The National Republican.

VOL. XXVIII.—NO. 105. WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 22, 1888. THREE CENTS.

ARREARS OF RENT BILL.

PARNELL'S ADDRESS IN FAVOR OF HIS OWN MEASURE.

He Asks For Justice For the Poor Tenants of Ireland, and Pleads Their Cause With Eloquence, But the House Refuses to Aid Them.

LONDON, Mar. 21.—Parnell moved a second reading of his arrears of rent bill to-day in the house of commons, and said he still had an invincible objection to solving the rent question by a general bankruptcy of the tenants. If no legislation had taken place he would have preferred dealing with the arrears of rent in the same manner as the crofters of Scotland had been dealt with. It was not desirable to depart from the provisions of the land act of 1887 empowering courts in which proceedings are taken for non-payment of rent to postpone, where the limit does not exceed £50, execution of a decree and authority to spread a debt over such period as they think proper, the amount to be paid in installments. He asked the house to empower the courts to reduce the debt and costs and extend the limit to £100, to relieve the great body of leasers. He proposed an extension of the 1887 act to civil cases for the recovery of rent, and although it was limited to rent debts he was willing to extend it so as to embrace all cases covered by section 30 of the act. He wanted the time for redemption extended to three months after the passage of this act, provided the six months' time of the 1887 act had expired. Power was wanted to reduce rents and costs where decrees were recovered prior to the passage of the act. The time was ending when notices of ejectment should precede actual eviction by six months. The benefits were seen in that with the three months ending with September there were 4,195 evictions while for the quarter ending with December there were but 550. In the latter three months 3,352 notices were served, and he wanted to know what would happen if these and probably 3,000 other notices were carried into effect. Ireland would be plunged into a series of disaster the end of which none could foresee. It was a pressing question demanding immediate solution. The government's great mistake in dealing with the land question has been that it has been always too late.

In reply to Mr. Williams's amendment that rents and other debts be placed on the same footing, he said such things never were done. Since the Devon commission parliament felt it necessary to fetter landlords, but not other creditors. In no case had tenants lost interest in their holdings or in the shelter of a roof through shopkeepers. When distress occurred among the class against which Mr. Williams wanted criminal proceedings the shopkeepers assisted by giving them credit. If the house plunged the country into bankruptcy it would destroy those poor people. If the house would fly in the face of every recommendation made by representatives of a populous constituency, upon their heads be the responsibility.

He offered to consider amendments consistent with the tenor of the bill, and would consent to limit its operation to two years. If the bill was rejected it would be the best proof of the impossibility of legislating for Ireland from Westminster. If the Irish question was a land question why did not the house earnestly deal with it? The truth is they could not settle it because they knew nothing about it. They went to Birmingham rather than Cork or Tyrone for guidance. Why were they afraid of it if it did not endanger the union? He could not promise that the just settlement of the land question would diminish the demand for a restoration of the Irish parliament. The house refused—328 to 243—to order the bill to a second reading.

Mr. Williams moved his amendment for the second reading of the arrears of rent bill, which declares that no bill will be satisfactory unless it deals with other debts than rents. He argued that all creditors should come into court if one should. It would be useless to protect the tenant from the landlord if he was to be subject to oppression by other tenants. The only way to completely rescue tenants from debt and put them on a solid footing was to erase all debts. Viscount Evrington, liberal unionist, seconded the amendment.

T. W. Russell said, actuated by a strong sense of duty, he would vote against the government and his own party. The rejection of the bill would result in the repeal of the union.

Mr. Chamberlain declared the object of the bill was to illustrate the desirability of home rule rather than secure a material advantage to the people. There was no reason to suppose that the 6,000 notices spoken of by Parnell would result in evictions.

Parnell said to-day he did not believe the government would deal with the arrears questions this session unless numerous harsh evictions rouse British opinion. Davitt thinks if anything is gained the government will ask for a few millions more to extend the purchase acts, thereby relieving landlords at the expense of the taxpayer.

A son of Lord Salisbury has been in Constantinople for a week, and has been received by the sultan. It is understood he is on a mission from the British government to the porte.

Veracity won the Lincolnshire handicap of 1,000 sovereigns at the Lincoln spring meeting to-day. There were twenty-five starters.

The Marquis of Granby, conservative, has been elected to parliament without opposition by the Melton division. He succeeds his father, Lord John Manners, who ascends to the peerage.

The Hamavend nomadics have pillaged the district around Bagdad, burning many villages and murdering many Kurdish peasants. Ishmael Pasha has been sent to the scene.

While a performance was in progress at the Banquet Theater, Oporto, last night, an explosion of gas occurred, and the theater took fire and was destroyed. The house was full of spectators, and a number of them were lost. Ten bodies have been recovered from the ruins. Many persons were injured.

The vacant Knighthood of the Garter has been conferred on the Marquis of Londonderry, lord lieutenant of Ireland.

The consols conversion bill was reported to the house to-day, its consideration in committee having been concluded.

The queen, accompanied by Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg, left for Portsmouth en route to Italy to-day. The court remains abroad three months.

THE EMPEROR MUCH STRONGER.

BERLIN, Mar. 21.—The emperor passed a good night, and he feels much stronger to-day. He received the Crown Princess this afternoon. The empress will hold a mourning reception at Charlottenburg on Saturday. Prince Bismarck visited the Crown Prince at noon to-day, and was received by the emperor in the afternoon.

It is denied that an operation to remove the dead cartilage from the emperor's throat is contemplated.

The lower house of the Prussian diet passed the budget to-day and adjourned to April 14.

The socialist Nieuwenhaus has been returned to the Dutch parliament, the first instance of that nature.

The air of Charlottenburg continues to affect the emperor's throat dangerously. The doctors insist that the emperor must go to Wiesbaden within fourteen days. The Crown Prince was attacked yesterday by an affection of the ear, and Dr. Bergman was called to attend him. It is likely to prove annoying, as an abcess has formed. The Crown Prince would have only a doctor of his own nationality.

THE BOULANGER INQUIRY.

PARIS, Mar. 21.—The court of inquiry in the Boulanger matter will meet Saturday. It will be an impartial tribunal. Gen. Boulanger remains at Clermont.

It is reported that Gen. Boulanger is irritated at being placed on the retired list and declares he is no longer bound by military duties. He will associate himself with the friends of his propaganda.

M. Felix Crott, recently elected to the chamber by the socialists, refuses to give up his seat in favor of Gen. Boulanger.

TATE'S DEFALCATION.

It Will Aid the Republicans to Carry Kentucky.

LOUISVILLE, Mar. 21.—Auditor Hewitt who has been working for three nights on Treasurer Tate's books, says the shortage will be less than $200,000, but will exceed $190,000. The judiciary committee's report recommends the impeachment of Tate, and a committee is now at work formulating a plan of procedure. The resolution offering a reward of $5,000 for Tate's apprehension has also been passed.

There is no knowledge as to where Tate has gone, but the general impression is that he has fled to Canada. The Republicans claim that Tate's defalcation will result in giving them the state at the next election, and assert that this shortage is proof of their claims that the Democratic administration is rotten to the core.

A prominent Republican says Tate found $1,300,000 in the treasury when he went there, that it is now almost empty, and he has flown, taking several hundred thousand dollars with him. The effect will be that the Republican party will put forth new energy, and gather in the Democrats who believe in honest government. If the Republicans don't carry the state this fall things will hum at the next election.

Startling developments are looked for when Tate's private papers are found. It is said they will show loans to various high officials, including one of $5,000 to an ex-judge of the court of appeals. The governor evidently intends to lay open the whole case.

Auditor Hewitt finds that on March 17, 1887, he had in bank money enough to square accounts to a cent and meet every voucher. He does not think the shortage all occurred since then, but all the money must have been drawn in the meantime. The leakage has been going on for years, but Tate has bridged it over, until last year he had sufficient in bank to make the books square.

Among his assets are $75,000 loaned to friends, most of which is good, 600 barrels of whisky, valued at $50,000, and $25,000 in bank at Frankfort, and a certificate of deposit for $19,500, which will reduce the estimated shortage of $200,000 that much.

CONGRESSMAN PLUMB'S SUIT.

An Administrator Asks For an Accounting For Partnership Funds.

CHICAGO, Mar. 21.—A suit in which Congressman Ralph Plumb is an interested party is on hearing in Judge Garnett's court, and will continue for at least a week. The suit is that of Lawson A. Winslow against Sherman Leland, administrator of William H. W. Cushman, who died in 1878, his heirs, Ralph Plumb, Philip B. Shumway, Francis E. Hinckley, and the heirs of David Strawn.

Prior to 1878 Cushman was in partnership with Congressman Plumb and the defendants, Shumway, Hinckley, and Strawn, for the purpose of building the Chicago and Paducah railway. After Mr. Cushman's death Plumb and Shumway sold the Paducah road to the Wabash Company, and made a settlement with Administrator Leland for Cushman's interest. Winslow, the complainant, avers that he is the assignee of claims against the Cushman estate amounting to about $100,000. The estate, however, is insolvent, and Winslow asserts that the settlement made by Plumb and Shumway with Leland was fraudulent. He asks that it be set aside and a new settlement made, which he thinks will show enough money in the estate to settle his claim. The defendants deny any fraud, and set up the claim that the judgments of which Winslow pretends to be the assignee have already been paid or satisfied.

CROPS IN THE SOUTH.

The Percentage of Increase in Grain Greater Than in Any Other Section.

BALTIMORE, Mar. 21.—The *Manufacturers' Record* has compiled and will publish in this week's issue the statistics of southern crops in 1870, 1879, and 1887. Comparing the yields of 1870 and 1887, it is shown that the cotton crop advanced from 3,011,996 bales to 6,800,000 bales; corn from 249,072,000 bushels to 492,415,000 bushels; wheat from 33,841,000 bushels to 52,384,000 bushels, and oats from 31,973,000 bushels to 81,500,000 bushels; a total increase of 3,780,000 bales of cotton, and 311,000,000 bushels of grain. The percentage of increase in grain production in the south was greater than the percentage of grain in the rest of the country. The number of farm animals in the south in 1870 was 28,754,000, and in 1887 the number had risen to 44,830,000.

Comparing the yields of 1879 and 1887, there was an increase of 1,044,000 bales of cotton and 195,230,000 bushels of grain, the total grain product in the south in 1887 having been 626,305,000 bushels, against 431,000,000 in 1879, an increase of 45 per cent., while in the rest of the country the increase in grain product was only 16,000,000 bushels, or less than 1 per cent., though the live stock in 1887 shows an increase in value over that of 1879 of $182,283,296, and of agricultural productions of $170,968,000.

DEFEATED THE NEW YORKS.

The Washingtons Meet the Giants at Jacksonville and Take Them In.

[Special to the NATIONAL REPUBLICAN.]

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., Mar. 21.—The Washington team defeated the New Yorks here to-day by a score of six to five. Crane and Murphy were the battery for the New Yorks, while O'Day and Mack occupied the points for the Washingtons. Daily's timely hitting netted four runs for the Statesmen. Hoy to-day developed into a wonderful base runner and astonished the spectators by his daring and successful dashes between the bases. O'Day and Mack worked splendidly together, and kept their opponents guessing all through the game. The grounds were in miserable condition owing to a heavy rain this morning.

THE PRESIDENT ACCEPTS.

He is a Member of the Browning Lake Fishing Club.

BALTIMORE, MD., Mar. 21.—A letter was received to-day from President Cleveland accepting his election as a member of the Browning Lake Trout Fishing Club. He expresses his gratification at his election and the hope that the number of trout will not diminish except through the efforts of the club. Browning lake is about six miles from Oakland, in Western Maryland, and is the most noted trout-fishing ground in the state.

M'GARIGLE IN MINNESOTA.

The Escaped Chicago Boodler Growing Bold.

DULUTH, MINN., Mar. 21.—McGarigle, the escaped Chicago boodler, was in this city last Saturday. Of this there can be no doubt, and several friends, including a Chicago newspaper man, talked with him. He left for Minneapolis the same day and said he would return to Sault Ste Marie, where he has been several times since his escape. He expressed a hope of returning to Chicago soon.

THE CONSERVATIVE CHIEF.

Arthur Averted a General Tie-Up of the Northwestern Roads.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., Mar. 21.—It transpires that a general tie-up of the Northwestern roads was averted by Chief Arthur's counsels. The men have been on the verge of striking, but wanted the approval of the grand officers and support of the Brotherhood. A committee has gone to Chicago to interview Chief Arthur, and on the conference depends the question of a tie-up.

Every License Refused.

HUNTINGDON, PA., Mar. 21.—The liquor license court to-day refused the application of every person for the sale of liquor here on and after May 1. The place will be completely dry. The breweries and distilleries which had licenses last year were refused to-day.

TORN BY A TORNADO.

A VIOLENT WIND STORM SWEEPS ACROSS GEORGIA AND TENNESSEE.

It Traverses One Hundred Miles in Less Than Half an Hour—Several Persons Killed and Injured—Buildings Wrecked and Considerable Damage Done.

CALHOUN, GA., Mar. 21.—A terrible wind storm swept across this place last night. It seems to have formed in the vicinity of Calhoun and pursued a northeasterly direction through north Georgia and into and beyond East Tennessee, bounding across the Chilhower mountains, and was next heard from near Loudon, Tenn., on the East Tennessee road, eighty miles northeast of Chattanooga, traveling from Calhoun, Ga., to Loudon, Tenn., a distance of 100 miles, in about thirty minutes. The path of the tornado from Calhoun to Loudon was through a section remote from railroads and telegraph lines, and the damage it may have done will not be known for some days, but must have been fearful.

The tornado in places cleared the ground completely of grass, and a forest of timber was mown as with a great scythe. The cyclone had a whirling, rotary motion, leaving a scene of desolation and destruction in its path. Large trees were twisted from their trunks and others torn up by the roots. A heavy bureau was found a mile from the house that had contained it. The list of seriously wounded men and children in Loudon county is very large. Andy Worley, his wife, and eight children were every one injured. Some of them will die.

The station at Calhoun was unroofed and the colored porter received injuries which may prove fatal. Several houses were carried a distance of half a mile, the telegraph wires were prostrated and a number of cars thrown from the track. The loss in Calhoun alone will reach $10,000.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Mar. 21.—Dispatches to-night state that the hurricane which did such great damage at Calhoun, Ga., last night passed over East Tennessee, and near Lenoirs much damage was done and several lives lost. The residence of J. H. Williams, three miles east of Lenoirs, was completely swept away and his wife carried off in the wreck and killed. The body of Mrs. Williams was found to-day in the Tennessee river, where it had been blown. She was in bed when the house was blown away.

The next residence struck by the storm was that of George W. Hardin. The building was totally demolished, but the family escaped. The storm then crossed a timbered ridge, and tore up every tree by the roots in its track. The house of James Linginfalter was reduced to kindling wood. In it were John R. Smith, who was killed, and a little daughter of Linginfalter, who had a leg broken. The dwellings of William King and John Gideon were blown down. Seven members of the King family were badly injured and two of the Gideons were so seriously hurt that they cannot recover. The house of Lafayette Prater was wrecked and Jackson Prater was blown over the garden fence, but escaped with slight injuries. The cyclone traveled in a northeasterly direction, and a bureau in the Williams house was found this afternoon half a mile from where the residence stood.

At Loudon, Tenn., the house of George Moses was completely destroyed and every member of his family badly hurt. Andrew Worley's house was also carried away, and the members of his family barely escaped with their lives. They are all seriously injured. The bacon from Worley's smoke house was blown two miles away.

ATLANTA, GA., Mar. 21.—A terrible electric storm enveloped the state last night, beginning about 10 o'clock and lasting until after midnight. In Fairburn both the colored churches were demolished, court house chimney torn off, shade trees uprooted, and other damage done. Near Austell a house was blown on a negro blacksmith, killing him. Newton Moss's barn was blown down and three horses and a cow killed. Reports of the storm in and around Gainsville show that while it was not so severe much damage was done. M. A. Laden had his house lifted from the foundation and moved from where it stood. The colored Baptist Church was completely demolished. Mr. Cyphus, living near Gainsville, had his house and all outbuildings blown away; one of his children was seriously hurt. Calhoun suffered most in north Georgia. It was visited by a terrible funnel-shaped cyclone, which cut a swath seventy-five yards wide through the middle of the town, taking in the court house and station.

The cyclone bounded down on the little town suddenly, and after doing its work of destruction lifted from the earth to strike again, no one knows where. Every building in its path was either destroyed or damaged. The streets are full of shingles and debris of roofs. The storm played eccentric pranks, in one instance cutting a house in two, and carrying away one-half. Then it tore down a house around some women and children without harming a hair of their heads. The Baptist church was demolished and the colored Methodist church was razed. The railroad station was badly damaged, and a farm house near the station belonging to the state was totally destroyed. Jackson & Logan's lumber stable was badly damaged. C. T. Grave's business house, a frame building, was totally destroyed, and another wooden building occupied as an express office totally demolished and the goods were ruined by rain. The front end of Hughey's grocery store was pulled away from the building and the roof of J. M. Neal's grocery store is off and his goods damaged. The roof of N. J. Boaze's business house is off. The parapet wall of Rives & Malone's brick store was torn off and the whole outside leans to the street, making the building worthless. The chimneys were blown off of Foster's brick building and the vacant residences of A. W. Reeves was blown to pieces. The wagon and buggy manufactory of M. E. Ellis is completely destroyed. Mrs. Foster's residence was destroyed, but no one was hurt. Mrs. Hadley, with five children, occupied a residence which was destroyed, and yet none of the family were injured. The southern arm of the storm passed eastward through Telefair county, taking everything in its path 400 yards wide. The turpentine works of Whidden & Holland, two miles north of Lumber City, were completely destroyed, the still, commissary, and every house and shanty being blown away. W. B. Whidden was sleeping in the house with Holland and they rushed out to save themselves, but had ran only a few steps when the house was blown over on them and crushed them so that they seemed to have hardly an unbroken bone left in their bodies, and were killed instantly. Two other men sleeping in another house were also crushed and killed by the house being blown upon them. Several others were wounded and injured. A flat car standing on the railroad track was blown off and torn to pieces. General reports come in of houses blown away and fences destroyed. A negro brakeman on the Northeastern train was killed by a falling tree.

SAVANNAH, GA., Mar. 21.—A cyclone struck Lumber City, Georgia, this morning. B. V. Holland, of the firm of Holland, Strickland & Co., and W. B. Whidden, of the firm of Whidden & Holland, both prominent men, were killed. Whidden resided at Eastman, and Holland at Dublin.

The cyclone was more disastrous at Lumber City than was at first reported. Besides those already named the following were killed: Joseph Neible, superintendent of Wilcox & Cleveland, lumber merchants, and Mr. John Turner, an employe of that firm.

The injured are C. S. Smith, Wm. Wilson, Henry Ryals, B. B. Rawl, Eugene Rawl, Mrs. Rawl, Mrs. Miller, and eight colored men whose names could not be ascertained. The loss to the lumber merchants is about $10,000.

Passenger Train Snowbound.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., Mar. 21.—A passenger train on the Chicago and Northwestern road is reported to be snowed in between Havana and Claremont, Minn., with between 150 and 200 passengers on board. Provisions are exhausted, and supplies were sent this afternoon from Owatonna, there being no prospect of getting the train out.

THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING.

Ex-Secretary and Mrs. McCulloch Have a Happy Anniversary.

Ex-Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Hugh McCulloch celebrated their golden wedding anniversary yesterday evening by holding a reception from 8 to 12, that was attended by many of the notable people of the capital. Mrs. McCulloch received her guests in a dress of rich white satin, trimmed with gold embroideries. Mrs. Fales wore black net and satin, and Miss Mary McCulloch wore a ball dress of white tulle. Mr. Charles McCulloch and his family, and Mr. and Mrs. Frederick McCulloch, sons of the house, were also present. The rooms were profusely furnished with flowers, a large basket of roses having been sent from the white house. A bountiful table was spread in the dining room. Among those present were Secretary and Mrs. Whitney, Postmaster General and Mrs. Dickinson, Senator and Mrs. Palmer, Gen. and Mrs. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh S. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Maynard, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Wilson, Col. and Mrs. John M. Wilson, Gen. Schenck, Judge Aldrich, Senator Morrill, Miss Swan, Mr. James Morrill, Mrs. Hawley, Mrs. C. Dudley Warner, Col. John Hay, Mrs. Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Curtis, Gen. and Miss Rosecrans, Mr. and Miss Spofford, Mrs. and Miss Cullom, Gen. and Miss Card, Mr. and Mrs. Horatio King, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Kauffmann, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, and Mrs. John W. Foster and Miss Foster.

Mrs. Fairchild was at home to callers yesterday.

Mrs. Dickinson was at home and made tea from a dainty service for her visitors.

Mr. Charles Dudley Warner has returned to Hartford. Mrs. Warner is still the guest of Gen. and Mrs. Hawley.

A WESTERN BLIZZARD.

The Severest Snowstorm of the Winter in the Northwest.

KINGMAN, A. T., Mar. 21.—The heaviest snowstorm of the year prevailed yesterday. In many places the snow drifted to a depth of several feet. Cattle suffer greatly.

EAU CLAIRE, WIS., Mar. 21.—Some fifteen to eighteen inches of snow fell yesterday. It will take a heavy freeze to put the roads in condition for logging.

PEMBINA, DAK., Mar. 21.—There was a tremendous fall of snow here last evening, and it was hurled at such a rate by a damp, cold wind that pedestrians could not remain on the streets. It is feared there will be great loss of life on the prairies.

ST. VINCENT, MINN., Mar. 21.—The worst storm of the season set in last night. The roads are completely blocked. The storm was general throughout Minnesota and Dakota, and is the severest of the winter.

ST. PAUL, MINN., Mar. 21.—A cold wave of great severity, accompanied by a heavy and cutting 40-mile-an-hour wind, prevailed at various points in southeastern Dakota, Minnesota, and northern Wisconsin last night and to-day. Only the general absence of loose snow has prevented a general blockade of the railroads. As it is, most trains are behind time. A train on the Chicago and Northwestern is stuck between Havana and Clairmont, Minn. Teams and supplies have been sent thither from Owatonna.

COMMERCIAL CONFERENCE.

Philadelphia Inaugurates a Plan for a Meeting in Washington.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., Mar. 21.—A special committee of seven members of the commercial exchange was to-day appointed by that body, with instructions to correspond with the various commercial bodies of the country on the subject of holding a conference at Washington for the purpose of agreeing upon and formulating charges to be presented to the interstate commerce commission for the redress of such grievances as can be reached by the law in its present form, as well as exchanging and harmonizing views, and agreeing upon and recommending such amendments to the law as may best promote the various interests involved, and securing prompt legislation thereon.

The committee will at once open correspondence with the various commercial bodies. It is believed that there will be no objection to holding the conference, and that it will take place within a month or two.

BALTIMORE EXPOSITION.

A Popular Meeting to Further Such an Object.

BALTIMORE, Mar. 21.—A popular meeting was held to-day to consider the project of establishing a permanent exposition here. Gen. Felix Agnus, the originator of the scheme, said $25,000 had been subscribed for the purpose. He believed that such an exposition would be as successful in this city as those in St. Louis, Chicago, Atlanta, and other places. About $30,000 was subscribed. It was announced that it would require $500,000 to accomplish the object.

SCARING THE PAN PHONE MEN.

The Bell Company Orders Out All But Bell Phones.

ST. LOUIS, Mar. 21.—The Pan Telephone Company subscribers to-day received notices from the Bell attorneys to put out of service all but Bell instruments, or suits would be instituted. The directors of the Pan Company, while nervous, declare the fight is not yet ended. They lay great stress on the fact that the Supreme Court decided in favor of Bell by a majority of one, and that Justice Lamar did not sit.

TASCOTT IN CHICAGO.

He is Recognized by Two Young Men Who Know Him.

CHICAGO, Mar. 20.—Two young men employed at the Palmer House reported that they met W. B. Tascott, the murderer of Millionaire Snell, whom they knew perfectly well, on North Clark street last night. The young men minutely describe his dress, appearance, and embarrassment when he was recognized.

Democratic Convention Dates.

ATLANTA, GA., Mar. 21.—The Democratic state convention to select delegates to St. Louis will be held here May 9, and for the nomination of state officers Aug. 8.

DETROIT, MICH., Mar. 21.—The Democratic state convention will be held at Grand Rapids May 16.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Mar. 21.—The Democratic state convention will be held at Dayton May 15 and 16.

Volkavitch Prefers Death to Life in Prison.

WILKES-BARRE, PA., Mar. 21.—Adam Volkavitch was to-day notified that the board of pardons had refused to act in his case, and that he must hang April 3. He asked that immediate preparations be made for the execution, as he preferred death to life imprisonment.

Reducing the Custom House Force.

NEW YORK, Mar. 21.—Collector Magone has forwarded to Washington complete lists of custom house employes with a mark against those who can be spared. The collector will act on instructions from Washington. The collector prefers this method of cutting down expenses to reducing salaries. He hopes Congress will come to his aid with an appropriation.

Threatened Reduction of Wages.

READING, PA., Mar. 21.—Seyford's rolling mill will resume next week, after a two months' suspension. Wages there and at the Rock Ridge furnaces will be reduced 10 per cent. after April 1. There is a general movement in this section looking to a reduction.

Rise in the Schuylkill.

READING, PA., Mar. 21.—There has been considerable of a rise in the Schuylkill river owing to the heavy rains, but no great damage is feared. Railroads have been blocked by snow slides.

THE REPUBLICAN LEAGUE.

The Birthdays of Lincoln, Grant, and Logan to be Observed.

The Republican National League held a large and enthusiastic meeting last night at the League House, Gen. E. F. Beale, president, in the chair. The following gentlemen were proposed and unanimously elected to membership: Hon. Francis B. Stockbridge, United States senator from Michigan; Hons. C. H. Grosvenor and William C. Cooper, of Ohio; Prof. Webster Edgerly, of Massachusetts; Dr. George W. Eggleston and Mr. Andrew Neville, of this city, and Capt. Oscar K. Rogers, of Michigan.

Ex-Senator Cragin proposed that the birthday of Gen. Grant (April 27) be observed with suitable services by this League.

Dr. J. P. Newman concurred in the proposition, and said that his church and people always observed the day, but on this occasion they would join with the League to make it as impressive as possible. He suggested that the League set apart the birthdays of Lincoln, Grant, and Logan for special observance, and that a permanent standing committee be appointed to carry out this purpose. The proposition was adopted and the president appointed on the committee Rev. Dr. John P. Newman, Hon. A. H. Cragin, Hon. George B. Loring, Hon. Simon Wolf, and J. W. Howell.

Gen. Green B. Raum moved that the committee on publication be instructed to arrange with some proper person to prepare suitable literature for circulation by the League.

Hon. W. H. Dauenhower, as a substitute, moved that a special committee be selected for that purpose, which Gen. Raum accepted, and it was adopted. The following were announced as the committee: Hon. George B. Loring, Hon. Frederick Douglass, and Col. James Moran, of Rhode Island.

Capt. A. P. Cunningham proposed that a committee of five be appointed to invite speakers to address the League on next Wednesday evening, and the proposition was agreed to. The president appointed as the committee Messrs. A. P. Cunningham, Green B. Raum, Chris. King, J. Hale Sypher, and W. F. Cowey.

After the adjournment speeches were made by Hon. Geo. B. Loring and Gen. Green B. Raum.

THE TRUE DEMOCRACY

Decides Not to Change the Time for Holding the Convention.

The Democratic central committee met at the Vernon building last night. Mr. Thomas J. Luttrell president and C. F. Rowe secretary. The first business was to receive the reports as to the halls engaged for the primaries, and the following districts reported: 1st, Masonic Hall, Anacostia; 2d, Brightwood Hall; 3d, Market House Hall, Thirty-second and M streets; 4th, Hod Men's Hall, M street, near Thirty-first; 5th, Lucas Hall, Twenty-second street and Pennsylvania avenue; 11th, Potomac Hall, Eleventh street and Maryland avenue southwest; 13th, National Rifles' Armory; 15th, Naylor's Hall, 419 New Jersey avenue northwest; 16th, Monumental building, Pennsylvania avenue, near Second street northwest; 17th, Becker's Hall, Virginia avenue and Seventh street southwest; 20th, McCauley's Hall, 200 Pennsylvania avenue southeast; 21st, Peak's Hall, Pennsylvania avenue, near Seventh street southeast. The districts not mentioned will report in a few days.

Mr. Julius Emmer moved to reconsider the vote making the hour of voting from 7:30 p. m. to 8:30 p. m. He wanted the polls kept open as long as the judges desired it.

This motion was lost.

A motion was made to reconsider the vote fixing the time for holding the convention on April 5, but after discussion the motion was laid on the table.

A resolution was adopted to assess each delegate from each of the legislative districts $5.

Mr. Howard Clagett made a motion to appoint a committee of three to secure a place for holding the convention and that distinguished members of the party be invited to attend.

This motion was amended to include the chairman and the secretary as members of the committee, and the motion was adopted. Messrs. Howard Clagett, M. I. Weller, and F. P. Morgan were appointed the committee.

A resolution was adopted to the effect that the convention should be called to order at 7:30 p. m. on April 5.

The meeting then adjourned.

It was stated at the meeting that an effort would be made to secure a theater for the session of the convention, but it is doubtful if this idea will be carried out.

Social and Political Life.

Mrs. Belva Lockwood addressed quite a large audience last night at Grand Army Hall on the subject of "Social and political life in Washington." For an hour the listeners were delightfully entertained with some spicy and suggestive thoughts of how life is spent here by the high and low, and by the official as well as professional personage. The lecturer made some telling hits as to the manner in which people get along and how they are carried along. Not a few humorous and descriptive incidents were given of people with such clearness that they seemed to be fitted to many people well known. At the close of the lecture the lady was roundly applauded.

Western Mails All Right.

General Superintendent Thomas E. Nash, of the railway mail service, has returned from his trip to Chicago, where he represented the Postoffice Department during the disturbances threatening interruption of mail service growing out of the railroad engineers' strike. He says that the mails are now being transported without delay, and further trouble is not anticipated.

AMONG THE COMMITTEES.

The Blair educational bill will be considered to-day by the subcommittee having charge of it.

The House committee on territories yesterday decided to report a bill for the organization of the territory of Alaska.

Senator Blodgett, from the committee on pensions, reported favorably a bill granting a pension of $100 a month to the widow of Gen. Kilpatrick.

Senator Hale's committee to investigate the operations of the civil service will hold its first meeting this morning in the census committee room, when it is expected the examination of witnesses will commence.

The House committee on agriculture yesterday decided upon putting into operation a rule of evidence which would prevent witnesses from abusing the products of competing firms in the lard business. This was brought about principally by Representative Laird, who appeared on behalf of the American hog and hog raiser.

The Senate committee on foreign relations yesterday authorized Senator Frye to report favorably the McCreary bill, which recently passed the House, providing for a Congress of American nations to be held in Washington on the 1st of April, 1889. The bill is amended so as to be more specific as to the research to detail the topics to be considered at the congress.

The session of the ways and means committee yesterday lasted but three minutes. Contrary to general expectation, no attempt was made to formally vote upon and dispose of the tariff bill, and the Republican members were left in the dark as to the reason for adjournment. A conference of the Democratic members was held immediately after adjournment in a room in the basement of the capitol, at which it came out that the report which will accompany the bill when it is presented to the House was not completed, and another day's time was required to give it shape. There was also some discussion as to the proper time to present the bill to the House. The committee will meet again to-day.

Chairman Hatch, of the committee on agriculture, yesterday morning received a telegram from H. C. Haarstick, of the Merchants' Exchange, of St. Louis, stating that he is asked from Paris, France, about the probability of the passage of the bill granting a bounty on export corn. He further says that it appears that the pendency of the bill is injuring American dealers in effecting sales for future delivery. The chairman laid the telegram and the bill before the committee, and he was instructed by a unanimous vote to report the bill back adversely with a recommendation that it be laid upon the table. The chairman immediately telegraphed the decision of the committee to Mr. Haarstick with the remark that "This effectually disposes of it for this Congress." The bill proposed to pay an export bounty of 7 cents a bushel on wheat and corn and 50 cents a barrel on flour, and an additional bounty of 3 cents per bushel for every 100 miles carried by water on wheat, corn, and flour to the owners of the vessels transporting them.

A MERCIFUL PROVIDENCE

PROTECTS THE NATION'S LEGISLATORS FROM THE ELECTRIC FLUID.

A Thunderbolt Strikes the Entire Capitol and Demoralizes Senators, Representatives, and Justices—Casualties—"Let Me Go, Gallagher."

The public has often wondered why a merciful providence has thrown its protecting wing over our national legislators when they are engaged in wasting valuable time at the capitol. The public will please bear in mind the fact that the aforesaid legislators, or anti-legislators, have been duly warned.

Yesterday afternoon a bank of dark, ugly-looking clouds rose above the western horizon and after definitely deciding how they would proceed they moved toward the city. At the same time there were seen flashes of lightning, distant at first, but rapidly nearing, and in a little while Washington was enjoying a combined wind, rain, and thunder storm. This probably was to have been expected, for the weather prophet who adjusts nature three times in every twenty-four hours had prepared the way by failing to announce that there would be a thunder storm. This in itself was regarded as a fair warning that electrical disturbances might be expected.

Just about 2 o'clock, while the fiery fluid was charging promiscuously through space and scaring nervous people almost out of their wits, one of the bolts was directed at the capitol, and the testimony received up to this time would seem to indicate that it did not miss its mark. In the Senate the flash was very vivid, and a number of the most sedate senators looked for a moment or so as though they would prefer to have been somewhere else. The clerk was engaged in reading a report when the other report made known its presence, and, as a matter of courtesy, that official suspended operations for a while. Senator Manderson rose from his seat very calmly, and moved to dispense with the reading of the document; he did not seem to be alarmed, and very probably was not—he is from Nebraska and cannot be scared. The occupants of the galleries were considerably upset, and several of the female women looked as though they would like to faint.

In the correspondent's sanctum, behind the press gallery, the customary ball of fire put in an appearance, and after chasing a couple of newspaper men around the room it proceeded to demoralize the entire telegraph and telephone service. Down in the engine room there was considerable disturbance, for the fluid lifted Engineer Stubbs out of his chair and laid him on the floor.

On the House side the report was just as noisy as, if not more else. Balls of blue fire played about the corridors, and each occupant of the House or of the committee rooms seemed to think he or she was the especial object of attack.

Mr. Lane, of Illinois, was busily engaged in explaining to the House the viciousness of the "eight hour" claim bill when the crash came. For an instant he thought that John J. O'Neill had exploded a bomb for the purpose of shutting off adverse comment on his pet measure, but the fact dawned upon his intellect in a little while that the noise was originated by a greater power than even a Missouri congressman. It was noticed that Mr. Lane's opposition calmed down considerably, and shortly after the shock he sat down. The warning was heeded.

In the galleries there was almost a panic, because many of the visitors believed that the roof was coming down. The corridors were speedily filled with an excited crowd, but the terror was merely temporary. In the press gallery and in the room behind it there was a little commotion, caused by the familiar manner in which the lightning plays with the wires. A large ball of flame performed the double operation of cutting off telegraphic communication and making Mr. Mann's abbreviated hair stand on end.

Mark Twain was in the press gallery a few minutes after the bolt struck, and he remarked that he knew of no reason why congressmen should be scared. The lightning might strike a newspaper reporter or some other valuable member of society, but there was no such luck in store for the country as to have a legislator removed in so cheap a manner. He also complimented the weather bureau on having so accurately predicted the atmospheric conditions for the day.

The element appears to have been entirely impartial. It brought every judge of the Supreme Court, every lawyer at the bar, and every clerk at his desk, to his feet with a jerk as if they were all moved by the same spring. Then they all sat down again and tried to look as if nothing had happened.

Theorists have it that the charge struck the column of the goddess on the dome, spread over the metal roof in all directions, and sought the ground by the thousand chandeliers, steampipes, and electric wires in the structure.

A number of the electric lights were extinguished and the entire system will be overhauled to-day. In the electric light room the sound was like that of a volley of pistol shots.

Casualties, none of a very dangerous character, were numerous. Mr. Cook, who runs the House elevator on the east side, secured a fair share of the shock through the medium of the wire-operating rope. Mr. Michael Ryan, foreman of the plumbing and steam-fitting shop, was explaining the workings of a patent vise to some of his men when the shock threw him backward and stunned him; his right hand was on the vise at the time, and his arm is more or less paralyzed as a result. Jesse W. Carr, another employe, was walking through a passage in the sub-basement when the fluid overtook him and laid him prostrate. Thomas Randolph, a capitol policeman, was almost blinded by the flash which lighted up the crypt, where he was, with brilliancy that was painful. John Herbert, a colored laborer, was also stricken down in the sub-basement and knocked senseless. He saw a man at the end of the corridor, and he heard the report and saw the flash. He imagined he had been shot by the stranger. As he fell he yelled "murder!" with considerable vigor. George H. Miller and an assistant were on the roof of the house looking for a leak. When the explosion occurred the assistant was almost through a hatchway on his way to the inside. He had hold of a handful of cables. When he realized what had happened he was at the foot of the ladder, and as an excuse for his hurried trip he remarked that the cables suddenly became uncomfortably warm. Mr. Miller was also shaken up.

Peter Gallagher and Matthew Taylor, his colored assistant, were on the spiral stairway which leads up from the crypt to the old hall of the House of Representatives. They were both impressed with an idea that the building was going to collapse. Both dashed for a window—the same window—but Taylor got there first, in his enthusiasm carrying out the entire sash. Gallagher got there a couple of seconds later and to this Taylor owes his life, because they both became wedged in the window, and thus neither of them could drop forty feet to the ground. Each endeavored to get out, and Taylor, in his distress, yelled "Let me go, Gallagher!" After awhile they rescued themselves, and swore solemnly to say nothing about the occurrence.

Outside the Senate wing a horse and cab were overset, and the horse was stunned.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

About 200 persons were in the east room when the storm came on, the majority being ladies. They appeared