

TRAITORS ABOARD THE COMMODORE

Every Indication That the Vessel Was Scuttled and Sunk.

It Is Now Known That Ten Americans and Six Cubans Perished.

Perils of the Survivors, Who Fought for Many Hours Against a Terrible Sea.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Jan. 3.—All of the crew of the Commodore were not saved, as reported last night. Two are in Jacksonville, three alive and one dead at Daytona. Four are reported to have arrived near Armond, but the report is not confirmed, and eight are at sea on a life-raft.

Captain Murphy; Stephen Crane, the novelist; C. B. Montgomery, the cook, and William Higgins, a stoker, landed at Daytona this morning. Their boat was turned over in the surf, and Higgins received a wound which caused his death soon after getting ashore. The party on the raft are all Cubans. They left the boat before Captain Murphy's party and nothing more has been heard of them. J. H. Barrs requested the Collector of Customs to secure permission for the Three Friends to go to the rescue of the Commodore immediately upon the receipt of the news of the wreck Saturday afternoon. The Collector refused to do so. Secretary Callahan, however, in a reply was received until this afternoon, when permission was granted, and the Three Friends left to-night. The beach is being patrolled from St. Augustine to New Smyrna.

It is reported there was treachery aboard the Commodore, but no details can be learned.

The party landed at Daytona cannot get to this city to-morrow, as there are no Sunday trains on the East Coast Railroad. The party that landed last night and reached here are: Major Ricardo A. Delgado, Paquito Rencomo, Franco Bianco, Miguel Goldsbury, Ramon Hernandez, Gabriel Martinez, Santiago Diaz, Emilio Marquez, Jose Hernandez and Buenaventura Thivoux.

The following was received from Daytona at 11 o'clock to-night:

About 10 o'clock Friday night a suspicious leak was discovered in the forenoon and Captain Murphy immediately started the pumps, which undoubtedly had been tampered with, as they were working under when Captain Murphy and Chief Engineer Reagan left watch at 8 o'clock. The fires were extinguished and the boat came to a standstill about thirteen miles from Mosquito light. Captain Murphy took full charge of the handling of the ship, while the first mate superintended the launching of the boats. The Cubans took possession of the big boat and loaded it with baggage, so that only twelve men left the tug in it. They reached the shore at 4 o'clock Saturday morning.

The second boat was occupied by six Cubans, and the empty boat washed ashore at Port Orange last night. The third boat to leave the craft was filled with Americans, leaving a ten-foot dingy for the use of Captain Murphy, who refused to quit the ship until all were saved. C. B. Montgomery, the steward, Stephen Crane and William Higgins remained with the boat, while Captain Murphy attempted to tow ashore two miles away, but the terrible sea and the northeast gale swept them away.

The dingy occupied by the captain and company was towed ashore with Captain Montgomery and Crane holding Captain Murphy's overcoat as a sail until the beach was sighted. High seas were breaking a half mile from shore. Montgomery, Crane and Murphy were washed to the beach, where they were attended with medical attendance. Higgins was killed at the overturning of the boat, which made ten Americans and six Cubans lost.

There is no doubt that a traitor did the work of scuttling and then tampered with the pumps, as they were working perfectly at 8 o'clock. The suspected man was saved and a thorough investigation will be made to-morrow.

The Laurada Sails for Home. GIBRALTAR, Jan. 3.—The American steamer Laurada, the report of the intention of which to call at Valencia, Spain, caused such a commotion in that city—the Laurada having, it is said, been engaged in filibustering in Cuba—sailed today for the United States without having touched at a Spanish port.

Weyler Returns to Havana. HAVANA, Cuba, Jan. 3.—General Weyler reached Havana to-night on board the warship Lazapipi. He came from Madrid and was cordially greeted and was once driven to the palace. General Weyler would not give his reason for leaving the field in Pinar del Rio.

Diplomatic Conference at Madrid. MADRID, Spain, Jan. 3.—Hon. Hannis Taylor, the American minister, had a long conference to-day with the Duke of Tetuan, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The subject of the conference has not been divulged.

An Operation Imperative. The wife of Ontario's Lieutenant-Governor Sumner died to-day. LONDON, Eng., Jan. 3.—A cable dispatch has been sent to Mrs. Kirkpatrick, wife of the Hon. George A. Kirkpatrick, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, summoning her to London, where her husband is lying seriously in the South-street hospital. Professor Jonathan Hutchins, formerly president of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Dr. A. Allingham, a specialist in the disease from which Mrs. Kirkpatrick is suffering, have held a consultation in the case and decided that in order to save the patient's life an operation is imperative. Dr. Allingham will perform the operation as soon as Mrs. Kirkpatrick arrives.

The Queen Olga's Leaky Condition. LONDON, Eng., Jan. 2.—The British steamer Olga, Captain Harris, from San Francisco November 20 via Yokohama for Bombay, has arrived at Nagasaki in a leaky condition. An examination of the steamer shows that she has received extensive damage. It has been recommended that her cargo be discharged and the vessel placed in the drydock for further examination.

Had to Sacrifice Her Cargo. LONDON, Eng., Jan. 3.—The Ailian line steamer Cartaginien, Captain French, from Philadelphia, which ran aground in the Clyde, was compelled to discharge her cargo in order to get afloat. She sustained considerable damage. She will discharge the cargo on board of her and will then go in dock to repair.

REBELS FOUGHT WITH FIRE.

Sanguinary Conflict in the Philippines in Which Thirteen Hundred Insurgents Are Killed.

MADRID, Spain, Jan. 3.—Queen Regent Christina and the Government have sent messages to General Polieviejo, Captain-General of the Philippine Islands, congratulating him upon his great victory over the insurgents on the heights of Cataron, province of Bulacan.

In the first engagement the loss of the rebels was 600 killed. The troops captured a large quantity of munitions of war and a factory in which the rebels had been making cartridges.

While the Spaniards were pursuing the fleeing rebels it was suspected that the latter, pursuing the method of warfare followed by the Cuban insurgents, would attempt to lead the troops into an ambush in the dense thickets through which the pursuit led. The troops were, therefore, ordered to set fire to the bushes in many places in order to drive out any rebels who might be lurking in them. The flames spread with great rapidity and it was soon learned that the suspicion of an ambush was well founded. A large number of the rebels were in hiding in the bushes, evidently waiting for the troops to pass, when they would have attacked them at the rear. Many of the rebels succeeded in making their escape for the time being, but 200 of them perished in the fire.

In the meantime other Spanish columns had been hurriedly dispatched to outflank the fleeing insurgents, and in this they were successful, losing 500 killed. The total insurgent loss was 1300, 200 in excess of the number given in yesterday's dispatches. These 200 were without doubt those who were burned to death. The Spanish loss was one officer and twenty-three privates killed.

The victory, which it is believed will prove a crushing blow to the insurgents, is hailed everywhere with delight, and the general policy of the government in bringing about results favorable to the Spanish arms is compared with ex-Captain-General Blanco's dilatory tactics, much to the disparagement of the latter.

General Polieviejo has confirmed the sentence of death imposed by a court-martial on eleven rebel chiefs, including three priests. They will be shot to-morrow at Manila.

Court-martial sitting at Manila has commenced the trial of eighteen alleged rebels. The evidence thus far adduced shows that the accused were in correspondence with patrons in Japan who were interested in fomenting and aiding the insurrection. The prosecutor asks that sentence of death be passed on all the eighteen prisoners.

The trial of eighty other men accused of complicity in the insurrection is pending and sentence of death will be asked in the case of each of them.

The dispatches from Manila state that a great sensation has been caused there by the revelations that have been made by conspirators now under arrest. One of the prisoners has stated that he knew that Japan intended to send a squadron of warships to the Philippine Islands and that she would recognize the belligerency of the rebels in all the provinces revolted. This confirms the belief that has been entertained ever since the outbreak of the insurrection that Japan is very anxious to secure possession of the islands and is responsible for much, if not all of the trouble.

Death of a Cardinal. ROME, Italy, Jan. 3.—Cardinal Guglielmo San Felice di Acquaviva, Archbishop of Naples, died to-day. He was liberal and conciliatory and was very popular. He was born at Aversa, April 18, 1828, and was created a cardinal March 24, 1884.

A Gale Delays the Lucania. QUEENSTOWN, Ireland, Jan. 3.—The Cunard steamer Lucania, Captain Mackay, which was expected to depart for this port to-day by a gale and, instead of sailing at about 8 o'clock for New York, as it usually does, did not take its departure until 12:30 P. M.

Lord Veresford's Condition Improving. LONDON, Eng., Jan. 3.—There has been a decided improvement in the condition of Lord William Veresford, who was badly injured Wednesday while following the hounds at Dorking, Surrey.

MONEY ON A SPECIAL TRAIL.

Novel Measures Taken to Prepare for a Run on the First National Bank of Cripple Creek.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., Jan. 3.—The attempt to make a run on the First National Bank of Cripple Creek yesterday was checked by quick action and in a novel way. A rumor had been started Friday that the bank could not stand the withdrawal of a good deal of money, and in consequence the bank would not open the day after the new year.

This report came to President Parker of the bank and on New Year's day he came to this city and arranged to get money to take to Cripple Creek. He made these arrangements with the First National Bank of this city, which has the best of locks so arranged that they could be opened at 7 o'clock in the morning. Cashier Sutton was on hand at that hour and got the money out for them, but how much money was taken he refused to state. In half an hour a special train consisting of an engine and one coach was waiting in the Tejuan station of the Colorado Central Railroad and President Parker and Vice-President Devereaux were taken on board.

They got here at 7:30 o'clock promptly and made the fastest run ever made by getting into Cripple Creek in two hours and three minutes. The run from Divide to Cripple Creek over the Terminal, thirty miles of 3 per cent grade, was made in 54 minutes, and the delivery of the currency occurred in the midst of the run.

The First National Bank of Cripple Creek in its last statement showed over 54 per cent of its deposits on hand, and there was no occasion whatever for any attempt to make a run on the bank.

EDITOR McCULLAGH'S FUNERAL. Special Services, in accordance with the Deceased's Wishes.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 3.—The funeral of the late Joseph B. McCullagh, editor of the Globe-Democrat, took place this afternoon at his late residence in West Pine boulevard. The services were conducted by Rev. John Snyder of the Unitarian church and Rev. Dr. W. W. Boyd of the Second Baptist Church. The services were exceedingly simple in character, in accordance with the well-known wishes of the deceased. Among the visitors in attendance at the funeral was Hon. Henry Watterson of the Louisville Courier-Journal.

The active pall-bearers were co-workers of Mr. McCullagh on the Globe-Democrat, and the honorary pall-bearers were selected from men prominent in nearly every walk of life. The remains were interred in Bellefontaine Cemetery.

WILD WEATHER IN WESTERN STATES

Nebraska, Minnesota, Kansas and Missouri Buried in Snow.

Railroads Blocked and Wires Prostrated in Every Direction.

Binding Blizzards and the Mercury Out of Sight—Great Loss of Cattle Is Feared.

OMAHA, NEBR., Jan. 3.—Nebraska is just now enjoying an old-fashioned blizzard, the most serious one of the winter. New Year's day was springlike and mild, but Friday night the temperature began to fall and the mercury has continued its descent since. Last evening a snowstorm set in, which is general throughout the State, and which is still falling to-night. High winds are drifting the snow, and if they continue through the night may make the situation on the plains alarming.

Omaha seems, so far, to have escaped the worst of the storm, but the trains entering the city during the day were all somewhat late. The street cars are badly crippled and it is necessitating the use of extra forces of employes with snow-plows and sweepers to keep the lines open so that occasional cars may be run.

At 10 o'clock to-night the thermometer at the local weather bureau registered three degrees above zero, but the chances are that the temperature will fall several points below the zero mark before daylight. On the level tracts in the western and central portions of the State, where the wind has full sweep, it is much colder and serious suffering is sure to result.

While the farmers have everything in fair shape for severe weather, the storm will beyond doubt find much of the stock on the ranges and losses will be heavy. From every section of the State come reports of heavy winds driving the snow in blinding clouds before it, so that it is dangerous for any one to venture out. At Meadow Grove the storm began about midnight Saturday night and a blizzard has been raging ever since, with no signs of abatement. Drifts are over ten feet high and traffic is becoming blocked.

LINCOLN, NEBR., Jan. 3.—Lincoln is almost snowbound to-night, a light fall which began early this morning increasing during the day and developing into a regular northwester by night, with the wind blowing a gale. Streetcar traffic on suburban lines was abandoned during the day and at 9 o'clock nearly every line was blocked. Trains on nearly every road entering the city are delayed. Specials from the State indicate that the storm is general and that cattle on the range may suffer.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 3.—The heaviest rainstorm of recent years has prevailed throughout Missouri, Northern Arkansas and Indian Territory during the past thirty-six hours. In many places in Missouri the streams are overflowed and in some places railroads have suffered from washouts. Last night the rain turned to sleet and to-day a furious snowstorm is raging. The temperature has fallen 15 degrees in Missouri and Eastern Kansas in the last twenty-four hours and in the latter section a genuine blizzard is sweeping over the country.

At Bagnell, Mo., the Osage River has risen fifteen feet and Warsaw reports a rise of twenty-two feet and a repetition of fast winter's flood is feared. At Osceola the river is out of its banks and the bottom lands are submerged.

At Fayette the electric light power-house is flooded and the city is in darkness to-night. A number of washouts have occurred on the railroads and traffic is badly delayed. In the vicinity of Sedalia every stream is reported out of its banks and the rainfall continued until this morning, when it turned to sleet and later in the day a heavy snowstorm set in.

At Lamar, Mo., a small cyclone prevailed last night, many trees being uprooted, but no large damage to property has been reported so far.

Webb City reports heavy damage to property by rain and wind. Clinton, Warrensburg and Shelbyville suffered serious damage from the downpour, the rainfall being the greatest since the floods of 1895.

In many places in Western Missouri the mercury has fallen almost to zero, and this drop in the temperature will probably result in checking the flood.

In St. Louis a heavy rain has fallen during the past twenty-four hours, but at 7 o'clock to-night it was checked by a decided fall in the temperature, and at 9 o'clock the mercury had fallen 35 degrees, and was accompanied by a high northerly westerly wind.

The indications are that the first snowfall of the season will begin before morning.

TOPEKA, KANS., Jan. 3.—In Kansas the rain which began Thursday lasted until last evening, when a heavy snowstorm set in, which is still in progress. Traffic on the Larned-Jetmore extension of the Santa Fe road is completely blocked. Travel overland in any direction is almost impossible.

Abilene reports heavy snow, accompanied by wind reaching the proportions of a blizzard. It is feared that loss of cattle will result from the storm, particularly in the western and northern sections of the State.

In Northern Arkansas and as far west as Fort Smith rain fell during the twenty-four hours up to noon to-day, when it turned to snow, accompanied by a drop of 36 degrees in temperature.

Guthrie, Okla., reports a drop of 60 degrees since last evening, and a severe snow-storm prevails in the western portion of Indian Territory.

ST. PAUL, MINN., Jan. 3.—A blizzard is blowing to-night in this section over an area of 400 miles north and south and 600 miles east and west. Over most of Minnesota it has been snowing from fourteen to sixteen inches of snow on the ground. The wind is blowing a gale from the north. The snow is damp and packs so solidly on the railway tracks that it is difficult for the snowplows to work through it. The snow has also made a wreck of the telegraph wires to the north and west of St. Paul. All trains are moving, though some of them are late.

South Dakota dispatches say the storm extends as far west as the Black Hills. In

the region along the Missouri River, from Chamberlain to the North Dakota line, railroad trains are having great difficulty in moving, some of them having been abandoned for the night. The temperature is from 15 to 20 degrees above zero, and at 9 o'clock it was rapidly growing colder. There will be suffering among stock if the mercury drops to zero.

CHICAGO FLOODED.

Sewers Choked and Much Damage Results in the Suburbs.

CHICAGO, ILL., Jan. 3.—The rain-storm which has prevailed over Chicago and Northern Illinois uninterruptedly for three days has been the severest experienced in this locality for two years. The observations taken at the Weather Bureau in this city to-night show that the rainfall was two and one-half inches since the beginning of the storm early New Year's morning. The temperature fell 20 degrees in this city during the last eight hours and at 11 o'clock to-night the rain turned to snow. It is not expected by the Weather Bureau that the thermometer will reach the zero mark, although they predict a temperature considerably below freezing before to-morrow evening.

In Chicago great damage was done by the downpour of rain, especially in the suburbs, where the sewers were insufficient to carry away the volume of water. Reports of flooded basements from the southern and western portions of the city were numerous, while at Grand Crossing and near-by suburbs the streets were inundated and the damage heavy. In low places it is impossible for pedestrians to move across accumulating water, but the flood-roads were brought into use.

At Austin and Oak Park, on the west side, the conditions are annoying. Basements are flooded with several feet of water and furnace fires in many localities are extinguished. The pumping works at Bridgeport are being operated with great difficulty. It was thought at one time this evening that the pumps would have to be shut down on account of rapidly accumulating water, but the flood-gates were resorted to and the water shot on its journey down the canal. The rain continued steadily all day and at times the precipitation was in the nature of a cloudburst. The downtown streets were deserted and the continuous shows and other resorts lacked many patrons.

The concrete sidewalk surrounding the Lincoln Bank at Michigan and Clark streets collapsed during the afternoon as the result of the rain. J. B. Ross, a barber of Ravenswood, was the only person in front of the building at the time. He was precipitated to the basement, a distance of several feet, but rescued from the imminent but uninjured. A fence was hastily erected about the opening. A number of cedar block pavements in various parts of the city were also more or less damaged by the water. In many instances the blocks have been floated out of position by the water and the street left in an impassable condition. Nearly all the large catch basins along West Madison street, Michigan avenue, Wells street and North avenue were stopped up and as a result large ponds of water filled the sides of the streets. Many basements were flooded along West Madison street and much damage was done to the occupants.

Cyclone Sweeps an Arkansas Town.

BENTON, ARK., Jan. 3.—At 6:40 o'clock last night a cyclone struck this town, wrecking nearly every building in South Benton, and passed on in a northeasterly direction, damaging every building in its path. In an outlying near the depot a ramp was killed. Many families are homeless. The property loss will reach into the thousands. Freightcars on the siding at the depot were overturned and a wrecking crew has been at work all day.

BLACK HILLS MINING DEAL.

Eastern Capitalists Buy Many Rich Claims and Will Operate Them on an Extensive Scale.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Jan. 3.—Sixteen hundred acres of gold mines, embracing 150 claims in the richest part of the Black Hills have been transferred to a new mining and smelting company in which prominent New Yorkers and Philadelphians are interested.

The corporation, under the title of the Edgemont and Union Hill Smelting Company, came into legal existence to-day, and at its general office in the Corporation Trust Company building, in Jersey City, by executing its articles of incorporation and electing a board of directors, which immediately selected the officers of the corporation. When this had been done the deeds to the property, which were previously executed, were formally delivered and conveyed the mining claims to the corporation.

R. E. Pattison, former Governor of Pennsylvania, was elected president of the company; J. T. Searles of New York, vice-president; J. Wesley Supple, president of the Corn Exchange National Bank of Philadelphia, treasurer; Thomas Bradley of Philadelphia, secretary. These men are in the directory, together with J. T. Andrus, John Dawson, J. Edward Masten, William K. Kratz of New York and G. A. Fletcher, Joseph P. Crater, W. Frazier, Philip S. Harty, David Jonas, C. S. Middleton and Francis C. Grable of Philadelphia. The capital stock of the corporation is \$3,500,000, and is owned entirely by the men named.

The claims now owned by the company are in the Bear Buttes mining district, near the new town of Union Hill, about six miles from Deadwood and eight miles from Lead. The claims are of the best quality and are well situated. Arrangements have been made for the beginning of mining operations on a large scale at once. Three hundred miners are already on the ground, a smelter to cost \$300,000 has been ordered at Edgemont and the large smelter now at Galena—a few miles distant—has been contracted for. Besides this, a contract has been made for the construction of a 400-ton stamp mill at Union Hill, on the grounds of the company.

For the lighting of the company's town of Union Hill, an electric plant is now being put in which will also furnish power for running the drills in the mines and for operating a railway for the transportation of ore. This road is now located and will be completed before spring and form a connection with the Burlington system. Arrangements are being made for putting the arrangements into active operation was telegraphic notification of the actual corporation.

STEEL WORKS RESUME.

Pennsylvania Concerns Will Start Up After Long Lying Idle.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., Jan. 3.—The Johnson Company Steel Works, which have been idle for several weeks, will resume in full next week. This means that several hundred idle men will be put to work.

The Cambria Iron Company's open hearthmill will resume operations to-morrow morning and the steel works, blooming-mill and sheet-mill will start up Tuesday. The Pennsylvania Steel Company has received orders for making 10,000 tons of finished rails for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

CONGRESS WORK FOR THE WEEK

In the House the Loud Postal Bill Comes Up First.

Three Days to Be Devoted to a Discussion of the Refunding Scheme.

But There Is a Promise of Stubborn Opposition to the Report of the Committee.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 3.—Just before the holiday recess the House of Representatives, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Rules, arranged the business of the House for the first week of the new year. On Tuesday and Wednesday the Loud bill to amend the postal laws so as to prohibit the transmission in the mail of serial-novel publications and "sample" copies of newspapers at the second-class rate will be the special order. Discussion under the general rule will continue from immediately after the reading of the journal of Tuesday, the 5th inst., until 2 p. m. on Wednesday, and under the five-minute rule upon proposed amendments until 4 o'clock, when voting will begin upon pending amendments and the final passage of the bill.

When the bill was called up, rather unexpectedly, several weeks ago, it developed surprising strength, but since then opposition has been active and the chances of its passage are now considered rather doubtful.

After this bill has been disposed of the rest of the week—Thursday, Friday and Saturday—will be devoted to the consideration of the Pacific railroad funding bill, reported by Judge Powers, chairman of the Committee on Pacific Railroads. Two days will be given to general discussion and one day to debate and action in committee. The bill proposes to extend the Government lien over all the physical properties of the companies, which it is claimed the present lien does not cover, and substituting for all of the standing obligations the new 4 per cent mortgage, the Government debts to be carried at 2 per cent per annum. In addition to this the Southern Pacific Company is required to pay the amount charged against the Central Pacific Company so long as it remains in arrears. The amount of the Union Pacific mortgage will be \$54,731,000, and of the Central Pacific (net) \$32,901,000.

Hubbard of Missouri and Bell of Texas have made minority reports opposing the report of the committee, the former recommending the bill drawn by Attorney-General Harmon and introduced by Senators Bruce and Morgan to enforce the Government lien upon the property by proceeding in the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, and the latter that the debts of the companies be extended at 3 per cent instead of 2, secured by a first mortgage upon all their properties. They will probably lead the debate against the committee's bill.

By the terms of the orders making these measures the special business, consideration of any other matters is shut out, and it will take unanimous consent to set on anything else until the orders have been exhausted. The only exception is that on Friday night private pensions will be discussed for two hours and a half, as usual without a quorum.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE.

There Is Said to Be Opposition to the Cameron Resolution.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 3.—When the Senate meets Tuesday morning it is quite likely that the debate on matters pertaining to our foreign relations, and the position assumed by Secretary Olney for the Executive, will at once begin to take shape. Whether Cameron will call up the Cuban resolution on the opening day of the session is not yet known, for that Senator has not yet returned to the city and the subject is entirely in his hands. It is hardly thought that he will seek to force the issue on the opening day, owing to the fact that there is not likely to be a quorum of the Senate present.

During the morning hour, however, under any guise that may be put forward, the debate on the subject can be commenced, but it must give way to the unfinished business at 2 o'clock, unless there are sufficient votes to displace the Oklahoma free homestead bill with the more pressing question of Cuba. The homestead bill, which was championed by Pettibone, is not to have smooth sailing. A strong minority report by Platt is to be presented, and that Senator will lead the opposition to the measure on the floor of the Senate.

Hale, who is looked upon as the leader of the anti-Cuban recognition in the Senate, said yesterday that several Senators who had been heretofore silent on the subject had come out against the Cameron resolution, and there was not a possible chance of its passage.

On the other hand Cameron, Lodge, Chandler, Morgan and Mills assert that the sentiment favoring action by Congress is becoming more vigorous and that the fighting will be fierce from the start. Hale, who in the absence of Allison is acting as chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, expects to have the army bill reported to the Senate Wednesday, and this will be put forward to antagonize the Cuban proposition.

Two species are booked for the coming week—one by Peffer, probably Wednesday, on his resolution for the appointment of delegates to a National monetary conference and another by Proctor on the joint resolutions providing for the election of the President and Vice-President by popular vote.

A RESULT OF DULL TIMES.

Wages of Chicago Steel Mill Workers to Be Reduced.

CHICAGO, ILL., Jan. 3.—The employes of the Illinois Steel Company were notified yesterday that their wages would be cut February 1. The notice was brought to the 3,500 men at the South Chicago mills early in the day. They were told that the amount of reduction had not yet

been decided, but it is generally believed that it will be about 20 per cent. President Gates said last night that every official and employe would be cut. The salary of every head of department which is now more than \$100 per month will be reduced from 15 to 20 per cent. "This is simply the result of a poor business," said President Gates. "During the past year the price of steel rails has been reduced \$8 per ton, and this of itself means a loss of over \$1,000,000 to the Illinois Steel Company."

STRANGE CELESTIAL PHENOMENON.

Peculiar Pinkness in the Sky Gives the Earth the Appearance of Being on Fire.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Jan. 3.—An extraordinary display of phenomena some as visible here about 7 o'clock this morning. Thick, heavy clouds were rolling and suddenly the sky was overcast with a peculiar pinkness and the rays reflected gave the earth the appearance of being on fire. The remarkable display lasted perhaps ten minutes, but it was startling during its brief existence.

The Weather Bureau explains that it was the sun's rays reflected through a certain cloud. It was followed by a heavy gale along the lake front. Persons residing at West End declare that in eleven years they have not witnessed such a storm. The people there were much frightened. The waters of Lake Ponchartraine were driven and overflowed Spanish Fort, and all the roads leading from the city to the lake, in some places reaching a depth of three feet. Nothing has been heard from Mandeville and places on the other side of the lake.

POOLING THEIR ISSUES.

Efforts of the Big Steel Manufacturers to Continue the Combine.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Jan. 3.—There is reason to believe that a report will be submitted early next week by the special committee appointed at the recent meeting of the American Bessemer Steel Association, held in this city, to see what could be done toward smoothing over the serious differences of opinion among some of the big steel manufacturers. Dispatches from the West intimate that arrangements have practically been made for a continuation of the combination, the dissolution of which was threatened by the withdrawal of the Bellaire Steel Company of Ohio.

The Carnegie, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Illinois Steel Companies were conspicuous in a recent meeting in New York, and it is believed that through their efforts a harmonious arrangement has been made with the Bellaire Steel Company, a recent development which was expected at the meeting which has been called for next week by Secretary Griscorn. Whether the meeting will be held in this city or in Pittsburgh, has not been made public.

Even though the breach in the ranks of the American Bessemer Steel Association be closed up, it is not considered likely to prevent an attempt to re-discuss the price of steel billets will be made. The present condition of the steel market is not favorable to high prices, and the existing price of \$17 per ton for steel billets is all that the market will stand. The makers of steel rails are putting down their prices in order to get orders.

GENERAL SWAIN'S APPEAL.

Seeks to Recover Pay Withheld as a Result of a Court-Martial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 3.—The claim of Brigadier-General D. G. Swain, retired, for pay withheld as a result of a court-martial will come before the Supreme Court of the United States this week for argument, he having appealed from the decree of the court of claims, which rejected his suit. General Swain was tried by a court-martial on charges preferred by Major R. N. Scott, acting under orders from the Secretary of War, and found guilty of conduct unbecoming a gentleman and an officer, and sentenced to be suspended from rank and duty for twelve years, and to forfeit half his pay for each month of that period. He sued to recover the sums so withheld on the ground that the court-martial which tried him was illegally constituted; that the charges against him were not properly preferred, and that the facts proved constituted no offense.

General Swain has filed a lengthy brief in support of his appeal, and the Government lawyers have not yet advised the court of their intentions in the matter.

WRECK OF A FREIGHT TRAIN.

The Locomotive Goes Over an Embankment, Killing Three Men.

HOLDEN, Mo., Jan. 3.—To-day a freight train on the Missouri Pacific Railway ran into a landslide near this place. The locomotive tumbled over an embankment and three of the crew were almost instantly killed.

The dead are: Gomer Evans, engineer, married; Harry Hukop, fireman, married; J. E. McQueen, brakeman, unmarried. The men lived in St. Louis. Two other members of the crew were slightly injured. The wrecking train caused a large mass of earth to slide down upon the track, and the train crashed into the obstruction while running at a high rate of speed, derailing the engine and a dozen cars. Wrecking trains were sent from Sedalia and Jefferson City, and the tracks were cleared.

Suicide of a Theatrical Agent.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Jan. 3.—John Wendall Smith, whose correct name is said to be Delmar Stockton and to have come from Kentucky, committed suicide in the Amstey Hotel, 257 West Thirty-first street, last night by turning on the gas in his room. He was at one time a theatrical agent, and worked for Edward E. Rice's burlesque company and J. K. Emmett's company.

NEW COMBINATIONS AS TO THE CABINET

All Selections Not to Be Made Until the First Week in March.

If Sherman Accepts the State Portfolio Hanna Wants to Be a Senator.

Major McKinley Will Treat the Country to a Surprise if Allison and Dingley Decline.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Jan. 3.—Major McKinley expects to get to work on his inaugural address to-morrow morning and to finish it by the end of the week, if the office-seekers give him an opportunity. He feels that the time between the present and inauguration is very short and said this evening there would be so much to do that the few weeks remaining to him would slip by very swiftly. Major McKinley wants to get the principal portfolios in his cabinet assigned within a fortnight or three weeks, but the Cabinet as a whole will not be completed till the first of March. During Major McKinley's present visit to Cleveland it is probable that Mr. Hanna will come to some decision about his relation to the next administration, though his movements will to a considerable degree be regulated by Senator Sherman's final determination in respect to the Cabinet. The impression grows that Senator Sherman's friends in many parts of the country are urging him to accept the portfolio of State if it is offered him.

Mr. Hanna apparently wants to go to the Senate, but if Senator Sherman does not go into the Cabinet the way is firmly closed against him.