

NO BOARD OF FINANCE

THIS MEASURE IS DEFEATED IN THE COMMON COUNCIL.

LONG AND INTERESTING FIGHT.

Representative Business-Men Appear in Advocacy of the Bill-It Is Voted Down-Mr. Wallace Gives the Finance Committee's View.

By a vote of 13 to 10 the Common Council last night refused to pass the bill framed by the City Attorney at the instance of the Committee on Charter Changes, providing for the creation of a board of finance.

The decision was reached after a lengthy and exhaustive debate, and after listening to the arguments of many prominent citizens, representing the progressive institutions of the city.

After this question had been disposed of the Council took up the electrical charters as amended by the Board of Aldermen, and refusing to concur in their action, adopted a resolution asking for a committee of conference.

DETAILS OF THE SESSION. It was 8:20 when the President presided the body to order. There were present Messrs. Caskie, Bloomberg, Briggs, Ebel, Foster, Harrelson, Hobson, King, Garber, Hawkins, Jones, King, Miller, Mosby, Neale, Pollock, Rountree, Ryan, Tanner, Wallerstein, Whalen, Williams, Witte, and Wood.

Mr. Caskie explained that the Council had been called to consider a plan for the creation of a Board of Finance.

Mr. Rountree rose and suggested that the City Attorney should read the proposed amendment to the city charter.

Mr. Meredith prefaced his reading by saying that the proposed board had gone of the features of a commission. The bill merely provided for the creation of a third branch of the Council, and the City Attorney's objection to the bill was based on the fact that it would take away from the Council the right to elect the members of the board.

Mr. Meredith then read the bill in its entirety, and explained its provisions, stating very clearly its objects, scope, and purpose.

Mr. Caskie moved to amend the opening clause by providing for the election of the board representatives by the several wards instead of by the entire city.

Mr. Rountree then stated, on the authority of the City Accountant, that the date of the fiscal year could be changed at any time by the Council.

Mr. Ebel moved to amend section 10, by striking out the words "except that the pay to members of the Fire Department shall not be diminished, except by the Board of Finance."

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A CUBAN VICTORY.

BATTLE FOUGHT AT YACTA FORD, ON THE CAUTO.

SPANISH DEFEAT CRUSHING.

It Is Said to Render Impracticable a Continuation of the Campaign to Relieve Bayamo-Gallant Conduct of an American.

NEW YORK, December 21.—Following is the Cuban version of the battle fought at Yacta Ford, on the Cauto river, on December 14th last. The details were received through the mails by Captain Alfredo Rodriguez, a Cuban insurgent officer, who is invalided in this city. It tells of a crushing defeat inflicted upon the Spanish general, Pando. Captain Rodriguez's correspondent says: "A part of General Calixto Garcia's force, under Lieutenant-Colonel Salvador Rios, was holding the Yacta Ford of the Cauto river. It was important for Pando's force to reopen the river, in order that reinforcements might be sent to the city of Bayamo, besieged by General Roloff. General Calixto Garcia's main force was a little farther up the river, and he had a strong force of men, protecting a ford threatened by General Pando. General Aldave, in command of 2,000 Spanish infantry (regulars), a squadron of cavalry, and 3,000 guerrilla volunteers, with 22 cannon and 6 light gunboats, attacked Rios.

"Stationing his artillery on the hills commanding the Yacta Ford, Alave opened fire on the insurgent works on the opposite side of the Cauto river. Rios and his 500 Cubans retired into the cover of the woods, and the ford was open for the Spaniards' passage.

"General Pando, with a force of infantry across the ford, holding their rifles and ammunition belts above their heads, the men being protected by a continuous artillery fire. Rios, seeing that he could not hold his position without help, sent a messenger to General Calixto Garcia, an American, to General Calixto Garcia, up the river. Hickman had to ride directly through the enemy's lines and made the passage safely.

"Meanwhile, General Aldave landed 1,500 more men on the farther side, and General Pando, with a large force, at this time made a feint upon the upper ford. General Garcia, deceived by Pando's movement, decided that he could spare only a small reinforcement to Colonel Rios, and sent Colonel Carlos Garcia, with only 200 mounted men, down the river.

"When General Calixto Garcia saw that General Pando's feint upon the upper ford, and realized at once how hard-pressed the insurgents at the Yacta must be, he dispatched General Jesus Rabi, with 1,000 cavalry, to their relief. These arrived just as the Spanish were recovering from the mchete charges, and fell suddenly upon their rear, throwing the troops who had crossed the ford into confusion.

"The Spanish had to give ground, and were exposed to the fire from their own artillery on the hills, and from the six gunboats which had joined in the bombardment of Rios's men. General Aldave ordered his troops to retire, and dispatched his attacking party, and dispatched a message to General Pando for assistance in carrying the Cuban position.

"But it was too late. The Cubans, reforming, raised their battle shout of 'Al mchete! Cuba libre,' and fell upon the Spanish ranks with terrible effect. A body of 600 guerrillas were cut off from Aldave's force, and threw down their arms.

"General Rabi, knowing the half-hearted loyalty of these volunteers, told them that they must fight their own comrades, and fought desperately on the Cuban side.

"General Aldave, seeing that his men would be annihilated, withdrew them beyond the ford, again protected by the artillery fire. General Pando, with an escort, rode to the upper ford, and directed the Spanish retreat.

"The Cuban loss in this engagement was 106 killed and about 300 wounded. General Rabi's men found 200 Spanish dead, and General Aldave in his report to Havana gave the following account of the battle: "The Spanish troops carried away many other dead, and minimized the number of wounded, reporting only one fourth.

"Among the Cubans killed was Major Leonardo and Captain Garcia, a son of a rich planter. The Spanish left on the field Lieutenant-Colonel Liave, two captains, and an assistant surgeon, and the standard of arms of the Battalion Lanaroz.

"General Garcia promoted Hickman, the daring courier, to the rank of captain on the field.

"Pando has reported to General Blanco that 100,000 men are needed to break the backbone of the insurgent opposition in the East, and that it is no longer practically to continue the campaign to relieve Bayamo. This city General Garcia expects to capture early in January, being now able to detach troops from his command to send to Roloff's aid."

"Captain Rodriguez has also received news that General Maximo Gomez has crossed the Jahonica river, at Ciego de Avila, and has continued on his march to effect a junction with General Rodriguez.

CIVIL-SERVICE SYSTEM. Cabinet Discusses It Pretty Thoroughly-No Policy Outlined.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 21.—To-day's Cabinet meeting was devoted almost entirely to a discussion of the operation of the civil-service laws. The resolution adopted by the Senate last Friday, calling upon the executive heads of the several departments of the government for information concerning the operation of the civil-service law to their departments, and for an expression of their opinions as to what, if any, modifications ought to be made in it, was the subject directly under discussion. While the system was pretty thoroughly discussed, it can be said upon the authority of the members of the Cabinet that no definite policy was outlined beyond a determination to maintain the principle of the civil service.

SNOW-STORM IN TEXAS. Trains Delayed, Wires Down, and Big Stock Loss Expected.

DALLAS, TEX., December 20.—North Texas suffered the worst snow and sleet-storm of the winter so far in many a year. Dallas was completely isolated on Saturday, and communication with the outside world is only partially restored. The Western Union and Postal Tele-

GRAPH COMPANIES, AS WELL AS THE TELEPHONE COMPANIES, SUFFERED ALMOST ENTIRE PROSTRACTION.

Reports from the cattle-raising districts are slow in coming in, but it is believed the damage will be great. In Bosque county the death-rate in cattle was 40 per cent.

THE BIG WHEAT DEAL.

Both Sides Express Confidence-Suggested Armour-Letter Combine.

CHICAGO, December 21.—"A more incident, I assure you. We are now practically out of the whole matter. We have a little wheat yet to deliver; the necessary bushels are ready for delivery when the proper time appears for the filling of these comparatively small outstanding contracts, and there is an end of the affair, in so far as we are concerned."

Thus, with characteristic terseness, does P. D. Armour define his position in these, the closing days of one of the biggest wheat deals that have marked the history of the Board of Trade.

Joseph Leiter, his youthful opponent, is just as calm and confident in his expressions as is the big provision man. "Mr. Armour sold wheat," he declares, "and I bought of him. That is all. There was no battle. It was a common, old-fashioned elementary business transaction. I shall sell the wheat which I have purchased when the need of the foreign market demands it. I shall sell at a profit, and that's the closing chapter of my part of the story."

These statements, coming from the principals in the December wheat deal, have caused much comment in Board of Trade circles.

Will Joseph Leiter make a profit on the round 4,000,000 bushels of real wheat which he had placed in his hands by the provision man? This is now the question.

The report is going the rounds that the whole affair was productive of results indicating a big Armour-Letter combine. In many minds this rumor was given credence. This manipulation of the local market by Leiter agents, pulling the wires from the Liverpool end, was rectified over and over. This idea, however, is ridiculed by the majority of traders. Some members of the board say that Leiter has secured 5,000,000 bushels of the cereal. Others place the figure as high as 15,000,000, while the more conservative are willing to admit that half the latter amount is nearer the correct estimate.

Mr. Leiter asserts that just as much of this will go abroad as the foreign market calls for, if "they pay him his price."

"Some folks on the board think I can't transport grain eastward by rail, without a loss, do they?" said Mr. Leiter. "Well, possibly they can't, but I'm willing to play out my end of the game along my own lines, and I may differ with these prophets, considerably."

FUNERAL OF ACTOR TERRIS.

Fifty Thousand People Present—Great Popular Sympathy.

LONDON, December 21.—The funeral of William Terris, the actor who was stabbed to death on Thursday last outside the Adelphi Theatre by a super named Prince, took place to-day at Brompton Cemetery. There was an immense crowd of people present.

The floral tributes were numerous, including wreaths from Lord Rosebery, the Rothschilds, Mme. De Navarre (Mary Anderson), Lady Harris, Sir Edward Irving, Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft, Sir Henry Irving, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Kendall, Mr. Langtry, Arthur Boucherie, E. S. Willard, John Hare, George Alexander, and other theatrical notabilities.

Several vans and carriages were required to carry the wreaths, etc., and there was much popular sympathy for the deceased actor, and the remains were conveyed to the cemetery. The funeral procession was composed of over 100 carriages.

At the cemetery about 50,000 people assembled. All the leading theatrical people of London were present. It was the most remarkable demonstration of sympathy in recent years.

REAR-END COLLISION.

Engineer and Fireman Killed—Two Men Seriously Injured.

CHICAGO, December 21.—Two men were killed and two seriously injured this afternoon by a rear-end collision on the Chicago and Eastern Illinois railway at Cayuga, Ill.

The dead are: J. S. HODSON, Chicago, engineer. L. B. HORTON, Chicago, engineer. Injured: J. K. Horton, fireman, legs broken; H. W. Kellogg, air-brake inspector, head badly cut.

Passenger Train No. 7, in charge of Engineer Hodson, ran into an open switch and crashed into the rear end of a freight train which lay on the side track. Hodson saw the danger a moment before the collision. He applied the air-brakes and reversed his engine, but was unable to escape.

Horton was a new engineer, learning the road. Both men were badly crushed. No passengers were injured.

LABOR FEDERATION ADJOURNS.

Thomas I. Kidd, of Chicago, Delegate to Canadian Congress.

NASHVILLE, TENN., December 21.—The American Federation of Labor ended its seventeenth annual session to-day.

Thomas I. Kidd, of Chicago, was elected fraternal delegate to the Canadian Labor Congress.

The convention spent most of the morning in executive session, considering the report of the Grievance Committee.

After the matters contained in the report had been disposed of the convention adjourned.

The Silver Heels Clears.

WILMINGTON, N. C., December 21.—The schooner Silver Heels cleared for Barbadoes at dark to-day. Captain Quinlan was informed to-day that he would be allowed to clear if he would sign a written agreement not to bring action against the government for damages for being detained. This he readily agreed to do, signed the agreement, got his clearance papers, and employed the tug Alexander Jones to tow the schooner to sea.

Georgia's Convict Commissioners.

ATLANTA, GA., December 21.—Governor Atkinson to-day appointed J. S. Turner as the present principal keeper of the penitentiary; Jacob L. Beach, of Brunswick, and General Clement A. Evans, of this city, commissioners to inaugurate the convict system provided for by the recent Legislature. He also signed the measure, which to-day becomes a law.

COTTON-MILL WAGES.

ANSWER OF FALL-RIVER MANUFACTURERS TO EMPLOYEES.

ADVANTAGES OF THE SOUTH.

Lower Cost of Labor, More Water-Power, Lower Taxes, Cheaper Transportation, and Cheaper Cotton Some of These.

FALL RIVER, MASS., December 21.—After an informal discussion, lasting nearly all of the forenoon, a formal meeting of the Manufacturers' Committee was held this afternoon, and the answer to the operatives' proposition was framed. It recites the conditions affecting the industry in Fall River, and the reasons for the proposed reduction of wages. The answer says: "The manufacturers have carefully considered the three propositions submitted to them by the representatives of the various labor organizations. 'As you very well know, the cotton-mills in Fall River find confronting them a condition of things which, to say the least, is startling, and the condition of the cotton-cloth trade is such that the mills in Fall River find it impossible to dispose of their output at such prices as will admit of any return whatever on the capital invested. The competition which Fall River mills have to meet has been brought about in part by the philanthropy which the good people of Massachusetts have ever shown toward those of her citizens who have appeared to need her sympathy.

"The hours of labor in Massachusetts have been shorter more than in neighboring States, and more than her manufacturers can stand. While such laws have apparently relieved the burdens of the operators in the factories, they have really worked to their financial disadvantage, because such laws have induced competition on the part of Massachusetts, where the hours of labor are longer, and where every inducement is offered capitalists to invest.

"The South has modern mills, containing the most improved machinery, and a very low cost of labor. Massachusetts, by the shorter labor hours, and extremely restricted legislation, compared with other and competing States. Mills must run and earn dividends for stockholders, or there is no inducement for them to invest in Massachusetts of Fall River. It must be evident to you, as it is to this committee, that there is no money for stockholders, nor for employees either, when the mills are idle for so long a time.

"The fact is that in Massachusetts, where the hours of labor are longer, and where every inducement is offered capitalists to invest.

"We would against ourselves every time we stop our mills with the co-operation of the rest of the spindle of the country, and in our opinion our competitors would be willing to join with us in curtailing production only when Fall River is able to manufacture cotton cloth at as low a cost as is possible elsewhere in Massachusetts.

"The facts are that while Massachusetts mills work forty-eight hours per week, and other States have sixty-hour laws for labor, the southern mills run from sixty-six to seventy-two hours per week, and in some cases run day and night.

"The cost of labor in the southern mills is very much lower than in New England, and they claim advantages in water-power, taxes, cheap transportation, and cheap cotton, as well as in longer hours of labor. Such advantages, as good as, but no better than, ours, and the fact stares us in the face that they can undersell us in the markets, on account of the lower cost of production.

"But reducing labor hours is not all. Some concert of action should be taken with legislation in this State can be made friendly to its industries, so that capital may be induced to stay here, rather than go outside. When it is considered that mills in Fall River and Massachusetts run fewer hours than in other States, and that it is necessary for us to meet such a close competition in trade under such adverse conditions, it seems to this committee that nothing is to be gained by putting off for two months more the date at which a reduction of wages should go into effect, and inasmuch as the mills of Fall River have run for a long time on such conditions, so very discouraging and unremunerative, during which time we have tried the experiment of curtailing production extensively, the committee of manufacturers feel that the situation is such that they must adhere to their decision that it is absolutely necessary to reduce wages in Fall River mills 11.5, said reduction to go into effect on the 31 day of January, 1898, as voted by the manufacturers at a meeting held on the 8th day of December, 1897."

The sentiment of the employees is said to be in favor of restoring the reduction.

FOLLOW FALL-RIVER EXAMPLE.

Milbury Cotton-Mills, Worcester, Announce a Wage-Cut.

WORCESTER, MASS., December 21.—The Milbury cotton-mills, following the lead of the Fall River mills, have posted a notice of a cut of 10 per cent., to take effect January 31.

This was expected, and the owners say they were forced to make the cut by the condition of business.

FISKDALE MILLS DITTO.

SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS., December 21.—Notices have been posted at the Fiskdale cotton-mills, that on and after January 31, the wage scale will be lowered.

The notices do not state the amount of the reduction, but it is understood that it will be 10 per cent., or about the same as that contemplated by the Fall River and New Hampshire mills.

The Fiskdale mills make print-cloths, and employ 400 persons. It is thought that the cut down will be accepted without controversy.

MOVE ON WEST VIRGINIA.

Ohio Mob Formed to Drive Men Out of Mines.

CHARLESTON, W. VA., December 21.—Governor Atkinson is in receipt of a telegram from General Spillman, of Parkersburg, informing him that a mob is being formed in Putnam Co., to cross the river into West Virginia to drive the men out of the mines of the Consumers' Coal Company at New Haven.

The General wired the Sheriff of Mason county to look into the matter, and the Sheriff wired to the Sheriff of Boone county to-morrow and would prevent trouble.

In the mean time the State militia is ready to move when called upon.

He Threatened to Kill Consul-General Osborne.

LONDON, December 21.—Charles Helmbold, son of the late Dr. Helmbold, of New York city, the well-known patent-medicine proprietor, has been locked up between 10 and 11 o'clock, that he would be arrested and was waiting trial at the Police-Station on the charge of threatening to kill United States Consul-General Osborne. During the last three weeks he had been haunting the United States consulate, shabbily dressed, and demanding money. He told a story of the seizure of his clothes and effects by the British Consul for debt, and declared that Mr. Osborne was responsible for the seizure.

Helmbold became so importunate that last Friday Mr. Osborne ordered him to leave the premises, whereupon he became violently enraged, and shouted "you'll come back and shoot you!" Helmbold returned yesterday and repeated his threat. Mr. Osborne, remembering the "Terroris causa, summoned a police officer and had him arrested.

The physicians think him insane. He has spent much time in London of recent years, living high when his family sent him money, and in the deepest poverty between remittances. It is supposed that the Berlin adventures he describes are imaginary, and it is said that his father became insane before his death.

An attempt was made to keep the affair secret, for the sake of Helmbold's family.

MAY MAKE SERIOUS TROUBLE.

Disagreeable Incidents—Killing by Japanese of American Sailors.

WASHINGTON, December 21.—The Department of State has undertaken an investigation of two very disagreeable incidents, that may contain to themselves the germs of serious trouble in the near future. These are the killing by Japanese of two sailors attached to the United States fleet on the Asiatic station, and the exact conditions under which the killing occurred are not known here yet, and the State Department is trying to learn them through the United States Legation at Tokio and the United States consuls in Japan, preliminary to determining what steps shall be taken to secure reparation, if it shall be found that the killing was an unjustified.

U. S. SHIP FIRED ON.

THE BANCROFT GREETED WITH A CANNON SHOT.

APOLOGY DEMANDED AND GIVEN.

Guilty Parties Also Punished, in Accordance With Our Requirement—Incident Not Regarded as of Great Importance.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 21.—It appears that when the United States steamer Bancroft arrived at Smyrna, on the night of December 4th, she was greeted with a blank cannon-shot and rifle bullets from the Port of Yenikale. A boat from the warship sent shoreward to ask for explanations was fired upon and compelled to return. Thereupon, the American admiral lodged a protest with the United States Minister here, Dr. James B. Angell, who demanded the punishment of the guilty parties, and an apology from the Turkish Government, which was given on Sunday last. In addition, two Turkish officers were dismissed, and sentenced to a week's arrest.

The entry of shipping into Smyrna at night is prohibited, but on this occasion the lamps in outer light-house were still burning, and the Bancroft stopped when the requisite signals were made.

NOT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. WASHINGTON, December 21.—The Navy Department received news of the firing on the Bancroft to-day, from the State Department, which had been informed through Minister Angell, at Constantinople, of the outcome of the incident. The matter was not regarded as of great importance. In fact, several instances have occurred within the memory of naval officers stationed at the department of just such arbitrary efforts to enforce vexatious port regulations, which are common to the great Pacific fortress.

A similar rule is applied at Havana, where the guns of Morro Castle do not hesitate to fire at any vessel passing in or out of the harbor after nightfall, and the Russians established a similar rule (though one more liberal in scope) at Vladivostok, a great Pacific fortress, after the guards had awakened, one foggy morning, to find that a large British squadron was lying under the guns of the forts, having entered unseen in the night.

Christmas Holiday Rates via Norfolk and Western Railway.

Richmond to Norfolk and return \$3.00. Correspondingly low rates to all points on its line to parties desiring to spend their Christmas and New-Year at home. Tickets on sale December 23 to 25th inclusive, and December 30th to January 1st, inclusive, good for return passage until January 4, 1898, inclusive.

Students attending colleges will be enabled to secure these reduced rates December 16th to 25th, inclusive, provided they present a certificate signed by the president or superintendent of the college they are attending.

For full information apply to the Richmond Transfer Company, 503 east Main street; B. G. Carter, Ticket Agent, Byrd Street (6th) Depot, or at company's office, corner Ninth and Main streets.

District Passenger Agent.

Restoration of Rates Between Richmond and Baltimore.

It is announced that on and after December 29, 1897, passenger rates between Richmond and Baltimore via York-River Line, will be as follows:

First Class, Richmond to Baltimore, \$2.00. Second Class, Richmond to Baltimore, \$1.50. Round-trip tickets will be limited to December 29th, 1897, inclusive.

For state-room reservation and other information apply to H. M. BOYKIN, General Agent, 225 east Main street.

Change in Passenger Rates, via Bay Line, James-River Route.

On and after Monday, December 29th, passenger rates via Bay Line, James-River Route, will be as follows: First-class, Richmond to Baltimore, one way, \$2.00. Second-class, Richmond to Baltimore, one way, \$1.50. Round-trip tickets will be limited to December 29th, 1897, inclusive.

For state-room reservation and other information apply to H. M. BOYKIN, General Agent, 225 east Main street.

If the Baby Is Cutting Teeth.

Be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind-colic, and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.

Kaempff's.

At No. 119 north Ninth street, is the place to buy your Christmas Candies. Made fresh every hour.

American Beauty Roses.

Fine Roses, choice Flowers, and Plants for Christmas, now offered at low prices. Shipping orders a specialty.

M. A. WHITTY, 908 east Main and 215 east Broad streets.

Graphophone Talking Machines, \$10.

Regina Music Boxes, Washburn Guitars and Mandolins, Aeolians, and all kinds of Musical Novelties. Open evenings until 9 o'clock.

F. M. WALTER, MOSES & CO., 1055 Main street (opposite post-office).

The Weather.

WASHINGTON, December 21.—Forecast for Wednesday:

For Virginia and North Carolina—Rain; probably clearing away in western portions. Wednesday night; cooler in interior; variable winds, becoming northwesterly.

THE WEATHER IN RICHMOND YESTERDAY was raw and threatening, with light showers.

YOUNG HELMBOLD LOCKED UP.

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