The National Daily Republican.

VOL. XII.] WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 7, 1872. [NO. 84.

CUSTOM-HOUSE ABUSES.

TESTIMONY OF GENERAL O. E. BABCOCK.

What He Knows of the General-Order Business.

NEW TACK OF THE COMMITTEE.

Annexation of Santo Domingo.

THE GENERAL OPINION ON THE SUBJECT.

How Skeptical Senators can be Convinced—Let Them Go and See for Themselves—The Administration Vindicated on Both Points—A Tiresome Cross-Examination, a la Old Bailey.

The Senate Committee on Investigation and Retrenchment held their third session in this city yesterday, all the members present; Senator Buckingham in the chair. A communication was received from A. O. Page, of Bath, Me., complaining of the illegal and unwarrantable examination of his books by a Government detective.

The committee spent just one hour in discussing whether the authority of the committee would permit them to extend their investigation to that point, and after several motions and suggestions the letter was finally withdrawn by Mr. Bayard, with the understanding that he would present it to the Senate.

Gen. O. E. Babcock was then called, sworn and testified. The testimony of the witness was given with an air of candor peculiarly his own, and with the conscious pride that each answer served to stamp as untrue the malignant stories so long and sedulously circulated in relation to his connection with the general-order business, and through him in some way to the President. He was subjected to a cross-examination by both Messrs. Bayard and Casserly, noticeable only for its extreme length and frequent repetitions. They tried to corner the General; but what he knew of the matter he told first, and all efforts on their part to induce him to change, explain or deviate proved unavailing.

At the conclusion of his testimony, he asked, and obtained leave, to file as a portion of his testimony the copy of a letter written by him to Collector Murphy, soon after his appointment to office, similar to the one of Gen. Porter, published yesterday. The committee ordered summons to be sent to New York for a number of officials, including Collector Murphy, and then adjourned till Monday.

The principal portion of the testimony of Gen. Babcock is given below.

THE TESTIMONY.

By the Chairman: Q. Please state your present position? A. I am a major in the corps of engineers of the army, on duty as secretary of the President since his inauguration, and since June last on duty as engineer officer in charge of public buildings and grounds, to which has been added the Washington aqueduct.

Q. It appears before this committee that Col. Leet, formerly on the President's staff, or on Gen. Grant's staff, is engaged in the general-order business, and statements have been made implicating the President and some members of the military family, or his secretaries; also as having knowledge of the general-order business, and in the manner in which Col. Leet secured it. Insinuations have also been made that the responsible officers of the President have had, or have now, some pecuniary interest in that business. I think the committee will be very glad to hear any statement you may have to make on these points, and upon the other questions under examination. A. I have only to state that I have no interest whatever in the general order business in New York, or with Col. Leet, or with Mr. Shepherd, or any other individual; nor have I ever received a cent in any shape, or manner from the custom-house office.

Q. Were you one of the mess connected with Gen. Porter and Col. Leet? Did you mess together? A. Yes, sir. That is, General Porter and I were living together, and we invited Colonel Leet to come and live with us in the spring of 1869, after his family left Washington.

Q. Did you then have any knowledge that Colonel Leet had any interest in the general-order business? A. I had not.

Q. When did you first have that knowledge? A. I did not know it until the publication of the report of the Retrenchment Committee, known as Senator Patterson's report.

Q. Was Colonel Leet, at the time he messed with you and General Porter, engaged in the War Department? A. He was.

Q. Did he pay part of the expenses of the mess? A. He did. When he was first invited there it was not supposed that he would be there but occasionally, and we asked him to come, not supposing any bill would be charged him. But having returned to the city, and remained there a number of months, we insisted upon it, that if he stayed there he should pay his share of the current expenses of the mess, which he did do.

Q. What proportion was that? A. He paid one fifth.

Q. Do you know whether he received the money which he paid from the general order business? A. I have no idea whatever where he received the money from.

Q. Do you know of his having paid, at any time, money for that mess? A. I know that he never did, to my knowledge, pay one cent more than that.

Q. Do you know of his having made any statement to any person that it was necessary for him to have a certain amount of general-order business in order to pay his expenses in the mess? A. Not to my knowledge; nothing further than what I have read of the proceedings of this investigation in the newspapers.

Senator Howe: Q. I understand you to say, in reply to the chairman, that you did not know of Col. Leet's having any connection with the general-order business until you gathered it from the report of the Retrenchment Committee, known as Mr. Patterson's report? A. Yes, sir.

Q. I want to ask you if you meant to be understood so, or if you meant to say that you did not know until you gathered it from that report, that Colonel Leet was in the business? I mean; that he had ever received any money, or had any connection with that; that is what I mean to say; that I was not aware that he had ever received any money, or had any connection (which he would indicate by paying money until after the report of that committee.

Q. You did not know of his going to New York before that, did you not? A. Yes, sir. I did know that he went to New York.

Q. Did you not understand that he became connected with the warehouse business? A. No, sir. Did I not know that he was connected with the warehouse business previous to that.

Q. You did not know that he was connected with it in 1870? A. No, sir; I mean to say that I did not know that he had any connection with what is known as Mr. Boxby in that matter. I knew that some time in the spring of 1870, I think it was, he went to New York, and went into the warehouse business, and then afterwards I learned that he received the general-order business. I knew that he had applied for the labor business, but did not get it, and that afterwards he went there and established himself in the warehouse business.

By Senator Clark: Q. What was Col. Leet's share of the expenses of that mess? How much did it amount to per month? A. The exact figures I could not give you. I have seen them frequently. Mess Sec. Porter, to my knowledge, kept information they never exceeded $80 per month. Gen. Porter kept the figures of the mess—the bills, &c.; I did not.

Q. Do you know whether Col. Leet was related by blood or marriage to either Gen. Grant or to Mrs. Grant? A. I have every reason to suppose that he is not. I never heard that he is from any one who is supposed to know. I never heard it either from him or from any one connected with the President's family.

Q. When did you first become acquainted with him? A. In the spring of 1864.

Q. What was his position in the army at that time? A. He was then an assistant adjutant of volunteers, and I think held the rank of captain. I met him first here in Washington when I went to join the staff of Lieutenant General Grant.

By Senator Bayard: Q. Did you state, General, the offices you hold here in Washington? A. I did. I am a major in the corps of engineers.

Q. And still hold your commission as major in the army? A. Yes, sir.

Q. What civil office do you hold? A. I hold no civil office that I know of.

Q. No civil office? A. No, sir.

Q. To what civil duty have you been assigned? A. I was detailed as secretary of the President, if that be termed a civil duty I am on duty in that capacity.

Q. Do you hold that still? A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, then, what other duties have you of a civil nature? A. I have nothing, unless you class the work under the engineers' department as such—that is, the superintendence of public buildings and grounds and the Washington aqueduct; none, unless you class that as a civil duty under the War Department.

Q. What pay and emoluments do you draw for these various services? A. Simply that of a major of engineers of ten years' standing in the service. I draw no other pay whatever, or allowance of any shape or manner, nor have I since the inauguration of the President. Previous to that, on his staff, I held the rank of colonel, as aide-de-camp and drew pay as colonel, also.

Q. Your acquaintance with Leet is from 1864? A. The spring of 1864. Yes, sir, when the Lieutenant General took charge of the army.

Q. Where was Mr. Leet stationed then? A. He was here in the office. The headquarters of the army were in Washington.

Q. And were you then a member of General Grant's staff? A. I met him when I first came here to report to Gen. Grant, while on the way to Culpeper.

Q. Since 1864 have you continued your relations of intimacy with him? A. I have been on official intimacy with him all the time, and very friendly.

Q. And not a great deal of personal intimacy also? A. Yes, sir, I was also personally intimate.

Q. When did you first learn that Mr. Leet proposed going into business in New York? A. I think that he indicated to me the desire to go into some business in New York about the time General Grant went into the President's office; but nothing special was said. I knew that he had made up his mind previously to go into the mercantile business in Chicago, and that he changed his mind when Colonel Bowers was killed, and was asked to take the place. But when General Grant became President he made up his mind to leave the army, and I think that he told me he made up his mind to go to New York in some business.

Q. When he talked with you about going into business, did he tell you what business he was going in? A. No, sir; I only gathered the impression that he was going into some mercantile business.

Q. Was nothing said to you in regard to the bonded warehouse business? A. No, sir; I do not think he mentioned it to me previous to that.

Q. Were you ever aware of the fact that he had conversations with General Grant two months before the investigation in regard to the general-order business in New York? A. No, sir; I did not know it.

Q. Were you aware of the fact that he procured from the President of the United States, after the inauguration, a letter of introduction intended to further his plans in New York? A. I do not know what his intent was. I know simply that he received a letter of introduction to Mr. Grinnell, in New York.

Q. Did you read that letter? A. I think I did. I would not like to say I did, though my impression is that I did read it at the time. Though, having since had my attention called to it, I may have got the impression I read it from that fact, and not really have done so. But I knew it. If I did not read it, Gen. Porter may have told me about it.

Q. As he intended to go into business in New York, and procured that letter, does it not look as if he did so to further his plans there? A. I have no doubt that he intended to use that letter to assist him in his introduction into business in New York.

Q. It has been published with his testimony? A. I believe it has.

[The examination continued at some length on this point, and then the subject of Santo Domingo was broached.]

Q. Had you ever any knowledge of proposed operations by Mr. Leet in connection with Messrs. Howland & Lyle in New York, or others, in relation to speculations in the island of Santo Domingo? A. No, sir, I never had.

Q. My reason for asking the question is this: that in this correspondence of Leet with Lindsey, he asks him for information connected with the sailing of the steamer Tybee, to secure it, and secure it confidentially, and so on, and also in regard to tariff matters to ascertaining the rates of duty upon certain products of Santo Domingo, so that there could be speculation by purchasing products, awaiting the time when the island should be annexed, and so that the duty would not exist. A. I never saw that correspondence. I am not aware of any such in existence.

Q. Not the correspondence along, but whether you had any knowledge at any fact to which such correspondence could have reference? A. No, sir; I have not.

Q. Were you aware of any proposed speculations of Mr. Leet in connection with the island? A. No, sir. I never had any talk with these gentlemen about Santo Domingo, as I did with a great many people, but I am not aware of any plan or anything that they were to go into there.

Q. Did you ever know Messrs. Howland & Lyle? A. No, sir. I do not think I ever saw either of the gentlemen. I do not remember now of ever having seen them.

Q. You are not cognizant of any proposition emanating from Mr. Leet, or Mr. Leet and others associated with him, touching those speculations about Santo Domingo? A. No, sir; I am not.

Q. You were at one time, General, the agent, if I may so call it, of the United States. At least appointed by the President in some capacity of negotiation connected with Santo Domingo. May I ask how long since your functions in that behalf have been exercised? A. I think some time in December, I think the treaty and turned the matter over to the President. That was, I think, in December, 1869. That is my impression as to the date.

Q. The reason I am asking you is this: that this committee have been engaged by the resolution here with inquiring if any moneys had been paid on account of any asserted lease of the Bay of Samana to the United States; and, if so, by whom or what fund paid out of, and to what amount?

Q. Have you any knowledge connected with that? I ask you because I know you had been connected with the proposed acquisition of the island. A. I am not aware that there has been a cent paid for any such thing since the first payment was made—at the time of the negotiation—$100,000; that was in the treaty.

Q. The date of that was what? A. The date of the treaty was some time in November, 1869.

Q. Then, in all your knowledge, what amount of money were paid upon the lease of Samana bay to your knowledge? A. One hundred thousand dollars was paid in money and $30,000 in value of munitions of war—arms, materials, &c.—paid at the time and receipts included in the treaty.

Q. Do you remember the date of the first payment? A. They were both paid sometime in November.

Q. Of what year? A. 1869.

Q. After the signing of the treaty what was done? To whom was the money paid? A. It was paid to the Dominican Government. I turned the money over to the American commercial agent there.

Q. What was his name? A. Mr. Raymond H. Perry. I took his receipts for them—both the arms and munitions of war—and turned them over to the Secretary of State; and it was in the Treasury Department of Santo Domingo that the money was counted and the arms turned over at the same time.

Q. That is the only knowledge you have upon the subject of any money at any time? A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. Buckingham: Q. You state that the Government had spent about $100,000 in money and $30,000 in arms and munitions of war for the lease of Samana bay? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know of any person or persons who have paid money on account of that lease? A. I do not.

Q. Do you know of any American citizens who are interested in any contemplated railroad on that island? A. I know a gentleman by the name of O'Sullivan, who told me that he had an interest in a road from Samana bay up towards Monte Christo. I think that railroad is in the list of concessions given when the treaty was made. I know of no other railroad where Americans are interested. I do not know that he acquired his interest prior to or in consequence of the probability of the annexation of the island.

Q. Do you know of any American citizen who has an interest in any bank or banking institution, or any contemplated banking institution, there? A. I did know a Mr. Prime, of New York, who stated a banking house had failed, and his partner, Hollister, disappeared after the failure.

THE GENERAL OPINION OF SANTO DOMINGO.

The examination of the witness by Mr. Casserly was then opened with the usual questions propounded in relation to Mr. O'Sullivan and to General Babcock's views favorable to the acquisition.

Q. O'Sullivan was a very zealous advocate of annexation was he not? A. I believe he was, as I believe most every gentleman was who has been in the island.

Q. Do you think that that follows, that a visit to the island makes a convert to annexation? A. I think that if you should read the letters of those who have been down there, that you will come to that conclusion. I think most any of you gentlemen that will go there and see the island, would come to the same conclusion.

Q. Perhaps you might get the chairman, [Mr. Buckingham,] if he went there? A. I think I could get most any gentleman who would go.

Q. Did you ever hear of Mr. O'Sullivan having some interest in a steamboat privilege between Santo Domingo and the ports of New Orleans, or some port in the Gulf of Mexico? A. I have no remembrance of it. The only sessions I know of are those that are included in the list.

Q. Was the project for the annexation of Santo Domingo before Gen. Grant's election? A. I understand that it was during the winter before in Congress.

Q. You know of no land speculations made with reference to the annexation? A. None whatever by anybody.

Q. Do you know of any large purchases of lands made in 1868, 1869 or 1870? A. No, sir; they may have been made, but not to my knowledge.

Q. Do you know of any contracts made with reference to the purchase? A. No, sir. I remember that, in the investigation in Santo Domingo, it was shown, I think, that Mr. O'Sullivan and some other gentleman had made purchase of land in Samana bay. I have an idea that Mr. O'Sullivan purchased some land there, but how much or little I don't know. My knowledge commenced at the time I went to the island. I tried to look into things pretty thoroughly. I went there in the nature of a secret agent.

Q. Did you examine into the condition of lands there, as to ownership, while you were there? A. Only in regard to those they were held. I didn't examine into the individual titles. The information that the Government gave me was that they held about one fifth of the land, and the balance belonged to individuals. I don't think the record will show how many acres the one fifth was.

Q. Did you ascertain whether the lands held by individuals were not the most valuable on the island? A. No, sir; I never examined that subject; I did not know which lands were Government and which private.

Q. The object of your visit to the island was to ascertain whether it was a valuable addition to the United States, was it not? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Does not the question of the quantity and value of public land on the island form an important element in determining the question of rates? A. It would not, in my mind, sir; it does not make much difference whether the land belongs to the Government or to individuals if it comes into the corporation of the General Government.

Q. Then you think that upon the basis of an annexation in which the United States was to assume and pay the debt of Santo Domingo, it made very little difference to the United States whether nearly all the valuable lands were owned by private individuals? A. I would not like to make such a statement as that. The negotiation was that Santo Domingo was to pay her own debt, and she claimed that she could pay it with the $1,500,000, and she pledged her public lands in the treaty as a guarantee that she would pay her debt with that sum.

Q. That being so, was it not an important point for you to ascertain what the value of her public lands was? A. I couldn't do that. I could only obtain the proportion, which the Government claimed was one fifth.

Q. I am sure you will agree that one fifth of the public land might be very valuable or might be wholly worthless? A. No, sir; I would not admit that it would be wholly worthless because I saw that very few acres of land there that would be wholly worthless.

Q. Then you never saw them? A. I may have seen some of them, but didn't see the whole island; I did not visit a piece of land that they told me was public property; they gave me a large map, but the location of the public land was not marked on it.

Q. Then you never saw them? A. I may have seen some of them; I didn't see the whole island.

Q. Well, but General, you say they did not give you the location of one fifth of the land owned by the Government? A. No, sir; they claimed that they owned land distributed over different portions of the island.

Q. What portion, then, of the public lands did you visit to examine into their value? A. I did not visit any one particular portion of them. I did not visit a piece of land that they told me was the public property.

Q. You did not? A. No, sir; I did not.

Q. Upon what do you rest your statement, made now, that no portion of the public lands of Santo Domingo were almost if not quite valueless? A. Because I did not see any land there that I thought was almost quite valueless.

Q. But you have just stated that you did not see any of the public lands, because you did not know where they were. A. No, I did not say I had not seen any of them; I say they were not pointed out to me.

Q. I understood you so? A. I could not have said I did not see them, because I may have traveled across them; I did not know.

Q. Then, if you did not know, you cannot say you did see them or know their value? A. I do not think I have said that I did see the public lands.

Q. That is what I understood you; that you said you did not know whether you saw them or not; that you did not see them, so far as you knew? A. I did not see any special tract pointed out to me as being public lands.

Q. Then you examined none of the public lands of Santo Domingo in reference to their value? A. No special tract of ground did I examine in reference to their value.

Q. What do you mean by that "no special tract?" Do you mean that you examined all the tracts of public lands, or most of them, or that you examined any one tract? A. I examined no one tract of public lands. My observation as to the nature, &c., consisted of my travels over the lands, and I did not discover in traveling whether any of it was public or private lands.

Q. They gave you no map? A. They gave me a large map, but it did not give the location of their public lands. I do not think they could have furnished such a map. I think it will only be accomplished by a survey that would bring up an examination of the titles locating all the claims.

Q. And, therefore, the whole truth as to the value of the public lands of Santo Domingo rested on the greatest uncertainty, did it not? A. I thought they were sincere in their information. It rested on their assurance to me that they owned about one fifth of it. It was the official statement. Did not go back of that.

Q. But you had no means of ascertaining the value of that one fifth? A. No, sir.

Q. You had no means of ascertaining the particular value of any of the lands so far as pecuniary considerations were concerned? A. No, sir.

Q. But you reported in favor of annexation? A. Yes, sir; I did.

Q. One of the elements of which was that the United States should assume and pay all of the debt of Santo Domingo—over and above one million and a half of dollars? A. No, sir.

Q. Just clear me out; perhaps you will not differ. Receiving from Santo Domingo a pledge of her public lands as a guarantee against any surplus over the above $1,500,000? A. No, sir; the treaty specification was that Santo Domingo should pay her debts; and that she claimed that they would be paid; if they exceeded this amount of $1,500,000, that the public lands should be held, and she was to hold—the State, Territory or whatever in was to be—was to hold the public land. They were not turned over to the United States.

Q. Now, is there any difference between you and I about it? If the debt was more than a $1,500,000, and Santo Domingo did not pay it, who was to pay it? A. That is a question for the lawyers to settle.

Q. What was your understanding? A. My understanding was that it would devolve upon the State or Territory, whichever the territory was organized into. If it was a Territory it would be a Territorial debt, and their public land would be pledged for it.

Q. Then the American State and Territory would have to pay that amount over and above the million and a half? A. Yes, sir; they held the quantity of land as a guarantee for it.

Q. And yet you did not ascertain, and had no means of ascertaining, what would be the value of the one-fifth publicland? A. I had no means of obtaining the intrinsic value of it.

Q. How long does your knowledge of the movement for the acquisition of Santo Domingo go back? A. My positive information, further than that of reading the debate in the House, goes back somewhere about the second week in July, 1869. I was in New York, and received a telegram to return to the city. I returned and saw the President, who told me that he wanted me to go to the Island, and I left New York on the next Saturday, the 17th.

Q. Were you not aware, at least from public information and report, that there were movements for the annexation of Santo Domingo early in 1869? A. I don't remember the date of them. I remember of reading the debate in the House, but I had no personal information as to it. I had never conversed with any one relative to the acquisition of the island.

Q. Were you not aware, however, from common report, that there were movements going on among certain persons in New York and elsewhere, looking to the annexation of Santo Domingo? A. No, sir; I was not aware of anything, but what had occurred in the House of Representatives.

Q. You never heard of a project on foot for that purpose? A. No, sir; I did not.

Q. Did you remain upon the staff of General Grant down to the time when you became his private secretary? A. I joined him as an aid when he was made Lieutenant General, and I have remained with him on duty since.

Q. When was he made Lieutenant General? A. In the spring of 1864. I think; I was then on duty as aide-de-camp until he became President; of course, I could not remain an aide-de-camp, because he had none; I was there as an officer of the army detailed on duty with the President.

Q. When did you cease to be a member of his staff? A. When he ceased to be the General of the army—on his inauguration.

Q. And you commenced to be his military secretary at that time—his private secretary? A. No, sir; I am not assigned to duty as a private secretary; I am assigned to duty as a secretary.

Q. Oh, yes; Mr. Douglass is his private secretary? A. Yes, sir; my connection with the General's staff ceased on the 4th of March, when he was inaugurated.

The following letter was asked by Gen. Babcock to be filed as a portion of his testimony, and it was so ordered:

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 14, 1870.

SIR: I am in receipt of letters applying for recommendation to you for places in the custom-houses. I do not wish to embarrass you in the working of that office in any way, and I have therefore given no such letters, nor shall I do so. I wish you all success, and I know that if you are to be responsible for that great office, you must appoint your own assistants.

I am yours, very truly, O. E. BABCOCK.

Hon. Thomas Murphy, Collector of Customs, New York.

THE ARMS INVESTIGATION.

Testimony of Secretary Boutwell.

The special committee appointed by the House of Representatives to make an investigation regarding the sale of arms, held a short session yesterday morning in the room of the Committee on Public Expenditures. There were present of the committee Messrs. Williams, Snyder and Acker.

Hon. George S. Boutwell, Secretary of the Treasury, was sworn.

Mr. Williams, Mr. Secretary, what amount of money was paid into the Treasury for the sale of arms and ordnance during the fiscal year 1871?

Secretary Boutwell. The report (exhibiting his annual report) shows that there was $2,250,093.13 paid in for the sale of arms.

Mr. Williams. The Secretary of War in his testimony the other day said that he held certificates for $6,400,236.56 that had been paid into the Treasury for the sale of arms. Can you explain the discrepancy?

Secretary Boutwell. I think so, sir. The officers having this matter in charge makes out their accounts in duplicate. One set of those papers is forwarded to the Treasury and the other to the War Department. In the Treasury these papers are examined in the Second Auditor's office, from whence receipts are returned to the War Department, and this $2,250,093.13 is what has been examined since those receipts were turned in, and $6,500,101.62 is the aggregate amount reported for the sale of arms by the Secretary of War. The expenses for ammunition, transportation, &c., is reported at $230,550.90. Since the close of the fiscal year there has been turned in for the sale of arms $1,253,671.34, which will show an excess in the Treasury of $183,619.28.

Mr. Williams. Would some blue book place in the ordnance department on the 30th of June appear on the books of the Department by the 30th of June?

Secretary Boutwell. They would not in the ordinary course of business, and would pass through the regular channel, unless some special reason could be assigned to have them made exceptional cases.

Mr. Williams said that as the Japanese embassy was to visit the House of Representatives at 11 o'clock, and as it was very near that hour, the committee would adjourn until this morning at 10 o'clock.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 7, 1 a. m., 1872.

SYNOPSIS FOR THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

The barometer has risen during to-day over the Middle and New England States, with northerly to westerly winds and clear weather, except over northern New York, where cloudy weather has prevailed, with high snow. The pressure continued higher over the upper lake region, and thence to the south Atlantic coast, increased with generally clear and pleasant weather; southerly winds have prevailed over the western Gulf States. The temperature has very generally risen at the stations east of the Rocky mountains.

PROBABILITIES.

The barometer continue rising over the Middle and New England States, with northerly winds and clear and pleasant weather over very generally, on Thursday; northerly to easterly winds and pleasant weather for the South Atlantic States, and thence to the Ohio valley and Michigan; the pressure diminish throughout and west of the Mississippi valley, with southerly to easterly winds, increased cloudiness, and probably threatening weather; the temperature rise very generally at the stations east of the Rocky mountains. Dangerous winds are not anticipated for the rest of the night on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts.

— A dispatch from Kansas City, Mo., says Robert B. Higgins, who was connected with the Cass-county bond affair, and who shot himself there yesterday, wrote a letter to his wife saying that he committed suicide to save himself from disgrace, and inclosing $5,000, supposed to be the proceeds of the bonds sold before his arrest.

BY TELEGRAPH

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN.

The Trial of Mayor Hall—Extremely Cold Weather at New York—A Number of Persons Frozen to Death—The Ferry-boats Unable to Run—Election of Directors of the Union Pacific Railroad—Proceedings of the National Centennial Commission—Governor Warmoth Interviewed on the Presidency—Sudden Termination of the Tichborne Case—The Claimant Withdraws His Case—He is Arrested and Lodged in Newgate Prison on a Charge of Perjury—Queen Victoria's Groom Rewarded—Bismarck's Speech Regarding the Catholic Clergy—Stormy Session of the French Assembly—Another Ministerial Crisis Expected.

NEW YORK.

The Severe Cold Weather—Several Persons Frozen to Death.

NEW YORK, March 6.—The weather continues intensely cold. The ice is increasing in the rivers and harbors. The South and Hamilton ferries, running to the southern part of Brooklyn, and the other ferries, are much impeded. North river has large floes of ice in it, and vessels arriving do not anchor in the stream, from danger of being cut through. The effects of the cold are severely felt here by the poor people, drivers of teams, and others obliged to be out of doors. The driver of a wagon was found frozen yesterday on Forty-seventh street. His horse was walking along and the reins were grasped in the dead man's hands. Louis Schultz, a tailor, was frozen to death on Bedford street in Brooklyn, and a woman was found frozen in the yard of a convent on Lafayette street, Jersey City. Nearly all the seamen on vessels arriving are badly frost bitten.

LATER PARTICULARS.

The ice embargo on South and Hamilton ferries to Brooklyn continues. One of the boats remains wedged in the ice near Brooklyn since 10 o'clock yesterday morning. Several trips to and from Brooklyn were compiled from one to two hours, and to Williamsburg even longer. The average trips to Jersey City and Hoboken are from half an hour to two hours in length. The Frigate Canandaigua had her copper sheathing torn off by the ice in the stream. The brig Louisiana was carried ashore on Governor's island by the ice, but was not seriously damaged; and arriving ocean steamers are unable to get into their piers.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PROTECTIVE MANUFACTURES.

A large and influential meeting of store manufacturers of the States convened here to-day for the purpose of forming a national society for the welfare of trade. One purpose of the movement is understood to be a combination to raise the trade prices of stoves.

THE TRIAL OF MAYOR HALL

was resumed this morning. W. S. Copeland was placed on the stand. The counsel for the prosecution produced the warrant by which Harvey drew some $40,000 from the Ocean bank, and offered it in evidence. The counsel for the defence objected, and went into a long argument to sustain the objection. During the argument, which was entirely upon legal points, the jury were excused until this afternoon.

AFTER THE RECESS

Judge Daly decided to accept the secondary evidence to prove the contents of the missing original.

The defence took an exception, and the court adjourned.

THE INSURANCE INVESTIGATION CASE.

W. Jennings, of the *Times*, was examined today in the insurance investigation case. He declined to give the name of the author of the articles in that paper against Mr. Miller, and refused to retract their statements without further proof, and said there would probably be more of them.

SHOT AT A BALL.

A riot occurred at a ball of the Wilson Zouaves, (colored,) in Jersey City, last night. Pistols were used freely, and one negro was shot. A policeman's thumb was nearly bitten off.

ASSESSMENTS FOR WORK ON STREETS.

A report made to the committee of seventy finight shows that since December, 1867, $17,113,877 have been assessed upon the city for extending, opening and widening streets, of which $1,826,422 was for cost and charges in the superintendence of the work. This is in addition to further large amounts assessed upon property-holders.

NEW ORLEANS.

Van Norden Released and Rearrested.

NEW ORLEANS, March 6.—Van Norden, reprieved by the Governor and released, was again rearrested this morning and sent to the parish prison by Judge Cooley. Thomas Chelly, deputy keeper of the parish prison, is also imprisoned for releasing Van Norden yesterday.

THE REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

A letter has been received from the chairman of the National Republican Committee recognizing the Republican committee, of which Marshall is chairman, as the only regular Republican organization.

WARMOTH, OPPOSED TO THE RENOMINATION OF GRANT.

The *Times* prints a long interview with Governor Warmoth, in which, after stating that he had no intention of making friends with President Grant, said: "I intend to support the nominee of Democratic National Convention, if General Grant is nominated at Philadelphia. I am unqualifiedly and determinedly opposed to General Grant's re-election as President of the United States.

His reason for opposing Grant is that Grant supported the Federal officials in Louisiana in their efforts to destroy the State government. Warmoth further said "if under any circumstances I consented to become a candidate for re-election it would only be as a reformer on the reform platform.

[Some two weeks ago Governor Warmoth in the presence of several gentleman and a representative of the REPUBLICAN, at the St. Charles hotel, stated that he was unqualifiedly in favor of the renomination of General Grant, and believed that he, of all other men in the Republican party, was entitled to the next Presidency. ED. REPUBLICAN.]

PHILADELPHIA.

The National Centennial Commission.

PHILADELPHIA, March 6.—The National Centennial Commission met in the city council chamber this afternoon at 4 o'clock. Commissioner Campbell, of Florida, chairman of the committee on organization, made a report, which was unanimously adopted, as follows: President, Gen. Joseph R. Hawley, Connecticut. Vice presidents, Orestes A. Cleveland, New Jersey; Henry D. Lloyd, Illinois; M. Boyd, Alabama; J. D. Creogh, California; Robert Lowry, Iowa. Temporary secretary, Lewis W. Smith, Philadelphia, alternate for Georgia.

General Hawley was conducted to the chair, and delivered an address upon taking the chair.

President Hawley here named the following gentlemen as members of the executive committee: Daniel J. Morrell, Pennsylvania; J. V. L. Pruyn, New York; George R. Corfiss, Rhode Island; Wm. Prescott Smith, Maryland; W. W. Wood, Virginia; James L. Orr, South Carolina; and John G. Stevens, New Jersey.

The president stated that he had endeavored to select the wisest and ablest men in the commission to affirm and approve these nominations.

Alternate Marshal, of New York, observed that Mr. Orr cannot or will not qualify as a commissioner.

The President. I would state that I have taken the roll as sent to us by the Secretary of State. I could not go beyond it. I am not supposed to see any disqualification under the act of Congress.

The subject was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Alternate Sweeny, of West Va., offered a resolution, which was adopted, authorizing the president of the commission to manage the conference for the selection of a site for the international exposition buildings and for other purposes under act of Congress.

Commissioner Atwood, of Wisconsin, moved that a committee of five be appointed by the President to memorialize Congress for further requisite legislation relative to the commission, and also to urge upon the various State Legislatures to act forthwith upon the subject. The motion, after some debate, was adopted.

Adjourned till 11 a. m. to-morrow.

In the evening a reception was given to the members at the Union League.

THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The Election of Directors.

BOSTON, March 6.—At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Union Pacific railroad, to-day, the following directors were elected: Horace Clarke, Augustus Schell, James H. Barker, Oliver Ames, John Duff, Elisha Atkins, Oakes Ames, L. P. Morton, R. E. Robbins, James Brooks, G. M. Dodge, Sydney Bushnell, George M. Pullman and F. Gordon Dexter. Messrs. Schell, Clarke, Barker and Dexter are new men on the board, in place of Messrs. Scott, Thompson, Carnegie and Dennison.

At a subsequent meeting of the board of directors the following officers were elected: President, Horace F. Clark, of New York; vice president, John Duff, of Boston; treasurer, E. H. Rollins, of Concord, New Hampshire; auditor, H. B. Wilbur. The dropping of Thomas A. Scott from the directory is said to indicate the preponderance of the Vanderbilt interest.

The following dispatch from Omaha was received to-day from Superintendent Sickles: "No obstructions on the road by either washouts or snow, and all trains this morning are in motion."

Municipal Election at Troy.

TROY, N. Y., March 6.—The Democrats elected their city ticket here yesterday by 1,000 majority. Five Republicans and eight Democrats aldermen, and six Republicans and seven Democratic supervisors were elected.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Sudden Termination of the Tichborne Case—The Claimant Arrested on the Charge of Perjury.

LONDON, March 6.—The celebrated Tichborne case, which has been on trial in this city for so long a time, was brought to a sudden and most unexpected termination this morning. Upon the opening of the court counsel for the claimant to the Tichborne estate announced that their client had decided, in view of the action of the jury on Monday, in saying they had heard sufficient evidence whereon to base a verdict, to withdraw his case before the court. After this announcement of the counsel for the plaintiff, counsel for the defense asked Lord Chief Justice Bovill to issue a warrant for the arrest of the claimant on a charge of perjury, and to fix his bail at £10,000. The petition was granted, and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest. The claimant was not present at the session of the court this morning, and it is believed that he has fled from the city.

The claimant in the Tichborne estate did not, as was first supposed this morning, leave London immediately upon his decision to withdraw his cause. Shortly after the issuance of the warrant for his arrest by Lord Chief Justice Bovill he was taken into custody by the police and conveyed to Newgate.

THE STEAMER CITY OF WASHINGTON SAFE.

All anxiety as to the safety of the steamship City of Washington, which left New York on the 17th of February for Liverpool, is now dispelled. The steamship Astatic, which arrived at Queenstown yesterday, reports having spoken the City of Washington Sunday evening at 7 o'clock, in latitude 50° 30', longitude 9°. The City of Washington had broken her main shaft, and was making for Queenstown under sail. All well.

MARINE DISASTER.

Information has been received here of the loss at sea of the French bark Alix. The disaster was attended with sad loss of life, nine persons having perished.

JOHN BROWN GRANTED AN ANNUITY.

Queen Victoria has presented her groom, John Brown, with a gold medal, and has granted him an annuity of £25 in recognition of his prompt aid in arresting O'Donnor last week, when he assaulted Her Majesty.

THE MARQUIS OF BUTE.

The marriage of the Marquis of Bute takes place on the 15th of April.

FRANCE.

Refuses to Accept.

PARIS, March 6.—M. Casimer Perier, late Minister of the Interior, refuses to accept the Ministry of Finance, which was offered to him upon the resignation of Pouyer-Quertier.

DUEL BETWEEN EDITORS.

Lanton, editor of the *Corsaire*, fought a duel to-day with Rogat, of the *Page*. The latter was three wounded.

THE ROMAN QUESTION.

Signor Minghetti is expected here shortly on a private mission from the King of Italy to Thiers concerning the Roman question.

STORMY TIME IN THE ASSEMBLY.

In the Assembly to-day the report of the committee confirming the election of Rouher, from Corsica, was agreed to.

The debate was then continued on the bill imposing taxes in connection with the International society. Louis Blanc declared that the passage of such a measure would throw France back three centuries.

During the sitting a question was proposed to the Government by M. Quirand, an Orleanist, with regard to the resignation of Pouyer-Quertier.

The introduction of this inquiry was followed by prolonged exclamations. The speaker, Monay warmly praised the conduct of the late Minister of Finance, and demanded explanations. The Government declined to make an immediate reply, as the usual notice had not been given, but promised an answer on Saturday.

ANOTHER MINISTERIAL CRISIS EXPECTED.

PARIS, March 6—Evening.—Another ministerial crisis is expected. It is evident that a conflict between the Assembly and Government is at hand.

GERMANY.

The Donatives Granted to Generals.

BERLIN, March 6.—The donations granted by the Diet in honor of the anniversary of the entry into Paris have given rise to much comment, on account of the magnitude of the sums disposed of. It is said Prince Charles, Generals Moltke, Roon, Manteuffel and the Duke of Bavaria received each 300,000 thalers; General Goeben and Minister Delbruck 200,000 thalers; Bismarck 150,000, and generals Falrick and Blumenthal and others were proportionately remembered.

PRINCE BISMARCK ON THE SCHOOL BILL.

The subject of the Roman Catholic Bill has under consideration the school inspection bill. During the debate Prince Bismarck made a significant speech. He expressed his fear of disloyal influences by the Catholic clergy, and insisted on the retention of the clause providing for the introduction of the German language into the Polish schools. He assured the Conservatives that the Government did not intend to break with their party, but it would not submit to pressure.

SHOCKS OF EARTHQUAKE.

were felt this afternoon, simultaneously, in Dresden, Perris, Schandau, Chemnitz, Hadenbach, Weimar and Rudolstadt. The movement was not violent, but was felt by more or less perceptible at intervals for over an hour.

SPAIN.

Ambassador at Washington.

MADRID, March 6.—The appointment of Rear Admiral Polasto Harnabe to the ambassadorship at Washington has been decided upon.

BELGIUM.

The Minister at the Vatican.

BRUSSELS, March 6.—The Chamber of Representatives has decided, by a vote of 43 to 32, to maintain the Minister at the Vatican.

Death of General Benj. C. Howard.

BALTIMORE, March 6.—General Benjamin C. Howard, one of the most esteemed and influential citizens of this State, died this morning at 1:30 o'clock. He commanded the Maryland volunteers at the battle of North Point in 1814, was several sessions a member of Congress, chairman of the Committee of Foreign Relations, author of the report on the northeastern boundary question, and for many years reporter of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Severe Snow Storm in Maine.

EASTPORT, ME., March 6.—The most severe snow storm of the season occurred yesterday. In ten hours' time the mercury fell 40 degrees, and last night the cold was intense, the thermometer being 15 degrees below zero. No mails have been received in consequence of the trains being blockaded by snow.

The Maryland Republican State Convention.

BALTIMORE