees, or grantees in good faith and for valuable consideration whatever sum was so paid to the United States in such case.

In order to carry out the provisions of the amendment $850,000 is appropriated.

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Oates, of Alabama, offered an amendment providing for the refunding of the cotton-tax.

Mr. Allen, of Mississippi, moved to amend the amendment by proposing that the money so refunded shall be turned into the common-school fund. In the course of some humorous remarks upon the various propositions for taking money out of the Treasury, Mr. Allen said that if those who served the Union during the war kept on paying themselves back for what they had done the first thing they knew the country would not owe them anything.

After an amendment offered by Mr. Allen had been voted down, the amendment offered by Mr. Oates for a refund of the cotton-tax was rejected by a rising vote of 64 ayes to 129 nays, the Republicans voting solidly against it and being reinforced by the votes of a number of Democrats.

Mr. Oates then offered an amendment allowing any person from whom the cotton-tax was collected to bring suit in the Court of Claims and the Supreme Court to test the constitutionality of the act under which it was collected. In support of his amendment Mr. Oates said that many of the southern people were of the opinion that this cotton-tax had been taken from them by robbery—by an unconstitutional law. They would cheerfully acquiesce in any decision the Court might make.

On a point of order by Mr. Caswell, of Wisconsin, that the amendment was not germane to the bill it was ruled out of order.

An amendment offered by Mr. Oates providing that in settling the accounts of any State with the United States the State shall be credited with any amount which may be due by it to the United States under the act of 1836 to regulate the deposits of public money was also rejected.

These amendments all came up in the course of a long discussion, in which a dozen or more members participated. The vote was then taken upon the amendment proposed by the Judiciary Committee striking out the provision in the Senate bill declaring that no part of the money appropriated by the bill should be paid to any attorney or agent under any contract for services now existing or heretofore made between the representative of any State and any attorney or agent. The amendment was disagreed to.

Mr. Wheeler, of Alabama, offered an amendment providing the money refunded shall be applied to the payment of pensions to the three-months' men who enlisted prior to the draft.

Mr. Allen, of Michigan, opposed the amendment. The State, he said, did not propose to pay pensions. The war had been for the preservation of the Union, and the United States Government would always assume the responsibilities. He would tell the gentlemen on the other side why the North had been solid at the last election. The prime reason was because she was afraid of such leaders as his friends from Alabama (Messrs. Oates and Wheeler). Let the new South send men here who were not battle-scarred in favor of the rebellion. Let such men come here and represent the new South, and there would be no solid North. But as long as the gentlemen on the other side, when pensions were asked, talked of levying an income-tax or something of that kind, just so long the North would distrust them and just so long she would vote them down.

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. Phelan, of Tennessee, offered an amendment authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to refund with 5 per cent. interest the amounts of money paid by the purchasers of land sold for collection of direct taxes, where the tax for which the land was sold had been paid in part or in full prior to the sale. The amendment was rejected, and the committee rose and reported the bill to the House. It was passed—yeas, 178; nays, 96.

The House then at 4:40 adjourned.

The following is the detailed vote on the direct-tax bill:

YEAS.—Messrs. Adams, Allen of Michigan, Anderson of Kansas, Arnold, Atkinson, Baker of New York, Baker of Illinois, Barwig, Belden, Bigs, Bingham, Boothman, Bound, Boutelle, Bowden, Bowen, Brewer, Brower, T. H. B. Browne of Virginia, Browne of Indiana, Brown of Ohio, John R. Brown of Virginia, Buchanan, Bunnell, Burrows, Butler, Butterworth, Felix Campbell of New York, Campbell of Ohio, Timothy J. Campbell of New York, Candler, Cadwell, Chase, Clark, Cogswell, Compton, Cooper, Conrad, Crouse, Culbeson, Dalzell, Darlington, Davenport, Davis, Delano, Dibble, Dinsley, Dorsey, Dunham, Elliott, Farquhar, Felton, Finley, Fitch, Flood, Ford, Funston, Gaines, Gallinger, Gear, Geer, Gibson, Gifford, Grosvenor, Grout, Gurney, Harmer, Haughen, Heard, Hemphill, Henderson of Iowa, Henderson of North Carolina, Henderson of Illinois, Herdman, Hiestand, Hires, Hitt, Holman, Holmes, Hopkins of Illinois, Hopkins of Virginia, Hopkins of New York, Houk, Howey, Hunt, Hunter, Jackson, Johnston of Indiana, Kean, Kelley, Kennedy, Kerr, Ketcham, LaFollette, Laidlaw, Latham, Lee, Lehlbach, Lind, Lodge, Long, Lyman, MacDonald, Mahoney, Manson, Mason, Matson, McClammy, McComas, McCullough, McKenna, McKinley, MacNamee, John M. Moffit, Morrill, Morse, Morton, Nelson, Nichols, Nutting, O'Donnell, O'Ferrall, O'Neall of Indiana, O'Neill of Pennsylvania, Osborne, Outhwaite, Patton, Payson, Perkins, Perry, Peters, Phelps, Plumb, Post, Pugsley, Rockwell, Romeis, Rowell, Rowland, Russell of Connecticut, Rusk, Ryan, Sawyer, Scull, Seney, Sessions, Shaw, Sherman, Simmons, Skinner, Snyder, Sowden, Spooner, Steele, Stephenson, Stewart of Vermont, Struble, Symes, Ezra B. Taylor, Joseph D. Taylor, Thomas of Illinois, Thomas of Wisconsin, Thompson of Ohio, Thompson of California, Tillman, Townshend, Turner of Kansas, Van Horne, Wade, Warner, Weber, West, White of New York, Whiting of Massachusetts, Wyckham, Wilber, Wilkinson, Williams, Yardley, and Yoder—158.

NAYS.—Messrs. Abbott, Allen of Mississippi, Anderson of Mississippi, Bacon, Bankhead, Barnes, Barry, Blanchard, Bland, Blount, Breckinridge of Arkansas, Breckinridge of Kentucky, Bryce, Bynum, Carlisle, Carter, Chambers, Carleton, Caruth, Catchings, Chipman, Clarke, Clements, Cobb, Collins, Cowles, Cox, Crain, Crisp, Cummings, Davidson of Florida, Hockery, Dunn, Enloe, Foran, French, Glass, Grimes, Hatch, Hayes, Herbert, Hooker, Howard, Hopkins, Johnston of North Carolina, Jones, Kilgore, Lagan, Landes, Lane, Lanham, Lawler, Mabb, Martin, McAdoo, McCreary, McKinney, McMillan, McRea, McShane, Mills, Montgomery, Morse, Neal, Norwood, Oates, Peel, Pendleton, Phelan, Randall, Richardson, Robertson, Rogers, Russell of Massachusetts, Sayers, Shively, Smith, Spinola, Springer, Stewart of Georgia, Stone of Kentucky, Stockdale, Stone of Kentucky, Tarsney, Tracy, Turner of Georgia, Vance, Walker, Washington, Weaver, Wheeler, Whiting of Michigan, Wilson of Minnesota, Wilson of West Virginia, Wise, and Speaker Carlisle—95.

The bill makes it the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to credit to each State and Territory and the District of Columbia a sum equal to all collections by set-off or otherwise made from said States and Territories and the District of Columbia, or from any of the citizens or inhabitants thereof, or other persons under the act of Congress approved August 5, 1861, and remit all moneys still due the United States on a quota of direct tax. It appropriates such sums as may be necessary to reimburse each State, Territory, and the District of Columbia for all money found due to them, and the Treasurer of the United States is directed to pay the same to the Governors of the States and Territories and to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, provided that where the sums, or any part thereof, credited to any state, Territory, or the District of Columbia have been collected by the United States from the citizens or inhabitants thereof, or any other person, either directly or by the sale of property, such sums shall be held in trust by such state, Territory, or the District of Columbia for the benefit of those persons or inhabitants or their legal representatives; and provided further, that no part of the money collected from the individuals and to be held in trust shall be retained by the United States as a set-off against any indebtedness alleged to exist against a State, Territory, or the District of Columbia, in which such tax was collected; and provided further, that no part of the money hereby appropriated shall be paid out by the Governor of any State or Territory, or any other person, to any attorney or agent under any contract for services now existing or heretofore made between the representative of any State or Territory and any attorney or agent. All claims under the trust shall be filed with the Governor of such State or Territory and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, respectively, within six years next after the passage of this act, and all claims not so filed shall be forever barred, and the money attributable thereto shall belong to such State, Territory, or the District of Columbia, respectively, as the case may be.

The bill also contains a provision relative to the Beaufort lands embodied in Mr. Elliott's amendment.

Cutting Railroad Rates.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

CHICAGO, December 12.—The Western and Northwestern passenger rates are not to be restored immediately. A meeting was held at Chairman Abbott's office to-day to consider a proposition to advance the rates within ten days, giving immediate notice to that effect, but there were one or two dissenters, and without unanimous agreement no action could be taken. The matter was therefore left to the consideration of the managers' meeting, which has been called for December 18th. Meantime the roads running out of St. Paul to Chicago and southwestern points are openly cutting rates—another cut being announced to-day.

Soldiers Drowned.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

WATERTOWN, N. Y., December 12.—Sergeant Darlington and Privates Fred Pettitt and Benjamin Wilson, all of Company A, Eleventh infantry, now located at Madison barracks, Sacketts Harbor, were drowned in Lake Ontario off Catfish Point, near the harbor yesterday afternoon. Provost-Sergeant Setwright was the only other person in the party, and he was saved after seeing his comrades sink one by one into a watery grave. The soldiers were net-fishing and the boat was capsized in an attempt to raise the net.

Sentenced to Prison for Cruelty to Animals.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

TAYLORSVILLE, ILL., December 12.—Charles W. Henderson, veterinary surgeon, was sentenced yesterday to twenty-eight years in the penitentiary for torturing about forty or more horses with sulphuric acid and croton-oil during the progress of a political meeting held here November 3d. Henderson made a confession in court. There was much excitement when the sentence was pronounced. Henderson was hurried off to Chester yesterday afternoon.

Railroad Officers Elected.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

NEW YORK, December 12.—The directors of the East Tennessee railroad to-day elected Samuel Thomas president and Calvin S. Brice vice-president. No other business was transacted.

Aches and pains all yield to the pain-killing qualities of Salvation Oil. Price 25 cents.

WILL URGE IT.

THAT IS, A RAILWAY COMMISSION FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

Governor Scales's Views—New Men for the Senatorship—Pardoned—Forces Joined—General Notes.

[Special telegram to the Dispatch.]

RALEIGH, N. C., December 12.—Governor Scales in his message to the Legislature will strongly urge that body to create a railway commission and clothe it with ample power. He has reached the conclusion, after mature deliberation, that a railway commission is necessary in North Carolina.

Two new men are mentioned in connection with the senatorship. These are A. S. Merrimon and William R. Cox. The contest for the senatorship grows livelier every day, and is one of the leading topics of talk here now.

The negroes who have been at work in the turpentine industry in Georgia are returning to this State in great numbers. This business is almost entirely in the hands of North Carolinians, who take their laborers from this State.

The residence of Charles Fromman at Shelby was burned yesterday. Loss, $2,000; insurance, $1,500.

The members of the Philadelphia syndicate who propose to invest money in the Lynchburg and Durham railway were at Durham to-day on a prospecting tour. It is claimed that this road will be built at an early day.

Governor Scales to-day pardoned Alfred Ledbetter, of Richmond county, who was serving out a nine months' sentence for larceny. The pardon was granted because the physicians certified that if Ledbetter was not released at once he would die.

Rev. T. A. Guthrie, of the North Carolina Conference, has been dangerously ill at Newberne. A telegram to-night says he is out of danger.

The people of Goldsboro' have joined forces with those of Newberne in an attempt to secure a railway connection between the Atlantic and North Carolina railway and Cape Fear and Yadkin-Valley railway. Very earnest work is being done in this matter all along the line of the first-named road and plans for the extension of that road west of Goldsboro' will be presented to the Legislature directly upon its meeting.

The directors of the colored insane asylum at Goldsboro' meet to-morrow. There are now over one hundred patients in this asylum, which has recently been enlarged to meet the demands for more accommodations. There is no doubt that insanity is largely on the increase among the negroes in North Carolina.

Work on the Durham and Northern railway is progressing rapidly. Only nine miles of track remain to be laid. This road will connect Durham and Henderson.

The buildings at Fort Johnson, at Southport, were sold yesterday by the Government.

Howard Anderson, a negro, who is soon to be hanged at Goldsboro' for the murder of William Porter, is making attempts to get his sentence commuted to life-imprisonment, but the chances of his escaping the gallows appear to be very slim.

Favorable weather is having the effect of greatly increasing the tobacco business. Breaks at all the markets are reported to be large, and there is a spirited demand at high figures. The business here is better than at any time this season.

The Farmers' Alliance has taken no special action in regard to the reduction of the tobacco acreage, though something may yet be done in that direction before February.

CHARLOTTE BUDGET.

A Lively Negro Row—Railroad Matters.

[Special telegram to the Dispatch.]

CHARLOTTE, N. C., December 12.—A row occurred at a negro festival in this county last night, at which pistols, muskets, and rocks were brought into active service. The room was darkened and a terrible time followed. Several were wounded, but no one killed. A negro woman was the cause of the trouble. Several arrests have been made.

Last night at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce a stock company was organized for the establishment of a 100-barrel patent-roller flouring-mill for this city. The capital stock is $75,000. A delegation of Charlotte citizens composed of Mayor F. R. McDowell, Colonel W. Johnson, and J. H. Weddington returned from a trip to Charleston, S. C., to-day, where they had been by order of the Chamber of Commerce to invite the cooperation of that city in the proposed new railroad from here to Lancaster, S. C. The gentlemen report that the proposition appears to meet the approval of Charleston, and expect hearty cooperation on their part.

It seems that the Interstate Exposition proposed to be held here next November and part of December is an assured fact. It is proposed to unite the two Carolinas and have something equal to the recent great success of your Richmond Exposition.

CRUSHED ON A TRESTLE.

The Horrible Death of Two Young Ladies.

[Special telegram to the Dispatch.]

ASHEVILLE, N. C., December 12.—Two ladies, Miss Fattie Lewis, a school-teacher, and a pupil, Miss Lizzie Byrum, were instantly killed and terribly mutilated by the west-bound passenger train on the Western North Carolina road yesterday evening at Alexanders, twelve miles from here. They were out walking on the track in the midst of a trestle. The train blew as it came around a curve one hundred yards away, and one of the ladies fell on the trestle and was caught between the timbers. The other in trying to extricate her lost her foothold, and the flying train crushed them to instant death. Miss Lewis was from Littleton and Miss Byrum from Glenalpen, this State.

The River and Harbor Bill.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, December 12.—The river and harbor appropriation bill was reported to the House of Representatives this morning by Chairman Blanchard. Some changes are made in the bill and as finally agreed upon it appropriates $11,906,850. The following are some of the principal items of appropriation: Norfolk and approaches, $50,000; Charleston, including Sullivan's island, $300,000; Winyaw bay, S. C., $100,000; Cumberland sound, Ga., $90,000; Mobile, Ala., $170,000; James river, Va., $125,000; Great Kanawha river, $150,000; Mouth of St. John's river, Fla., $100,000; Black Warrior river, Ala., from Tuscaloosa to Daniel's creek, $100,000; Tennessee river below Chattanooga, $250,000; Cumberland river above Nashville, $130,000.

The following are the appropriations below $50,000 by States:

Virginia: Appomattox river, $6,000; Rappahannock river, $10,000; Staunton river, $5,000; York river, $15,000; Chincoteague bay to Delaware bay, $15,000; Nansemond river, $5,000.

North Carolina: Beaufort, $15,000; waterway between Beaufort and New river, $10,000; between Newberne and Beaufort, $10,000; Cape Fear river above Wilmington, $20,000; Currituck sound, Coinjock bay, and North river bar, $6,000; Neuse river, $10,000; Roanoke river, $15,000.

South Carolina: Georgetown harbor, $6,000; Great Pedee, $8,000; Santee, $15,000; Waccamaw, $7,000; Wappoo cut, $10,000; Wateree, $5,000.

Georgia: Brunswick, $20,000; Savannah, $20,000; Altamaha river, $6,000; Chattahoochee river, $12,000; Coosa, $35,000; Flint, $12,000; Ocmulgee, $7,500; Oconee, $7,500; Savannah, between Augusta and Savannah, $12,000.

Florida: Apalachicola bay, $12,000; Cedar Keys, $5,000; Pensacola, $10,000; Tampa bay, $12,500; Choctawhatchee river, $5,000; Escambia and Conecuh rivers, $5,000; Suwanee river, $6,000.

Alabama: Alabama river, $13,500; Warrior and Tombigbee river below Tuscaloosa, $6,000.

Mississippi: Biloxi bay, $10,000; Pascagoula river, $16,500; Pearl river below Jackson, $10,000; Yazoo river, $17,000.

Tennessee: Cumberland river below Nashville, $5,000; French Broad river, $5,000; Tennessee river above Chattanooga, $10,000.

The report presented by Mr. Blanchard to accompany the river and harbor bill says that the estimates of the engineer officers upon which the bill was based aggregate $36,012,250, and that the appropriations made are in each case for a continuation of the projects already begun. The report says: "The purpose for which appropriations of the character embraced in the bill are made is entirely proper and a legitimate one. Taking into consideration the number and extent of our water-ways and the enormous value of commerce dependent upon them, an annual allotment of even twenty millions a year would be comparatively a moderate sum for a country of the continental dimensions and limitless resources of the United States to expend upon their improvement. The objection to the river and harbor bills urged by a portion of the public press of the country, your committee conceive to be based largely upon the editorial provincialism—that is, carelessness and a want of knowledge of the needs and conditions of other localities than their own. So far as the people themselves are concerned, your committee is satisfied that there is no bill before Congress that embodies more popular interest and urgency and gives more general satisfaction than the bill for the care and improvement of our harbors and water-ways. While it may be true that now and then an objectionable appropriation creeps into such bills, upon the whole the actual proportion of the objectionable items is really very small. The value given the improvement has no direct relation to its magnitude or cost. The opening of a comparatively small stream or channel entrance may be of as great importance to the community interested in and to be affected by it as a vastly greater one to some other. With the opening of water navigation freights are reduced and railroads are forced to be reasonable in their charges; trade improves, production increases, and the community thrives. All because a few thousand dollars were expended in dredging away a bar at the mouth of a stream or removing obstructions which rendered its navigation dangerous or costly. The people of such a neighborhood can never be convinced that the money was unwisely or unrighteously appropriated, nor will they object to similar expenditures elsewhere. So also of cases where a stream furnishes the sole means of transportation to a region otherwise inaccessible. It is not necessary in order to establish the right of Congress to make an appropriation that commerce to be benefited should be actually existent. It is sufficient if its development can be reasonably anticipated from known and recorded facts, otherwise some of the most valuable waterways would await development forever. Glasgow would be a fishing village had not the Clyde been dredged.

The foreign commerce of the Mississippi Valley depends upon the opening of the mouth of the river and keeping it open. Nor does a custom-house rating establish the character of an improvement. Domestic commerce outweighs many times the foreign trade and does not need to pay custom dues to prove its value or national character.

TWO PLAY-HOUSES AFIRE.

A Panic in the Oswego Theatre—Chicago Opera-House Burned.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

OSWEGO, N. Y., December 12.—During Mrs. Langtry's performance here to-night, "As in a Looking-Glass," in the Academy of Music, the curtain was about to a-cend on the last act when there was a cry of fire from the rear of the hall, and thick clouds of smoke poured up through the large register in the middle aisle. The cracking of flames was heard underneath the floor, and the large audience arose panic-stricken for exit. Cool-headed men sprang upon the stage and called out to the people that there was no danger. Others mounted their chairs in every part of the house and called upon the people to remain cool. This succeeded in partially quelling the people, and in two minutes the theatre was cleared, just as the flames sprang up through the floor. By this time the fire department was at hand and streams of water were pouring into the building. The fire was soon extinguished. It caught from an over-heated furnace directly under the centre aisle and near the main entrance. But for its timely discovery it would have shut off the people from escaping by the main door, and there would have been a terrible scene, as the house was packed. There are two rear exits. Mrs. Langtry escaped through the crowd and took refuge in a near-by saloon until her carriage found her. The theatre was black with smoke before all the people got out.

AN OPERA-HOUSE AFIRE.

CHICAGO, December 12—11:30 *P. M.*—The auditorium of the Chicago Opera-House was set on fire by a calcium-light explosion just after the conclusion of the performance tonight, and is now burning fiercely. There seems to be but little hope of saving the building. No one was injured.

VERDICT IN HAWES MURDER CASE.

R. H. Hawes and Two Other Accomplices to the Terrible Deeds.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., December 12.—The jury in the Hawes murder case concluded their investigation to-day, and a verdict was rendered that both the woman and the girl May Hawes came to their death at the hands of R. R. Hawes, and that Fannie Bryant and Albert Patterson were accomplices.

Two more warrants charging Sheriff Smith with murder were sworn out to-day, and he is again a prisoner in jail.

The verdict of the coroner's jury in the Hawes case was anticipated and caused no excitement, as the military are still on guard. The disposition in regard to Hawes is to let the law take its course. The principal indignation is directed against Sheriff Smith, and it is probable that warrants will be sworn out for murder against him for every victim of Saturday night's shooting. In the coroner's investigation of the riot, which will commence to-morrow, all are invited to testify, and in this tribunal the people say they will be heard.

Striking Miners.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

ST. LOUIS, December 12.—The Republic has a special from Bevier, Mo., to the effect that the striking miners are becoming ugly and further trouble is anticipated. One of the leaders of the strikers named Atkinson asserted that they are building a stockade to defy the militia. There are only fifty-five troops on the ground and the threats of the strikers create considerable uneasiness. Up to this hour—1:45 P. M.—no collision has occurred between the militia and the strikers.

Bulletins to be Discontinued.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., December 12.—About 200 refugees came in the northern and western trains to-day and many more are expected on Saturday. At a meeting of the Board of Health to-day the following was adopted:

Resolved, That inasmuch as there has not been a case of yellow-fever reported for the past seven days within the corporate limits of Jacksonville daily bulletins will be discontinued from this date.

Methodist Episcopal Church Conference.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

MOBILE, December 12.—The Alabama Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, met to-day in St. Francis church—Bishop R. K. Hargave presiding. One hundred and seventeen clerical and twenty-eight lay delegates were present. The Board of Missions report larger collections than in any previous year. The examination as to the character of candidates for the ministry were begun. The convention will be in session six days.

Regular Immigrant Rates Restored.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

NEW YORK, December 12.—Commissioner Pierson notified the Interstate Commerce Commission to-day that the trunk lines would restore the regular immigrant rates to the West on December 23d. This will make the Chicago rate $13 in place of $5, and the St. Paul rate $22 in place of $10. Lackawanna and Ontario and Western have followed suit.

Eight People Burned to Death.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

ST. LOUIS, December 12.—A Republic special from Mt. Pleasant to-day says: News was received here from Cookville last night that the dwelling of John R. King was burned at 2 o'clock this morning and King, his wife, and six children were burned. It is believed the family were murdered and the house fired to conceal the crime.

Warned by White Caps.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

ROCKFORD, ILL., December 12.—Rev. Meade Holmes, an alderman, has been warned by letter that unless he resigns he will be made a victim of the White Caps. The stand for temperance taken by the venerable Alderman has aroused the hatred of the liquormen, and he thinks they have resolved on violent measures.

Reported Sinking of a Ship.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

NEW YORK, December 12.—The second officer of the steamer Claribel, of the Atlas line, which arrived in port to-day reports having heard that the German steamer Clementine had been fired into and sunk by the Haytien man-of-war La Truase. The Claribel did not stop at Hayti.

The President-Elect and the Vice-President-Elect.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

INDIANAPOLIS, December 12.—Vice-President-Elect Morton and wife reached Indianapolis at 6 o'clock this evening and were driven at once to the residence of General Harrison. There was no demonstration.

Will Strike.

[By telegraph to the