THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

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A CONFLAGRATION.

WORST FIRE PHILADELPHIA HAS HAD IN A GENERATION.

WANAMAKER'S AT ONE TIME AFLAME.

It Is Saved, However, by Dint of Great Exertion—A Whole Block Burned Over—Loss, $1,500,000—Terrible Weather.

PHILADELPHIA, January 26.—A fire which started at 6:45 o'clock this morning from an overheated oven in the basement of the six-story iron building 1309 to 1317 Market street burned over the block bounded by Thirteenth street and Juniper street and Market and Filbert streets, destroyed or gutted sixty buildings, and consumed property valued at a million and a half dollars. Many small storekeepers lost their all, and several thousand working people were thrown out of employment. The damaged buildings were generally fully insured.

The fire was the worst that has been experienced in Philadelphia in a generation. The scene of the destruction was located in the very heart of the city. Many of the properties destroyed, especially on Thirteenth, Juniper, and Silver streets, the last-named a small thoroughfare running between Market and Filbert streets, were small, old-fashioned dwelling-houses, and, aside from the loss to their tenants, their destruction will probably be to the ultimate good of the city, if newer and more modern buildings are erected on their sites. Surrounding this section, though, are many wholesale stores, and on the south side of Market street, directly opposite where the fire raged the most fiercely, is located the famous general store of ex-Postmaster-General John Wanamaker. Though on fire time and again, and while the frontage on Market street was badly damaged, the store was saved from destruction.

To the west of the fire, but separated from it by the great width of the street and pavement at that point, is the great pile of white marble buildings used as the City Hall. Beyond the cracking of some of the plate-glass windows by the intense heat, the hall escaped unscathed.

DEATH FROM EXCITEMENT.

While there were a number of minor casualties among the firemen, no one was very seriously hurt, but one death is chargeable to the fire. John A. Felt, a book-keeper in the employ of a business firm in the vicinity, dropped dead from heart-disease, produced by the excitement attending the fire.

The building at Nos. 1309 to 1317 Market street was occupied on the upper floors by the umbrella manufactory of Hirsch Brothers. They also occupied the lower floor of No. 1309 as a salesroom. Dennett's eating-cafe occupied two other rooms on the ground floor, and the western room of the building, No. 1317 Market street, was occupied by Hanscom Brothers, grocers. The Hanscom Brothers used the basement of their store as a bakery, and in this basement two bakers were at work this morning. Their furnace was overheated, a little spark flew out, a blaze followed, and almost in an instant the two workmen were stretched half-conscious on the floor by overpowering smoke. The smoke curled its way up through the floor, and a porter, at work sweeping out the room, dashed into the street, calling fire. A policeman at the corner rang in an alarm, and then went back to the building to investigate the fire. Some one thought of the two bakers, and two young men employed in the establishment bravely descended through the smoke and dragged the half-suffocated men out.

The first engine was on the scene three minutes after the alarm was struck, but the fire was already bursting through the floors. It was a fearful morning to fight a fire. The thermometer was near zero, and the first line of hose, as it was unreeled, burst, and covered everything surrounding with water, that turned to ice the moment it struck.

EVERY ENGINE ON HAND.

The flames gained on the firemen, and alarm after alarm was rung in, until every engine in the city was hurrying to the scene. Thousands of workers on the way to their places of business were attracted by the fire, and the streets in the vicinity speedily became impassable, by reason of the curious and surging throng. The police forced the crowd back by mighty efforts, and got their fire-ropes up, and the firemen were able to work to better advantage. The trolley-cars were brought to a standstill, and the deadly wires by which they are run began to snap in the vicinity of the fire and hang down into the street, threatening death to all who came in contact with them. The current, however, was soon turned off, and this danger was averted.

The flames, in the mean while, had eaten their way up through the Hirsch building, and broke through the roof. Hirsch Brothers employed about 500 hands, mostly girls, but as few of them had arrived at work when the fire broke out, those that were there easily made their way to the street before the flames reached the uppr stories.

A strong wind from the west fanned the fire and carried burning brands of destruction to the roofs of the surrounding houses. The firemen worked under the most discouraging conditions, the hosemen and laddermen taking their lives in their hands, as they crawled cautiously up the ice-covered rungs of their ladders, dragging after them their lines of hose, which were incased in a solid covering of ice. The streets around the fire were coated with ice, and neither men nor horses could maintain their footing, except by the exercise of the greatest caution. The fronts of the surrounding buildings upon which the water had been played presented a beautiful spectacle, as they flashed back from their icy walls the rays of the morning sun.

FIREMEN BENUMBED.

The firemen's rubber coats stiffened around them, and frequently some benumbed man was borne away by his comrades and hurried to a hospital by the waiting ambulances. A peculiarity of the fire as it grew larger was the great quantity of smoke. This further handicapped the firemen. This smoke at times would descend to the street in an almost solid cloud, and the firemen were driven back, gasping for breath.

It was seen that the Hirsch building was doomed, and the firemen turned their attention to saving the adjoining properties. At first this, too, seemed to be a hopeless task. Building after building along Market street crumbled beneath the touch of the fiery tongues of flame enwrapping them, and when the rear wall of the Hirsch building fell into Silver street, the fire leaped across and entered the seven-story, double-iron building fronting on Filbert street, occupied by Dunlap & Clark, printers; the Collins Carriage Manufacturing Company, and numerous other firms. The entire block at this time was honeycombed by fire.

The firemen feared that the great Wanamaker establishment would go, and they had watched it like hawks. Mr. Wanamaker himself had arrived early, and, dismissing the greater number of his 3,000 employees, marshalled under his own direction the fire force of the store. These men were on the low roof of the Market-street front, and they speedily quenched the burning brands that fell there.

Then the Market-street front of the Hirsch building fell into the street. A torrent of fire welled out, and flowed across the wide street, and broke against Wanamaker's.

WANAMAKER'S CATCHES.

The building shrivelled and blistered beneath the fierce deluge, and a tongue of flame shot up from the high clock tower at the corner of Thirteenth and Market streets. The jets from the hose could not reach the flames in the tower, and the entire building seemed threatened with destruction. The tower crumbled and fell, and this proved the salvation of the building, for the firemen were then able to fight the heart of the fire, and soon had it under control, although the entire Market-street front of the store was deluged with water, and the whole building was filled with smoke. Under the direction of Chief Baxter, of the Fire Department, Mayor Warwick and Director-of-Public-Safety Ritter, the firemen did magnificent work, and by noon they succeeded in obtaining the upper hand of the fire.

Though the fronts of the buildings on the east side of Thirteenth street were scorched, the fire was confined to the block in which it started. Hirsch Brothers' building was completely destroyed, and all the other buildings on the Market-street front, with the exception of the grocery-store of Showell & Fryer, at Juniper and Market streets, went down to destruction. The small stores along Thirteenth street to Silver street shared the same fate, but the rest of the block escaped entire destruction. It was gutted and ravaged by the flames, but the losses at that point will not be total.

While the firemen were struggling with the fire two alarms came in from other sections of the city, and it was necessary to withdraw several engine companies, and send them whence these alarms came.

Fortunately, these fires were small, and the companies were able to return to the scene of the greatest destruction. As many of the losers by fire were tenants, it was impossible to get all the losses, but the greatest losers, with the amount of their insurance, were as follows:

THE LOSSES.

Hirsch & Brothers, umbrellas; Hanscom Brothers, grocers, and A. W. Dennett, restaurant, 1309 to 1317 Market street; building a total loss. Loss on building and contents, $300,000. The loss to the three tenants and on the building is fully covered by insurance. The building was owned by the estate of the late Henry C. Gibson.

No. 1319 Market street, owned by Henry C. Lea and occupied by Blum Brothers, cloak manufacturers; loss on building and contents, $250,000; fully covered by insurance.

The Dunlap building, 1306 to 1310 Filbert street, owned by John Wanamaker; loss on building, $50,000; insurance, $35,000. The building was occupied by numerous tenants, the principal losses among whom are the Dunlap Printing Company, whose loss is covered by an insurance of $68,000; the Wilbur Printing Company, loss covered by an insurance of $10,000; the Collins Carriage Company, loss $10,000; fully covered by insurance.

John Wanamaker's stores, Thirteenth and Market streets, $100,000 loss, mostly by water, covered by private insurance.

The Joseph Harrison, Jr., estate owns Nos. 1301, 1303, 1305, 1307, and 1325 Market street, the rear of 1327 and 1329 Market street, the rear of Nos. 25 and 27 north Jupiter street, and Nos. 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 north Thirteenth street. Most of these were small buildings, and were badly gutted, but the loss is pretty completely covered by insurance. These buildings were occupied mostly by tenants in small lines of business, and most of them carried lines of insurance nearly sufficient to cover their losses.

The losses were distributed among so many that only an approximate idea of the total loss could be gathered, but the greater part is covered by insurance.

The total loss will probably not exceed $1,000,000.

FIRE IN DOBSON CARPET-STORE.

Loss, Probably $75,000, Covered by Insurance.

PHILADELPHIA, January 26.—Early this morning flames were seen issuing from the windows on the sixth floor of the carpet store of John and James Dobson, Nos. 800 to 811 Chestnut street. The fire was confined to this floor—the upholstery department—but the floors below were damaged by water. A member of the firm said the loss would probably reach $75,000, and is covered by insurance. The origin of the fire is not known.

FOUR PERSONS BURNED TO DEATH.

Farmer's Terrible Loss—Wife, Children, Sister, and Home Gone.

BELLEVILLE, MICH., January 26.—The farm-house of A. E. Vandewater, located three miles south of this place, was burned early this morning, and four persons were burned to death. They were Mrs. Vandewater and her two children—a boy aged 8 and a girl aged 14 years—and Miss Anna Vandewater, a sister of Vandewater's.

Mr. Vandewater was away from home, and it was not until daylight this morning that it was known that the house had been burned.

The remains of the victims have been recovered, but in a horribly charred condition. It is not known how the fire started, but it is thought that it resulted from an overheated stove.

ARKANSAS HOTEL BURNED.

Egg-Buyer for Chicago House Loses His Life.

FORT SMITH, ARK., January 26.—The new Windsor Hotel was burned this morning, and I. H. Pray, egg-buyer for a Chicago commission-house, was burned to death. Many of the other guests had narrow escapes in their night-clothes, and all lost their baggage. The fire was caused by a defective flue. In addition to the hotel, Shoptaw's barber-shop, Miller's jewelry store, and Moore's second-hand store were burned. Loss, $25,000; insurance, partial.

Fire at Roanoke.

ROANOKE, VA., January 26.—The Norfolk and Western railway station narrowly escaped destruction by fire tonight at 11 o'clock. The fire was discovered over the restaurant in the offices occupied by Car-Inspectors Meadows and Carr. The entire department was called to the scene, and after a hard fight the flames were subdued. They were caused by a defective flue. The damage is not known, but the insurance is ample.

Dangerous Fire in Toledo.

TOLEDO, O., January 26.—For over two hours this afternoon the business section of the city was threatened with destruction by fire. Flames broke out in the Popp livery, on St. Clair street, between the post-office and the Hotel Jefferson, and were with difficulty confined to that building. Twenty-five horses and numerous vehicles were destroyed, and the building was gutted. Total loss, $50,000, with little insurance.

Fire in New York.

NEW YORK, January 26.—A fire this morning in the six-story buildings Nos. 7 and 29 Pearl street, occupied by Percy Kent, a dealer in burlaps and twines, and Walton & Co., liquor merchants, caused a loss to the occupants and building, aggregating from $40,000 to $50,000. One of the firemen was badly cut on the face by falling glass.

Half a Block Burned in Milwaukee.

MILWAUKEE, WIS., January 26.—Milwaukee was visited by a fire this morning which consumed a half block of small buildings on the corner of Wells and west Water street. It took two fire-tugs and seven fire engines to get the flames under control. The loss will reach about $30,000.

FOR ARBITRATION.

MEETING IN BEHALF OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN TREATY.

VERY DISTINGUISHED GATHERING.

Hon. John W. Foster, Ex-Senator John B. Henderson, Justice Brewer and Others Speak—A Letter from Cardinal Gibbons.

WASHINGTON, January 26.—A very distinguished audience, representative of influential social and religious elements in the national capital, filled the Grand Opera-House at 4 o'clock this afternoon, "to attest its approbation of the great principle of international arbitration, as embodied in the treaty between this republic and Great Britain, now pending in the Senate.

Hon. John W. Foster, ex-Secretary of State, who called the meeting to order, pointedly disclaimed any purpose of criticising or seeking unduly to hasten or influence the action of the Senate. He said he recognized the Senate as a co-ordinate branch of the government. He closed by saying:

"I venture, however, to say, speaking for myself, that the final action of the Senate will not be such as to defeat the treaty, which is desired by the great majority of the people of the United States, and whose defeat would discredit this government in the eyes of the civilized world."

The outcome of the meeting was the unanimous adoption of a resolution declaring that, "Believing this treaty to be a distinct advance towards the best civilization, and trusting that it may prove a helpful example for other nations, we shall hail with joy and patriotic pride its confirmation by the Senate of the United States."

Mr. Gardner G. Hubbard was the presiding officer.

Professor B. L. Whitman, of Columbian University, made some pointed remarks about two diseases prevailing in American social life—one, known as Anglomania, and the other, largely political in its character, known as Anglophobia. He claimed that Anglophobia was as unreasonable as Anglomania was ridiculous.

Ex-Senator John B. Henderson, formerly of Missouri, now of Washington, delivered a vigorous address in support of the general principle of arbitration, in which he incidentally criticised the tone of President Cleveland's Venezuelan message, and asked, if arbitration was good for England and Venezuela, why not good for England and the United States?

Speaking of the objection that the Monroe doctrine might be involved in this treaty, he said: "Let the Monroe doctrine be placed in the crucible of human reason. If we may claim under it, all our demands must be settled either by arbitration or by war."

At considerable length he argued in favor of arbitration as the only rational mode of settlement.

JUSTICE BREWER.

It was reserved for Associate-Justice Brewer, of the United States Supreme Court, to rouse the meeting to its highest point of enthusiasm. A cold wind, blowing through the wings of the unwarmed theatre, caused overcoat collars to be turned up and handkerchiefs to be tied over bald pates, and shivers to pass around, but Justice Brewer's witty and eloquent remarks caused even the inclemency of the weather to be forgotten. Justice Brewer, who was introduced as the "President of the Venezuelan Commission," began by saying that when he received the request of the committee to take part in the proceedings, and was assured that the speeches would be limited to five minutes, he came to the conclusion that all he would have to do would be to stand up and be counted in favor of arbitration, because, according to his experience, no lawyer could say what he had to say under two hours. So he had come to be counted in favor of the arbitration treaty.

"When I say that," continued Justice Brewer, "I do not want to be considered as one who would trespass upon the prerogative of the Senate to make a careful canvass of every line of that treaty. I appreciate fully the words of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Hoar), so recently uttered in protest against pressure for indecent haste. I do not believe in saying to the gentlemen charged with the duty of considering carefully that treaty that 'You must vote for it.' There is something in my own nature which, when anybody says to me 'You must,' causes something to run up my spinal column which says 'I won't.' (Applause and laughter).

"It is the Senate's duty to consider that treaty carefully, and when I say that, I say it is no trespass upon their rights for American citizens to express their views of that treaty. And I am sure there is no one who will more cheerfully accord that right than the senior Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Hoar), whom we all delight to honor.

"In spite of all the intimations I see in the press, I believe that the Senate will not declare itself 'in favor of the law, but against its enforcement.' They will act upon it with the desire to do the best for the interests not alone of this country, but of the world. (Applause).

"I know judges make mistakes," continued Justice Brewer. "Having been on the bench many years, I know it is dangerous to submit grave questions to such a tribunal, and if I could see here one of my brothers, with whom I have been associated for two years (referring to Justice Harlan, one of the Bering Sea arbitrators) I think I could illustrate that at his expense. (Laughter.) But then, what are the errors and losses incidental to arbitration compared to the horrors of war? (Applause.) What are a few million dollars of wrongful damages, in comparison to the sacrifice of thousands of human lives?"

OUR OPPORTUNITY.

Justice Brewer, in his peroration, brought down the house by a brief, but dramatic, poem on "Lost Opportunities," which (to the surprise of many of his hearers), he said had been said to have been written by his fellow-citizen, ex-Senator John J. Ingalls, of Kansas. He declared in ringing tones his opinion that the United States had now an opportunity, which, if once lost, might never be regained.

Governor Stanard, of St. Louis, from the National Board of Trade, presented the resolutions in favor of arbitration adopted by that body.

The following letter from Cardinal Gibbons was read:

"Cardinal's Residence,
"No. 408 north Charles street,
"Baltimore, Md., January 22, 1897.

"Rev. Teunis S. Hamlin:

"Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge your favor of the 21st, in which you invite me to Washington, on the 25th instant, for the purpose of publicly attesting approbation of the great principle of arbitration, embodied in the treaty between the United States and Great Britain. While I am heartily in sympathy with the object of this meeting, and ardently hope that the promise held out to us by this treaty of settling our disputes without those threats and rumors of war, so disturbing to public peace and business, will be fulfilled, I regret that a previous engagement, which I cannot postpone, will prevent me from joining in person the distinguished gentlemen who have issued the call, in approving the principle of arbitration.

"For this course a joint letter has been published, expressing the sentiment of Cardinals Vaughan and Logue and myself. I am sure that not less ardently than I they hope the present efforts in the cause of peace will not be in vain.

"Faithfully yours in Christ,
"JAMES, CARDINAL GIBBONS."

Other letters were read and other speeches made, and the proceedings were closed with the benediction, pronounced by the Rev. Teunis Hamlin.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN CHICAGO.

Ten Persons Injured—Three of Them Will Probably Die.

CHICAGO, January 26.—During a destructive fire to-night in the six-story structure at 196, 198, 200, and 202 Monroe street, occupied exclusively by wholesale firms, ten persons were seriously injured, seven of them being firemen. Three of them will probably die. The injured are:

Jerry O'Rourke, fireman; both legs broken and breast crushed; will die.

William J. Workman, fireman; back injured and hip crushed; may die.

Sherman Quinlan, fireman; internally injured and spine hurt; may die.

Berry Redcroft, fireman; legs seriously crushed by falling wall.

Patrick Patterson, fireman; struck by falling wall; internal injuries and ankle crushed; will recover.

Andrew Geoghan, fireman; fell from fire-escape; left ankle broken.

Fire-Captain Barker; burned about hands, face, and shoulders.

William Watson; struck by a falling shutter; leg broken.

John Watson; struck by shutter and seriously bruised.

—— Ross, 14 years old; burned by a falling blind.

The structure, with its contents, was almost entirely destroyed. The loss is estimated at not less than $380,000. The building, which is the property of W. M. Williams, is damaged to the extent of $150,000. The other losses by the fire are distributed among the following firms: Wurzburger Brothers, wholesale dealers in woollens and underwear; J. H. Foster & Sons, trimmings and woollens; Townsend & Yale, dealers in ladies' jackets; the Continent Shoe Company; the Pickwick Clothing Company; A. M. Stewart & Co., clothing and dry goods; the National Rubber Company; the Eureka Silk Company. The stocks of these various firms were entirely lost. All the losses are fully covered by insurance.

The fire originated on the first floor of the building, which is occupied by the Wurzburger Brothers. A fire-wall divided the building in the centre, but it only afforded a temporary barrier against the flames. The upper two stories of the west wall fell upon the adjoining building, which is but two stories high. From the roof of this structure two fire companies were directing streams of water into the building, and several of the firemen were buried under the debris when the wall fell. They were carried from the roof in an unconscious condition, and removed to hospitals. Some of the spectators also were slightly injured by falling particles, but only three were hurt seriously enough to require the service of ambulances to remove them to their homes.

There were about forty fires in Chicago to-day, but many of them were extinguished with small losses.

ANOTHER BIG CHICAGO FIRE.

CHICAGO, January 26.—A fire which started this morning in the carpenter-shop of L. Furst, at 248 Randolph street, damaged that and the two adjoining buildings to the extent of $60,000. The principal losers are the Martin Belt and Mill-Supply Company and the Magnus's Son Hose and Brewers' Supply Company. The buildings are owned by the Conrad Sipp estate.

WATSON-BLACK CONTEST.

Committee Hastening Slowly—Fraud in the Election.

WASHINGTON, January 26.—It is the purpose of House Elections Committee, No. 1, to make haste slowly, as a member expressed it to-day, in their consideration of the contest brought by Mr. Thomas E. Watson, the late Populist candidate for the vice-presidency, against the seat now held by Mr. Black, from the Tenth Georgia District. For one hour and a half this morning the committee discussed the various features of the case. This discussion, which was purely informal, and which grew out of the evidence submitted by the representatives of both gentlemen, a few weeks ago, developed two important circumstances. First, that in the city of Augusta the election was tainted to a more or less degree by fraud; and secondly, that Mr. Black was not only not a party to these frauds, but that so far as his influence extended, it was exerted in the interest of a fair election. The frankness with which Mr. Black's attorneys agreed that negroes had been bribed to vote for the Democratic candidate formed the basis of much discussion, although it was generally agreed that no little of the evidence is incomplete and immaterial, and some of the Republican members went so far as to assert that it was injected into the case largely by the contestant for the purpose of befogging the committee.

The principal consideration is the extent of the frauds in Richmond county, and their effect upon the election. One member of the committee expressed the opinion that as all the precincts in Richmond county were more or less tainted with fraud, it might be necessary to throw out their vote altogether. The same gentleman, however, frankly admitted that this would be a drastic measure, necessarily disfranchising many properly-qualified and legal voters, and that it should be adopted only as a last resort. It is not expected that this will be done.

In view of the complexities of the case, and with a desire to reach a conclusion that shall be justified wholly by the law and the facts, it was decided to postpone its further consideration until Tuesday of next week, in order that members may have a better opportunity of studying the evidence before a report is agreed to.

CORBETT-FITZ MATCH.

Dan Stuart on the Nevada Action as to Glove Contests.

DALLAS, TEX., January 26.—The news that the Nevada Legislature had passed a bill licensing glove contests reached Dallas to-night. Later, it was announced that the bill had only passed the lower house.

Dan. Stuart said to the correspondent of the Southern Associated Press to-night: "I have nothing to say concerning the work of the Nevada Legislature, or that of any other State in regard to licensing glove contests. I have never announced that Corbett and Fitzsimmons would meet for their match in Nevada. I am pursuing my part of the affair on the same lines I have followed heretofore. I am not prepared to say where the contest will take place. I will announce the place in due time, and not later than the 17th of February."

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

An Inquiry in Parliament on the Subject.

LONDON, January 26.—In the House of Commons to-day a motion was introduced by Sir William Wedderburn, Radical member for Banffshire, that the Home Government make an inquiry independent of that of the Indian Government into the condition of the masses in India, with a view to ascertaining why the people are helpless to resist the famine and pestilence with which they are now afflicted.

Lord George Hamilton, Secretary of State for India, defended the action already taken in the direction indicated, and opposed any independent investigation, which he declared was wholly unnecessary, adding that famines in India were much rarer now than they were years ago.

The motion of Sir William Wedderburn was rejected by a vote of 217 to 70.

NO LONGER THE HEAD

COL. PURCELL TO RETIRE FROM PRESIDENCY OF THE LEAGUE.

MR. E. A. CATLIN TO SUCCEED HIM.

The Annual Meeting of the General Organization to Be Held Monday Night—Plans for the Future—The Walke-Davis Controversy.

Colonel John B. Purcell, who has been president of the Democratic League for Good Government since its organization, little over a year ago, will retire from that position next Monday night, when the annual meeting of the body will be held and officers for the ensuing year will be elected. While Colonel Purcell has been urged to remain at the head of the league, he has felt that there was a better field of usefulness for him upon the Executive Committee, and has consented to work there.

The committee appointed at the recent meeting of the general body to nominate officers to the meeting to be held Monday night has about completed its work. Although it has not been officially given out in any way, it is understood that the committee have agreed upon Mr. E. A. Catlin to succeed Colonel Purcell as president of the league. Mr. Catlin has filled the important office of chairman of the Executive Committee of the league since its formation. He was one of the local leaders for Democracy in the last presidential election, and rendered good service in and around Richmond. Mr. Catlin is thoroughly aroused in the work of the league, and is well versed in the city's affairs.

OFFICERS OF THE LEAGUE.

The general business of the organization will be attended to, under the new by-laws, by the Board of Management, to be composed of three members of the Executive Committee of each ward branch of the league. The officers of the organization are a president, first and second vice-presidents, secretary and treasurer, and they are to be elected at the annual meetings of the body, which are to be held on the first Monday in February of each year. The by-laws prescribe that the officers of the league thus chosen shall select and present to the league for its approval and election the three members from the Executive Committee of each ward branch, who shall be members of the Board of Management.

When questions arise making it necessary for the general league to meet, the president can call the body together.

THE AMBULANCE OUTFIT.

Mr. W. W. Walke, the member of the Common Council from Jackson Ward, who, as a member of the Committee on Relief of the Poor, raised the question as to the right of Superintendent Davis to turn over to the two almshouse surgeons the sum of $50, appropriated by that committee for the purchase of an ambulance outfit, has written a public card, explaining this entire matter as he understands it. He says that prior to the December meeting of the committee one of the doctors asked him to vote to give $25 each to the two physicians as a Christmas present, as this had been the custom of the committee. Mr. Walke says he promised to think over this matter. He adds that at the meeting the chairman, Mr. S. H. Cottrell, decided that the committee had no right to do this. Mr. Walke then goes on to say:

"Superintendent Davis, then appearing before the committee, stated that the doctors were in need of overcoats and rubbers to protect them from the severe weather, through which they were forced to go at all times, and upon hearing this, and understanding that the doctors receive only $20 per month for their services (not including fees which they are permitted to collect, which I am advised amount to no little). I understand they pay $5 per month to Superintendent Davis for board. I felt that if they were really in need of this protection from the weather that the committee should appropriate such an amount as would pay for such articles, and I thereupon made the much-talked-of motion, as follows:

"'That the Superintendent be allowed to expend a sum, not exceeding $50, for an "ambulance outfit."'"

The motion was unanimously adopted, and the balance of the transaction has been printed time and again. Superintendent Davis says he simply reimbursed the two doctors for the money they had already spent in their outfits. Mr. Walke at the next meeting of the committee raised the point that the $50 had been misappropriated, but in this he was not sustained. In his letter the Councilman calls attention to the fact that some of the items on the bills rendered for the outfits were purchased last June. He also argues that the appropriation necessarily cut from the fund for the purchase of medicines for the city poor.

Mr. Evan Snead, another member of the Committee on Relief of the Poor, writes a card, in which he states that he is entirely in accord with Mr. Walke's position in this matter, and that he would have voted as he (Walke) did had he been present at the January meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT AND DOCTOR.

Superintendent Davis yesterday said: "As the records of the committee show, it has been a custom to give the surgeons at the almshouse their outfits. There are parts of Mr. Walke's letter untrue, and I would rather take time to consider carefully what to say in answer. I don't propose to mince matters."

Dr. W. H. Lyne, Jr., one of the staff of physicians at the almshouse, speaking of the matter yesterday, said: "I don't think that Mr. Davis has done anything wrong. When the matter was first brought up I wanted to return the money. I came to the almshouse for practice, and not for a money-making venture. I was not sick, and I was not a pauper. I've done my duty, and am not making a cent. It is all foolishness to think of making an outfit for one surgeon do for another. If the committee thinks that anything wrong has been done, they should look to records. I will not return a cent. If they want money back they can take back the outfit and sell it, and then get some one else to wear it."

JEFFERSON-WARD LEAGUE.

The Jefferson-Ward Branch of the Democratic League met at Thon's Hall, corner of Seventeenth and Main streets, Monday night. Mr. Sol. L. Bloomberg was elected temporary chairman of the meeting, and Mr. J. Currie temporary secretary.

Mr. Bloomberg read the by-laws of the league, which were adopted. On motion of Mr. Fergusson, it was decided to name the organization the Jefferson-Ward Branch of the Good Government League. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Executive Committee: Messrs. B. T. Crump, J. S. Moore, E. S. Fergusson, George W. Brown, J. S. Moore, Jr., E. M. Dalton, W. G. Yarbrough, Frank Campodonico.

The meeting then adjourned, and the Executive Committee held a brief session for organization. Mr. E. H. Fergusson was elected chairman, and Mr. John Currie secretary.

U. S. VERSUS PIPE TRUST.

Taking of Testimony in the Case Completed.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., January 26.—The taking of testimony in the case of the United States Government vs. the Iron-Pipe Trust was completed to-day in the United States Circuit Court, and the hearing will be concluded to-morrow. Interest in the outcome of this suit, which was brought under the Sherman anti-trust act of 1890, is very widespread, as the association or alleged trust embraced in its membership the six largest pipe-manufacturing plants west of the Alleghenies, who were allied, it is charged, to maintain prices by a system of bonuses, to be paid pro rata by the firm securing a contract to each of the other members of the pool. The country was divided into "free" and "pay" territory, while to each member was allotted its "reserve" cities, in which said companies were always protected in bidding, by prearrangement as to price with the other companies.

The government's testimony was secured mainly through the agency of James E. McClure, for awhile a private secretary and stenographer in the office of the Chattanooga Foundry and Pipe-Works. Copies of letters, written by members of this firm to others of the combine, were furnished by him to the prosecution.

PROF. HARRIS GROWING WEAKER.

Those of His Children Not with Him Summoned by Telegraph.

A special received by the Dispatch last night from Lynchburg says:

"Professor H. H. Harris, formerly of the Chair of Greek in Richmond College, and now a member of the faculty of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, at Louisville, Ky., continues extremely ill at the home of his son, Mr. H. H. Harris, Jr., in this city.

"Some of his children are already at his bedside, and the rest have been telegraphed for. Telegrams have been sent to his son, Professor W. A. Harris, of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., to his son and daughter who are at Louisville, and to a daughter who is attending Hollins Institute.

"Dr. Harris is losing strength every day, and to-night his condition is considered very critical."

THE WOMAN SUFFRAGISTS.

Their Annual Convention—Business So Far Preliminary.

DES MOINES, IA., January 26.—The national convention of the Woman's Suffrage Association was called to order in the Central Christian church at 10 o'clock. There are delegates present from all over the country, among the most prominent being Susan B. Anthony, who will be re-elected president; Rev. Anna Shaw, Mrs. Carrie Lane Chapman Catt, and Laura Clay. Among the 200 delegates present are the following, representing States:

Massachusetts—Henry B. Blackwell, Lavinia Hatch, Alice Stone-Blackwell.
Nebraska—Clara B. Colby.
Iowa—Adelaide Ballard, Mary J. Coggeshall, and Mrs. Hallam.
Wisconsin—Ellen A. Rose and Jessie M. Luther.
Minnesota—Julia B. Nelson.
New York—Mariana Chapman, Mary Anthony, and Isabel Howland.
Pennsylvania—Rachel Foster Avery, Nicholas M. Shaw, Mrs. Luckie, and Lucy E. Anthony.
Kentucky—Sarah Clay Bennett.
Michigan—Elizabeth A. Willard.
Missouri—Ella Harrison.
Colorado—Mary C. Bradford.
Montana—Dr. Mary Atwater.
California—Mary O. Hay.
Ohio—Harriet Taylor Upton.

The business this morning was preliminary. The delegates are being entertained by prominent families, the national officers at the residence of Mrs. James Callahan.

The Executive Committee met at 9 o'clock, and at the 10 o'clock session the work of the session was outlined.

Miss Anthony delivered her annual address at 2 o'clock.

HOLDING UP NOMINATIONS.

Discussion of the Policy in the Senate

WASHINGTON, January 26.—There was a discussion in the Executive session of the Senate this afternoon on the policy of the Committee on Post-offices and Post-roads in holding up nominations. It was precipitated by Mr. Peffer's urging action on the nomination for the post-office at Clay Centre, Kan., and the antagonism of Mr. Baker. Mr. Hill agreed with Mr. Peffer, and intimated that if there was a quorum present, a motion would be made to discharge the committee from the consideration of certain nominations.

Mr. Chandler defended the committee in a witty speech, and declared that no nomination upon which everybody was agreed had failed to be reported. No action was taken in any of the cases in question.

Mr. Cullom gave notice that he would to-morrow call up the nomination of William S. Forman, of Illinois, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue, upon which a favorable report had been made to the Senate.

TAMMANY'S GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Republican "Reform"—"To Empty the Treasury and Increase Taxes."

NEW YORK, January 26.—Tammany Hall's General Committee for 1897 met to-night and organized, with Augustus W. Peters as permanent chairman; John McGoldrick, secretary; John McQuade, treasurer, and Robert Kelly, sergeant-at-arms. After the organization had been effected resolutions were adopted declaring that—

"Extravagant appropriations, increased debt, and high taxes during the past two years of Republican reform furnish convincing proofs that Republican officials, whether administering the affairs of the National, State, or city government, have but two objects in view—viz.: To empty the Treasury, and increase the tax-burdens."

"GUESSED SHE WAS DRUNK."

Sentenced to Imprisonment for Poisoning Her Husband.

BALTIMORE, MD., January 26.—Mrs. Mary Trainor was convicted in the Criminal Court to-day, and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment by Judge Wickes, for the murder of her husband, James E. Trainor. A verdict of manslaughter was rendered by the jury after a few minutes' deliberation.

On July 22d last, the woman placed a quantity of Rough on Rats in her husband's tea. He died on October 2d. "I guess I was drunk," was the only explanation Mrs. Trainor would give.

BRIDGE BLOWN UP BY CUBANS.

Important Railway Traffic Stopped—Movements of Weyler.

HABANA, January 26.—The railway bridge at Tuinicu, province of Santa Clara, has been blown up by the rebels, by means of dynamite bombs. Traffic on the line between Sagua la Grande and Placetas, and on the branch line to Remedios, has been stopped by the destruction of the bridge.

The last report of the movements of Captain-General Weyler show that, after his arrival at Colon, province of Matanzas, he went by rail to Cuevitas, whence he marched toward Manguito, heading southward.

January Investments.

Special attention of those desiring new investments is called to the Prepaid Stock of the United Banking and Building Company. This stock is sold at $50 per share, the par or maturity value of which is $100. Upon the cost of this stock a cash dividend of 6 per cent. per annum is paid until maturity, when the holder will be entitled to receive $100 per share.

For further information apply at the home office of the company, No. 821 east Main street.

STILL VERY COLD.

UNCOMFORTABLE CONDITIONS AT CHICAGO AGGRAVATED BY WIND.

ONE MAN FROZEN TO DEATH.

Two Men Found With Both Hands Frozen in the Case of Each of Them—Severe Weather at the South.

CHICAGO, January 26.—Bitterly cold weather, aggravated by wind, continued to afflict the poor people of Chicago to-day and made the lot of those more fortunate at least uncomfortable, and attended with danger from frost-bite. At midnight to-night the official record was that of three successive days of a temperature below zero, and in the double figures most of that time, too. The most cheering information that can be given by the weather bureau as to the future is that the tendency to moderation, manifested after noon to-day, will probably continue to-morrow. It will not be so cold, will be about zero, and the cold wave may slowly decrease during the day.

The day began with the mercury showing 14 degrees below zero, falling to 16 by 6 o'clock this morning. At noon the weather had moderated to 9 degrees, and from that time until 4 o'clock the mercury continued rising. It was stationary at 4 degrees for several hours after that hour, but fell slowly late to-night, as usual.

An unknown man was found frozen to death on the outskirts of the village of Tinley Park, near Blue Island, on the Rock Island railroad, this morning. James McCormick and George Werntz, a telegraph operator, were found at an early hour near together on Wells street with both hands frozen.

The cry of suffering for want of heat and food and sufficient clothing has been answered by a generous contribution of money, food, and clothing. The Mayor's special subscription has reached nearly $10,000. It is estimated that 15,000 persons have been given enough food and clothing to keep them from extreme suffering since the Mayor's proclamation was issued.

Mayor Swift said more distress had been found among the poor and absolutely destitute than had been expected, and the demands made for help were becoming so great that it might become necessary for him to appoint special committees to collect additional funds among the businessmen of the city. Every police-station has been made a storehouse for coal, beef, beans, peas, coffee, flour, and meal. The starving poor were brought to the stations and given a liberal allowance, with an invitation to call again when this supply was exhausted.

DISTRESS IN INDIANAPOLIS.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., January 26.—The weather continues bitterly cold here, and at 7 o'clock this morning the mercury stood at 10 degrees below. Because of the weak gas supply, the charity organizations have been flooded with applications for fuel and food, and there is more distress in the city than at any time in the past fifteen years. Several people have been overcome by cold, but no fatal cases have yet been reported.

WEATHER MODERATING.

CLEVELAND, O., January 26.—The cold weather has moderated somewhat.

TEMPERATURE RISING.

MILWAUKEE, WIS., January 26.—The weather is moderating. It is fifteen below. The temperature is rising.

COLDEST NIGHT IN YEARS.

ST. LOUIS, January 25.—Last night was the coldest night in two years. There is no indications of the weather moderating in the next twenty-four hours.

SLEET IN ALABAMA.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., January 26.—With the thermometer at 19 above this morning, the weather cloudy, and the wind blowing stiff from the northwest, indications pointed to an ugly day. The day was not disappointing. At noon the thermometer registered 20, and sleet began falling, and continued unceasingly. The ground is now (8 P. M.) covered to a depth of three inches with sleet, and the outlook is anything but encouraging. The lowest temperature of the day was 17 above. It is still sleeting.

A Bostonian in Richmond.

Mr. St. John, a Bostonian, who was at Murphy's Hotel, seemed rather much surprised at the enterprise of our business-men. He was connected with a very large firm, manufacturing Ladies' Mackintoshes, or Fine Rubber Cloaks, which failed. He had a great quantity of made-up mackintoshes to