The National Republican

VOL. XVIII---NO. 301. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 16, 1878. FIFTY CENTS PER MONTH.

CURRENT CAPITAL TOPICS.

District Affairs Overhauled in Cabinet.

The Differences Between the Commissioners and the Departments—Postal Statistics and Postal Decisions—Southern Railroad Claims—Large Number of Internal Revenue Offenders Indicted.

The Cabinet Meeting Yesterday.

All the members of the Cabinet were present at the meeting yesterday except Attorney-General Devens, who was in attendance upon the Supreme Court. Some routine business was disposed of, and some points in the forthcoming message of the President were discussed. An incidental allusion led to an informal discussion of the attitude of the District Commissioners in the matter of its relations with the Treasury Department and the District finances, and the Interior Department and the Department of Justice relating to the fire commissioner to represent the Government. There was a general interchange of views, but the matter not being formally before the Cabinet, no action was taken.

Printed Matter in the Mails.

An interesting and instructive table has been prepared in the office of the First Assistant Postmaster-General, showing the amount of second and third-class matter, exclusive of local delivery, originating at 180 representative offices in the United States, for the three months ending September 30, 1878. The total amount of second-class matter at these offices is 11,072,048 pounds, divided as follows: Dailies, 2,118,009; weeklies, 5,951,798; monthlies, 1,368,773; quarterlies, 70,970; newsdealers' packages, 1,105,113; free county newspapers, 457,385. New York of course heads the list, with 4,011,616 pounds, or more than a third, of which number nearly 800,000 were sent from the news-stands; Chicago is the second, falling but 2,000 pounds short of 1,000,000; Boston third, with 783,958 pounds; Philadelphia fourth, 618,294 pounds; St. Louis fifth, and 1,111,991 pounds were unregistered, which indicates how the franking privilege is enjoyed by Congressmen. The amount of mailable matter refused is unexpectedly large, Chicago alone reporting 5,600 pieces; New York, nearly 500 pounds, and Washington, 283 pounds. Even Albany, N. Y., reported 143 pounds. The report upon this subject is very far from complete, 535,464 pounds, of which number 106,781 were for free county distribution.

The total number of pounds of third-class matter at these offices is 4,107,359, of which 1,201,816 represents merchandise and 2,905,543 miscellaneous printed matter.

There was forwarded from the Washington office 1,210,544 pounds of free matter, of which 98,553 pounds were registered, fairly representing Departmental business.

Important Postal Decision.

Postmaster-General Key has addressed a letter to David M. Stone, esq., editor-in-chief of the New York *Journal of Commerce*, in reply to a letter of his, in which he sustains the position heretofore taken by the Department in its disposition of third-class matter having written memorandum thereon or therein. Mr. Stone has insisted that such matter becomes first-class matter, and should be so treated if one full rate of postage is paid thereon, viz: forwarded to its destination, charged with the unpaid rate to be collected on delivery. The Postmaster-General dissents from this view, and holds that although such matter is chargeable with first-class rates it does not become first-class matter, the additional rate being imposed as in the nature of a penalty. Such matter must therefore be held at the office of mailing unless fully prepaid.

Microscopic Plates in the Mails.

A letter has been received at the Post-Office Department from a gentleman in Cincinnati, protesting that the exclusion of microscopic plates from the mails is not in accordance with the spirit of the law relating to third-class mail matter. He submits that the law was intended to exclude only such articles as might injure the mails or those engaged in handling them, and that these small glass plates, one by three inches, put up in grooved wooden cases and securely tied up, cannot possibly do any harm; but he is met with the reply that the law specifically excludes "glass, poisons, and liquids," and that these plates are not admissible in the mails under any circumstances, the Department being allowed no discretion.

Southern Railroad Claims.

Colonel Thomas M. Holt, president of the North Carolina Railroad Company, and his attorney, Thomas B. Keogh, esq., have been here during the past week for the purpose of adjusting with Commissioner Raum a claim which the United States makes against their company for internal revenue taxes charged to be in arrears. The claim made by the Government was originally about $50,000. It has, upon examination of the books of the company, and making proper reductions, been cut down to about $6,000. Certain legal points, which Commissioner Raum decided against the company, were yesterday sent to the Attorney-General for his opinion.

Internal Revenue Appointments.

The following appoints have been made in the Internal Revenue Service:

Storekeepers and Gangers, Fifth District of North Carolina—Henry L. Shore, Peter A. Wilson, Richard Springfield, C. W. Perry, John W. Bulla, J. R. Stephens, J. Y. Burchfield, and John B. Montgomery.

Inspector of Tobacco and Cigars, Ninth District of Pennsylvania—Charles P. Eberman.

Storekeeper and Ganger, Eighth District of Pennsylvania—Thomas V. Miller.

Violators of Revenue Laws Indicted.

Commissioner Raum, of the Internal Revenue Bureau, has received a telegram from Charlestown, W. Va., stating that the grand jury there has found indictments against 900 people for violation of the internal revenue laws, and the jury is still in session.

Report of the Second Auditor

In his report for the last fiscal year, Hon. E. B. French, Second Auditor, gives a det ailed statement of the work of his Bureau, from which it appears that 27,245 accounts and claims were adjusted, involving a disbursement of $21,583,015.51, as follows:

	Number.	Amount.
Accounts of paymasters and other army officers	7,921	$16,000,765 86
Claims for arrears of pay and bounty	13,774	412,601 59
Account of Indian agents	581	1,792,493 66
Claims for supplies, &c., for the Indian service	2,966	3,298,653 02
Total	27,245	$21,583,015 51

The report also contains several tabular statements of the work at the office during the sixty one years of its existence. Those tables show that from March 4, 1817, to June 30, 1861, 75,550 settlements were made, and that from June 30, 1861, to June 30, 1878, 999,016 accounts and claims were examined and allowed, involving an expenditure of $1,878,345,263.04, under the following heads:

Paymasters' accounts, $1,350,418,569.46; ordnance, medical, and miscellaneous accounts, $270,149,979.94; bounty, arrears of pay, &c., $95,692,045.71; recruiting accounts, $65,887,781.95; Freedmen's Bureau accounts, $10,947,098.69; Indian agents' accounts and Indian claims, $84,088,907.01. There were also 1,157,760 property accounts adjusted subsequent to 1861, 302,935 bounty claims examined and rejected, 3,894,492 letters written, and 3,098,718 letters received.

Referring to an increase in the number of claims and accounts presented last year as compared with 1877, the Auditor remarks:

As there has been no recent legislation calculated to materially increase the business of the office, this result is believed to be mainly due to the pressure of the hard times and to erroneous statements in the public press regarding bounties to soldiers and their heirs, which stimulate them to apply for what, in many cases, has already been paid, or for what they were never entitled to under any law.

The War Department Library.

The Secretary of War has issued the following order to facilitate the completion of the catalogue of books in the War Department library:

NOVEMBER 15, 1878.

For the purpose of enabling the librarian to complete the catalogue of books belonging to the Department library, it is necessary that a temporary inconvenience be endured by the employees of the Department in the interest of the future greater usefulness of the library. It is therefore ordered—First, That the library be closed from November 16 instant until further orders, except for the return of books now borrowed from the library. Second, That all employees of the Department and officers of the army in the city now having books from the library will return them thereto on Wednesday and Saturday, the 20th and 23d instants, when the library will be open from ten o'clock a. m. till one o'clock p. m. After this last hour let there be no book remaining out of the library.

G. W. McCRARY,
Secretary of War.

Patent-Office Employees Discharged.

Sixty-six persons, borne on the temporary roll of the Patent-Office, were yesterday discharged for want of funds to continue their services. The following circular accompanied each discharge:

The expenditures for temporary clerical services having reached the limit prescribed by law for the whole of the current fiscal year, and more than half of the entire contingent fund appropriated for the year having been expended, it became impossible longer to retain the clerks and laborers heretofore paid on the contingent roll, except the per diem laborers. I was therefore compelled to notify the Secretary of the Interior that it would be necessary immediately to suspend these clerks and laborers. The Secretary, finding no authority for such suspension, has ordered their discharge.

This is one of the most painful duties I have ever been required to perform, for the dismissals occurring in "hard times," and at the commencement of winter, will bring distress upon many faithful and efficient employees, who have no means of supporting themselves and families except their monthly salaries.

Inasmuch as the discharges are made in obedience to positive provisions of law, and without any fault on the part of those discharged, applications for reappointment in advance of further legislation of Congress must necessarily result in disappointment. Until such further legislation, therefore, no applications for reappointment, or for new appointments in this Bureau, can be entertained.

H. E. FAINS,
Commissioner of Patents.

The Yellow Fever Inquiry.

The London *Lancet*, of November 2, closes its leading editorial of three columns in reference to the yellow fever epidemic and the commission appointed by Dr. Woodworth as follows:

We take leave to suggest that the vast importance of the subject would amply justify the government sending over from England a skilled physician to join the meeting of the Health Association, take part in its discussions, and, of course, glean information, the sum and substance of which might be embodied in a report that will be submitted to the government, represented in this case, we suppose, by the Privy Council, as this particular disease still comes under the special cognizance of that august body. No time ought now to be lost, but there is little doubt that any duly accredited representative of this country, whether sent by the government or by private enterprise, would be cordially welcomed by the American association and be gladly permitted to join in the debate. There are, comparatively speaking, a very few medical men in England who are practically acquainted with yellow fever. But there are some two or three names that will at once occur to many of our readers who are especially interested in this subject, and fortunately they all reside in or near London, and all have, we believe sufficient leisure to undertake an errand that could not fail to result in the acquisition of a vast amount of sound practical information, the application of which to sanitary science (and particularly sanitary science afloat) would be invaluable. Two delegates—one with age and experience, the other young, energetic, observant, and quick at note-taking—would be better than one. But there can be no doubt that some one from this country should be sent to the meeting of the commission.

Capital and Departmental Notes.

Gold was quoted yesterday at 100¾.

Subscriptions to the 4 per cent. loan yesterday were $557,000.

Revenue receipts yesterday were—from internal revenue, $381,195.66; from customs, $522,925.98.

Outstanding circulation of legal-tender notes and fractional currency: United States notes, new issue, $18,531,728; United States notes, series 1869, $134,755,700; United States notes, series 1874, $34,754,027; United States notes, series 1875, $137,380,095; United States notes, series 1878, $21,557,736; total United States notes, $346,981,016; fractional currency, $16,197,747.22; grand total, $362,878,763.22. United States notes redeemed, $430,900.

AMICABLY SETTLED.

The Differences Between Treasurer Gilfillan and the Commissioners.

The following official correspondence explains itself, and shows that whatever differences may have existed between Treasurer Gilfillan and the District Commissioners have been amicably adjusted.

THE TREASURER EXPRESSES REGRETS.

TREASURY OF THE UNITED STATES, Nov. 9, 1878.

Honorable Commissioners of the District of Columbia:

GENTLEMEN: I regret very much the publication of official correspondence between us, as I should, had I supposed recent letters would be published, have disclaimed therein any intention to reflect upon the present Commissioners, who I did not for one moment suppose were in the least responsible for transactions prior to their incumbency. I sincerely desire to be in accord with you, and shall esteem it a favor to be permitted to consult you and the sources of information at your command, in matters pertaining to the District, in which I am by law required to act. Very respectfully,

JAS. GILFILLAN,
Treasurer United States.

EXPLANATION REGARDING THE SINKING FUND.

NOVEMBER 14, 1878.

Hon. James Gilfillan, Treasurer United States:

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 8th instant, relating to the amount of money collected on account of the sinking fund of the District of Columbia, for the tax years 1873, 1876, 1877, and 1878, we submit, herewith, tabular statements prepared by the auditor and comptroller of the District, showing that the total collections on account of the sinking fund during these years and embracing also the collections on account of delinquent taxes of previous years amounted to $431,365.25 and that the former Commissioners paid to the Treasurer of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, during the years mentioned, $429,267.50, for which the receipts are now filed in the office of the accounting officers of the Department. The payments to the account of the sinking fund were therefore $177,544.64 in excess of the collections under the apportionments.

Your letter of the 8th instant, which we shall publish in connection with this, intimates that there are irregularities for which the former Commissioners are responsible. We have no knowledge of any such irregularities.

We regret as much as you can the publication of your letter, but on us we know how the copies were obtained for the press. Our desire is, and has been, to maintain a courteous, frank, and harmonious official intercourse with all persons, and in so far as we know, we have not failed to be governed by that purpose. By order of the board,

S. L. PHELPS, President.

THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATES.

NOV. 14, 1878.

Hon. James Gilfillan, Treasurer of the United States:

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 9th instant in respect to certificates of assessments for special improvements, we have to state that we have not yet issued any certificates of that character, nor have we in our possession any such certificates issued by our predecessors in office. We have no disposition to withhold from you, as sinking fund commissioner, any matter appertaining to your duties as such, and will forward the certificates of assessment so soon as they are ready for delivery. By order of the board,

S. L. PHELPS, President.

THE RIVAL GOVERNORS.

Nicholls' and Hampton's Broken Pledges.

Murder of Republican Voters Prior to the Election—A "Quiet Election" Secured—Democratic Intimidation and Fraud—An Outrage Upon a United States Officer—Ballot-Box Frauds.

Wholesale Assassination of Republicans.

A special dispatch from New Orleans to the Cincinnati *Gazette*, dated on the 13th instant, brings the information that Republican complications, in connection with the late Louisiana elections, are assuming a shape not particularly complimentary to the Government of Governor Nicholls, placed as they are beside his oft repeated assurances of ample protection for colored voters. There are quite as many political refugees in New Orleans, seemingly from the country parishes, as in the campaign of 1876. They report themselves now, as then, "driven from their homes because of their political affiliations." Their affidavits have been taken for probable use in the near future, and show up badly enough. Those from Concordia and Tensas Parishes in particular show an unfortunate state of affairs, to say the least. The parish of Concordia has a registered colored vote of 2,000 as against 2,700 for the whites. Affidavits show the whites as arranged into military companies and the blacks completely terrorized. Showing is made of something like fifty blacks murdered within the three weeks immediately preceding the election. They are represented as found hanging in some cases two on a tree; in others as hanging to the gate posts, and in others again, as found dead in the field and the turkey buzzards feasting on the remains. The parish, withal, is reported as having actually gone Republican by better than 600 majority, but as counted none the less for the Democrats. The United States Commissioner, too, seems too have been forced to leave. The showing for Tensas is still worse, the number of killed being claimed at not less than 100, no Republican organization being possible, and no attempt made as a consequence to put a Republican ticket in the field. The affidavits, whatever of actual fact, are certainly specific, and, in view of the late utterances of the President, are likely to get to play their part.

A United States Commission a Warrant for Insult, Arrest, and Imprisonment.

The following letter from a prominent citizen of Charleston, S. C., gives an account of the treatment at the late election of a deputy United States marshal, while acting in the discharge of his duty, and of his subsequent arrest and imprisonment by local authorities:

During the counting of the votes on the night of the 5th instant, at the poll in the town of Orangeburg, in the county of the same name, and in this Congressional district, Samuel Fickling, a regular United States deputy marshal, endeavored to obtain admission to the room where the votes were being counted. Upon being refused admission, he exhibited his commission as United States deputy marshal. Without any act of violence on his part, the state constables at once seized him and hurried him off to the jail. The next morning a trial justice of the State issued a warrant against him, charging him with attempting to force himself into the room where votes were being counted. Remember the law of South Carolina requires counting of votes in public, and under the law of South Carolina he had, as a citizen, the right to witness the count. Kett's trial was fixed for last Monday, but on that day, by instructions of District-Attorney Northrop, a United States Commissioner went from Columbia to Orangeburg and issued warrants, under section 5522, for all parties who had interfered with Kett while in discharge of his duties, and who had refused him permission to witness the count. Next day, while Kett was quietly standing on the streets of Orangeburg, he was surrounded by a crowd of Democrats, including those whom he had arrested. Some drew their pistols to keep Kett's friends from coming to his rescue, while others beat and cut him up fearfully. After nearly killing him, Kett was carried off to jail, while his assailants were all allowed to walk off undisturbed. He is now lying in jail for having the audacity in the State of South Carolina to exhibit a commission from the Government of the United States, and that Government is powerless to protect him.

Not Enough Cheating to Win.

NORFOLK, VA., Nov. 15.—The report that Yeates, Democrat, is elected to Congress by six majority from the first North Carolina district is unfounded. The returns as made by the canvassers of the several counties show a majority of fifty-four for Martin, Republican, and this result was obtained after the canvassers had thrown out 418 votes cast for Martin as irregular.

OUR FOREIGN MISSIONS

What It Costs to Support Them.

The Democratic organ of this locality took occasion yesterday to use Auditor Ela's annual report to cover a tissue of shameless falsehoods relating to the history of our foreign Ministers and consulates. In referring to Mr. B. F. Stevens, a dispatch agent, it says he was paid $7,380.81 during the last fiscal year for dispatching "an invitation to dinner to some aristocrat occasionally." The truth is that Mr. Stevens has a fixed salary of $2,000 per annum, and every dollar beyond that sum that has come into his hands has been strictly accounted for. Then, again, it declares that "under the indefinite and unsatisfactory head of 'contingencies' the American people have been taxed over $50,000 by their Ministers abroad." This falsifier of facts ought to have known that these "contingencies" apply to China, Japan, Spain, and Turkey, where this Government supports—in China, Japan, and Turkey—court-houses, jails, marshals, &c., as an independent judiciary, for the protection of the interests of American citizens in those countries. The contingencies in Spain are made necessary by the fact that whenever the King removes the court from Madrid to Bidefonso, his country retreat, the American legation is required to move also, the expenses of which are paid out of these contingencies.

Then again the *Post* declares that this report involuntarily bears testimony of the good results achieved by a Democratic House in its legislation relating to foreign ministers and consulates. Under the old system in vogue, when the Republicans were in power, consuls were allowed to retain all fees as part of their pay. The Democrats changed the law so as to give them fixed salaries, and required fees to be turned over to the Government. Under this law of a Democratic House the consulates have become self-sustaining.

The truth is that the change alluded to above was made long before the Republican party had an existence, and that the latter left the consular organization to this day as it found it on the 4th of March, 1861.

To show the absurdity of the statement that "when the Republicans were in power, consuls were allowed to retain all fees as a part of their pay," we give the following facts tabulated from the record for the last eight years of Republican rule in the Government under Grant's administration, adding thereto the year 1878:

	Fees received.	Salaries.	Excess.
1870	$[illegible]	$[illegible]	$[illegible]
1871	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1872	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1873	749,204 89	518,907 04	195,302 85
1874	715,202 94	574,021 23	141,181 71
1875	699,988 49	549,177 47	149,811 02
1876	663,301 39	552,146 52	111,154 87
1877	624,295 99	518,304 11	105,991 88
1878	655,944 31	545,613 85	110,330 46

By this it will be seen that the average excess of consular fees under General Grant's administration was $144,541.58.

These statements, which can be verified by the record, only show to what shifts and falsehoods the Democrats now resort to bolster up a rotten and sinking cause. It is their death struggle.

ELECTRIC ILLUMINATION.

Some Interesting Facts—A Few Finishing Touches Needed—How Edison Invents.

J. B. Fuller, of New York, the electrician, and scientific head of the largest electric lighting company in this country, is stopping at the Ebbitt. After over a year's constant illness, Mr. Fuller comes here to look after his patent matters, which he has so long been obliged to neglect. In a conversation with a REPUBLICAN reporter, Mr. Fuller let out the following facts, which are very interesting at the present time: In regard to the probability of general electric illumination, he says it must come soon; that it only needs a few finishing touches when gas as an illuminating agent will not be annihilated, as some enthusiasts predict, but will take a stand far below that now occupied by oil.

Those finishing touches are now being fast applied, and by such an army of clear-headed inventors that, while no one can receive the honor of its full accomplishment, it will all be divided among American inventors. More has been accomplished here within two years in a practicable way than has been done in Europe in the last twenty-five years. Indeed, the latest and most valuable inventions now being introduced in Europe are subject to patents there held by Americans, a fact which foreign inventors seem to ignore, but will fully understand in due time. The great bugbear, the devisibility of the electric current, which for years defied all science and ingenuity, will soon disappear forever. There are now at least three distinct methods of dividing and subdividing the electric current, of even an hundred thousand candle power, into any desired number of luminous points, from the maximum down to the faintest spark, and as easily as to divide a current of water. Capitalists are also now for the first time taking the lead by coming to the front with their money to aid the inventors and the enterprise, there being at this moment five large companies organized in New York and Brooklyn alone, representing several millions of dollars capital. So we may reasonably look for an early solution of the problem of general electric illumination.

His recent discoveries in electric illumination are unknown except by a few of his trusted friends. With all the facilities of his complete laboratory, and of scientific and skilled assistants, there can be no doubt but that he will produce a valuable system, creditable to himself and to the company which bears his name; but that he will produce the *sine qua non*, the recent discoveries of others have rendered absolutely impossible.

In regard to Edison and his recent discoveries, Mr. Fuller says that if a person has witnessed the performances of the "Lightning Calculator" they can form some idea of the manner in which this man invents. You make a suggestion, and before you half explain what is wanted he says, "I've got it." There it is, but covered with all sorts of foreign matter, which he soon clears off, leaving the invention perfect. Nor is this all; he then sifts from the chips he has thus made a dozen inventions which he was not looking for.

THE SUSPENDED NATIONAL BANK.

Statement of the Receiver Showing Ample Assets.

Mr. B. U. Keyser, receiver of the German-American National Bank, has prepared a statement of the liabilities of the bank, as follows:

Liabilities owing to depositors	$292,825 98
Liabilities owing to other banks	11,308 25
Bills payable	20,000 00
Total	$324,134 23

ASSETS.

Real estate	$129,000
Loans and discounts	19,000
Bonds, &c., on hand	2,500
Overdrafts	2,000
U. S. Bonds	2,000
Premiums	1,000
With U. S. Treasury	1,350
Cash items	17,884 23
Total	$324,134 23

The value of real estate (which includes furniture and fixtures) and of loans and discounts, have been carefully estimated, and it is believed with judicious management that the amount realized will not vary materially from this estimate. In addition to the assets above there is the personal liabilities of the stockholders, say $100,000. Mr. Keyser says: "The liabilities are readily determinable, and the assets have been carefully considered and estimated. I think that the result will demonstrate that the creditors will be paid in full."

Dr. Lord's Lectures.

Dr. Lord's scholarly, instructive, and entertaining lectures, delivered in this city last year, will be remembered with pleasure. Dr. Lord will begin a series of twelve historical lectures, at the Congregational Church, beginning Monday evening, November 25, for which the following subjects have been chosen: "Society in the Old Roman World;" "Paula—Christian Friendship;" "Leo the Great—Foundation of the Papacy;" "Charlemagne—Revival of the Western Empire;" "Madame de Maintenon—Woman in Society;" "William of Wykeham—Gothic Architecture;" "Savonarola—Unsuccessful Reformers;" "Madame de Stael—Literary Women;" "Louis XV.—Seeds of Revolution;" "Gustavus Adolphus—Thirty Years' War;" "Heloise—The Passion of Love;" "Mirabeau—The French Revolution."

THE STEWART ROBBERY.

A Suspicious Box of Human Bones.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., Nov. 15.—Coroner John P. Schenck, of Matteawan, N. Y., telegraphs to the *Eagle* as follows: "A box containing human bones was taken to Sylvan Lake, Wednesday, in a wagon, and sent by express, yesterday, to Clove Branch Junction, via Clove Branch Railroad. A telegram was sent to me to investigate the case, as the box was supposed to contain the remains of Mr. Stewart. I consider it only a blind, but hold the remains for further investigation."

Coroner Schenck has sent a second dispatch, as follows:

L. B. Freeman, telegraph operator at Clove Branch Junction, telegraphed that a box had been shipped by some person unknown from Sylvan Lake to Messrs. Fahnestock & Van Wyck, Clove Branch Junction, the opening the box it was found to contain human bones. It was sent back to the depot and the contents nailed. The bones are old, and the skeleton not complete, and no doubt have been sent to divert public attention.

Another dispatch says the skeleton was that of a grown person, and that the skull was sawed in two. It is reported that a peddler tried to sell it to a Poughkeepsie junk dealer, who refused to have anything to do with it, and that the peddler then shipped it to Sylvan Lake Station, where it now is.

FOUR PERSONS UNDER ARREST.

NEW YORK, NOV. 15.—Detective Fields, of the District Attorney's office, said to-day that four men had already been arrested on suspicion of stealing Mr. Stewart's body. The detective declined to give their names at present lest the publication of them might interfere with the full development of the case. He asserts that the connection of these men with the outrage is settled almost beyond dispute.

NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

NEW YORK, NOV. 16.—Up to one o'clock this morning there were no new developments in the Stewart grave-robbery case. The police assert in the strongest terms that as yet they have obtained no clew looking toward the recovery of the body.

Reduced Valuation in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 15.—The Board of Revision of Taxes made a return to the City Controller to-day, giving the assessed valuation of property in the city subject to taxation for the next year at $551,989,861, a depreciation of $32,378,352 as compared with the assessed valuat on returned last year.

THE POSTAL SERVICE.

Annual Report of the Postmaster-General.

Suggestions for Improvement in the Service—Complaints of the Railroad Companies—No Discrimination Against Southern Roads—Responsibility for Registered Packages—Imported Books.

A Number of Important Recommendations.

The annual report of the Postmaster-General has been furnished for publication. Through the courtesy of Postmaster-General Key much of the statistical matter has heretofore been given to the public. In relation to the reduction in the commutation to railways for carrying the mails the Postmaster-General says: "This reduction has been the occasion of much dissatisfaction and complaints. Most of the leading companies have entered formal protest against this reduction, and some have stated that they only continued to perform the service temporarily lest their refusal to do so might occasion serious inconvenience to the public."

He also calls attention to the complaints of the roads of insufficient compensation for carrying mails from depots to post-offices. The delivery of mails from stations to post-offices should either be made an element of the basis of compensation, to be paid for according to the work done on each route, or the railway companies should be relieved from this duty. An unpaid service is always a source of dissatisfaction.

He calls attention to certain statements in the report of the railway commission, which, unexplained, might leave an impression that there had been unjust discrimination against Southern roads in the adjustment of pay for carrying the mails, but such is not the case. The rates of pay are the same on all roads on which the amount and character of the service are similar. It is true that greater rates of pay are allowed elsewhere than in the South, because the service is greater. On one route from New York city the average daily weight of mails is thirty-six tons, while no road south of Maryland carries more than six tons of mail a day, and the same disproportion exists between nearly all Northern and Southern railroads.

By a statement appended to the report it is shown that notwithstanding the great increase in the weight of mails and the additional facilities furnished for their care and distribution in transit, the rate per mile of annual transportation in 1877 was but nine mills greater than in 1851.

Under the head of responsibility for registered matter he says:

As the principle of a limited responsibility in case of the loss of registered articles is acknowledged by a large majority of the countries comprising the Universal Union, and is also adopted with a restricted liability in the convention of Paris, it is desirable, for the sake of uniformity, to apply it to all registered articles exchanged in the Union mails. I will therefore recommend that the necessary authority be given by law to enable this Department to accept the several rules of the Union respecting the payment of indemnities for registered articles lost or destroyed in the International postal service. The number of registered articles annually lost or destroyed is so small that the payments to be made on this head would be very trifling in amount.

He also renews the recommendation in his last annual report—

That suitable provision be made by law for the delivery to addressees in this country, free of customs duty, of newspapers and other articles of printed matter received in the mails from foreign countries in exchange for the publications issued in the countries specified by the Universal Postal Union Convention. The fact that our own International postal conventions with other countries which provided for the exchange of such articles through the mails subject to prepaid postage at the rates of postage, weight, and possession limited to 4 oz. for printed matter, placed us in an invidious position as being the only country in the world whose laws exact customs duties on publications of this character received in the mails from other countries.

REVENUES OF THE DEPARTMENT.

If the revenues of the postal service were equal to its expenditures, no other system of economy would seem necessary than a rigid economy. Many of my predecessors have urged the establishment of higher rates of postage or the exclusion from the mails of such matter as did not pay the expenses of its transportation, in order to make the Department self-sustaining. Time and again it has been shown that the second and third class lines do not pay its way through the mails, and it has been urged to increase the rate of postage thereon. The question has been considered time and again by the appropriate committees and discussed by both branches of Congress, and the results have shown that it was not expected that the Department should be self-sustaining, but that the deficiencies in its revenues should be met by appropriations from the general Treasury.

DEFICIENCIES MUST INCREASE WITH BUSINESS.

If this be true, and if this policy shall be continued, it necessarily follows that the deficiencies must increase in proportion to the increase of mail matter in these classes, and if we are inadequate to meet these deficiencies be appropriated by Congress the efficiency of the service must be crippled. The amount of matter sent through the mails free is very large, adding greatly to our expenditures and giving us no revenue.

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE

has been restored to the members and officers of Congress, so that it allows them to send free almost everything which they were ever allowed to send out through the mails free except books. Tons upon tons of books, documents, seeds, plants, and the like are placed in our mails, free of cost, on this score.

The official letters of the executive departments of the national government, the documents, &c., go free through the mails. Newspapers sent to subscribers residing in the county in which the newspapers are printed and published go free through the mails. It costs the Department just as much to transport free as it does when postage is paid. A pound of seeds or public documents, or a specimen of mineralogy or of the products of Departments costs just as much as a pound of letters which three cents for every half ounce has been paid.

HOW TO PREVENT DEFICIENCIES.

Now I am not especially for curtailing expenditures, but I am for policy in keeping the expenditures of the revenues of the Department by curtailing or abolishing the rate of transportation, and by increasing the rates of postage on such matter, than by appropriating sums inadequate to an efficient, prompt, and full transaction of the service.

New post-office buildings at San Francisco and Washington are recommended. Of the latter he says the office now occupies a so large a portion of the Departmental building as to leave insufficient room for the clerks of the Department, and renders the space available for files and records entirely inadequate. For want of other suitable room many tons of valuable records are now stored in the attic of the building, adding greatly to the danger from fire, in the event of which their destruction would be inevitable.

A Horrible Tragedy.

NEW YORK, Nov. 15.—The tenement house at No. 305 West Forty-fourth street was the scene of a horrible tragedy to-day. Laurence Riley, a laborer, sixty years old, was living in the house with his wife, aged forty-five years. They have quarrelled of late, and rumors of jealousy on the part of the husband made trouble. Today Riley, while in a paroxysm of rage, seized an axe and drove her to the floor insensible, by a blow on her head, making a deep and serious wound. Believing his wife dead, he took a razor and cut his own throat. It is believed that Mrs. Riley's injuries are not fatal, but that Riley cannot live.

THE YELLOW FEVER.

A Fatal Case at Long Branch.

RED BANK, N. J., Nov. 15.—There is great excitement at Long Branch over what is apparently a death from yellow fever. Benjamin Woolley, of Norfolk, arrived there Sunday to attend the funeral of his brother, Joseph Woolley, a well-known Washington Market merchant, who died suddenly on the Friday before. On Wednesday last Benjamin was suddenly taken ill, and died in a few hours with what is now pronounced yellow fever, he having contracted the scourge before leaving home. His remains were privately buried today at Long Branch, the funeral service being preached after their burial.

At one o'clock to-day a dispatch was received from Norfolk announcing the death of Joseph Woolley, a son of the deceased, which occurred this morning from yellow fever. This is the fourth sudden death in the Woolley family in seven months.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 15.—There have been seven deaths here from yellow fever during the twenty-four hours ending at six p. m. Most of these were from relapses, some after one or two months' recovery. The deaths include five children. The total number of deaths to date is 1,003.

MOBILE, Nov. 15.—The Mobile *Register*, by authority of the Board of Health, invites all absentees to return, and states that Mobile is as safe as any city in the land, the many rumors to the contrary notwithstanding.

VIEWS OF THE MEMPHIS COMMISSION.

MEMPHIS, Nov. 15.—The members of the National Yellow Fever Commission depart tonight for Richmond, Va. In their report to be made they will advocate a system of national quarantine, under the direction of the United States Government. The commission are convinced from their investigations that yellow fever is not indigenous in the atmosphere in any part of the United States, and that in New Orleans it was caused by importation.

Whatever doubt there may be in the case of New Orleans, there is no doubt but that it was carried from New Orleans to every other point. The disease does not seem to be prevented from prevailing epidemically either by distance from the seaboard or distance above the sea level, as under favorable circumstances for its dissemination it might prevail in any part of the United States.

Heretofore seaboard quarantines, as far as the Gulf of Mexico is concerned, and making exceptions this year in the case of Texas, have been inadequate to prevent the introduction of the disease. The difficulties of inland quarantine are as many and as great in cases of towns on the Mississippi River, or in cases of towns having extensive railroad connections, as to be almost practically impossible. With this view of the facts the commissioners are of the opinion that the only reasonable protection to keep yellow fever from this country is a system of strict national quarantine.

RAILROAD DISASTERS.

A Car Overturned and Burned—Several Lives Lost.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Nov. 15.—The accident last evening on the New Brunswick Railroad (narrow gauge line) is one of the most serious that has happened in this province. Peel, the scene of the disaster, is about six miles below Florenceville and about eighty miles above Fredericton. A passenger who was on the ill-fated train gives the following account of the accident: "It was an up train, and there were twenty passengers on board, including Conductor Yerxa. The train was going at a moderate rate of speed when we reached Peel. Suddenly there was a shock, the train jumped the track, and we found that the passenger car was rolling down one of the worst embankments on the line. Thinner had almost reached the water's edge, when it was discovered that it had taken fire. Great alarm now felt by the occupants, as it was feared none would be able to escape from the burning car. The flames spread rapidly, and men took off their coats and attempted to extinguish the fire, but their efforts were fruitless. The flames had complete possession, leaping from seat to seat, driving the passengers, who were almost crazy, before them. The clothing of the passengers soon caught fire, and, as they rushed from one part of the car to another, the scene was indeed terrible, until they were released.

"A little boy, who had managed to keep clear of the flames long after the clothing of many other passengers had caught fire several times, in his anxiety for the safety of some of his friends rushed into the flames, and was so badly burned that he only lived a short time. The car had been fully wrecked before it took fire and many passengers were seriously injured. The name of the child that died from the effects of its burns is unknown. There was one woman in the car, and she was so badly hurt before the car caught fire that she was unable to battle with the flames. Her body was almost consumed when we escaped from the car."

Mr. Hacker, of Fort Fairfield, also lost his life by the disaster. Among those who were burned and otherwise injured are Mr. Yerxa, conductor, not fatally; R. M. Dowlosky, brakeman; R. Clark, express agent; R. Raymond, news agent; John Hamilton, James Turner, W. A. Veney, Charles Phillips, John Lovely, and James Montgomery. The man was badly burned about the face and hands, another had his arm broken and head badly cut, and another was badly burned about his body and lower limbs.

Another Fatal Railroad Accident.

ST. JOHNSBURY, VT., Nov. 15.—The Portland and Ogdensburg inward mail train was thrown from the track near Dows Crossing to-day, a passenger and express car going into the ditch. The accident was caused by a broken rail. Israel J. Currier, of Walcott, was killed; Mrs. Thomas L. Waterman, of Hyde Park, seriously injured; Miss Mary Trainer, of St. Johnsbury, slightly injured, and one gentleman had his head cut. The track has been repaired and trains are running regularly to-night.

Railroad Competition.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 15.—The competition in eastward bound passenger rates, which it is asserted have been secretly cut down to three or four months past, has finally forced fares down to the lowest figures known for years. Today the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad announces New York and Philadelphia tickets at $1 each, Pittsburg tickets $2.75, with the fares to some common points in Ohio at a nominal sum. The Pennsylvania rates to New York and Philadelphia have not yet been reduced below $5, but it is thought, no doubt, will follow its opponents with discount coupons. The tickets sold at these prices are rebate tickets, and speculators have an opportunity to take advantage of the situation. All the roads report good sales to-day, and know nothing of a return to former prices.

THE RATES OF FREIGHT DECREASED.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 15.—The rate on railroad iron also goes to the East is becoming independent here, as well as elsewhere. Yesterday the Vandalia line cut from 17½ to $10 to New York, and was immediately followed by the Wabash. Tomorrow it is likely as great or greater discount will be made. Safe neither the Illinois Mississippi, Indianapolis and St. Louis, Chicago and Alton, or Toledo Central have made any cut.

A Terrible Death.

DETROIT, MICH., Nov. 15.—Hermon Morgan fell into a setter in Dolson & Chapin's salt block, at Bay City, to day, and was scalded to death.

THE OLD WORLD'S NEWS.

Growing Indications of an Afghan War.

England Preparing for an Immediate Advance—The Ameer Reinforcing His Advance Guard—A Change in Russian Tactics—Austria Prepared to Enforce the Treaty of Berlin—Socialism.

War Preparations in India.

LONDON, Nov. 15.—Indian newspapers state that all camels arriving at Quetta are detained to be used in the advance if necessary. All officers on leave have been finally recalled. The commander-in-chief, who is at Rawil Pindee, appears to be certain that hostilities will commence on the 20th instant. The Ameer has withdrawn two regiments from Candahar, and ordered the Governor of the Pisheen Valley, near Quettah, not to resist the British advance.

THE AFGHANS MASSING.

LONDON, Nov. 16.—The *Telegraph's* dispatch from Thull states that the Afghans are rapidly massing on the hills commanding the Khurmeo and Cabul roads.

SURVEILLANCE OF THE PRESS.

BOMBAY, Nov. 16.—A dispatch to the *Times of