

The letter-carrier system of the country will cost the Post-Office Department nine million dollars this year.

OTTO LEUTH, the Ohio boy-murderer, who was to have been hanged at Cleveland, on the 25th, has been respited to June 29.

The Treasury Department has decided that \$2 per gallon is the highest rate of duty that can be imposed on alcohol.

The Ontario House of Commons, on the 21st, passed to the third reading the bill extending the *modus vivendi* for another year.

LAWRENCE, Lord of Shelburne, Ky., and J. J. McCann, of Flatbush, N. Y., were, on the 24th, appointed military cadets at West Point.

MISS EMMA R. KALBRECHT, convicted of defrauding Boston merchants, was, on the 25th, sentenced to one year in the women's prison at Sherborn, Mass.

MISS ANNE MOORE GOODWIN, professor of Latin and Greek at Vassar College, died in the Vassar Hospital on the 23d. She had been an instructor at the college for seventeen years.

PETER L. MASON settled on a valuable claim near Seward, Oklahoma, 275 miles south of Guthrie, a year ago, on the 25th, the Government patent was given him, being the first in the Territory.

GEORGE B. IVES, assistant district attorney, was arrested at Salem, Mass., on the 25th, on a charge of forgery. The amount involved is said to be \$29,000, and the money, he says, was spent in extravagant living.

THE grand master of the Masons of the District of Columbia, on the 23d, issued an edict annulling an edict issued last July against the Cornucopioes Rite Masons for alleged fraternal relations with the Grand Orient of France.

The House committee on agriculture, on the 25th, authorized a favorable report on Senator Stanford's bill providing for an inspection of meats for exportation and prohibiting the importation of adulterated articles of food and drink.

FIVE Russian sisters in Moscow were drowned on the 23th, by the dread of being arrested. A short time before taking their lives they burned all their papers, presumably with the object of shielding others.

THE Monetary Times of Toronto, a leading commercial paper of Canada, condemns the Dominion Government for placing duties on agricultural products, and says such action invited retaliation on the part of the United States.

BALTIMORE, Md., was visited, on the 25th, by a destructive hail storm, in which the windows of a large man's list, some of them rugged and sharp on the edges as steel blades. Nearly all the window panes in the city were broken.

SECRETARY METCALFE of the Seattle (Wash.) relief committee, which has in charge \$25,000 remaining of the funds donated to Seattle after the great fire last June, was suspended, on the 27th, charged with the embezzlement of a portion of the funds.

THREE Chinamen were seized by the custom-house officials at Buffalo, N. Y., on the 23d, as they were landing from a row-boat. They were attempting not only to make an illegal entrance into the country, but were loaded down with contraband opium.

HON. DAVID A. TAGGART, president of the New Hampshire State Senate, was inaugurated as acting Governor, on the 23d, by the Executive Council, and will perform the gubernatorial duties during the absence of Governor Goodell, who is incapacitated by sickness.

The sixty-eighth anniversary of the birth of General Grant was fittingly observed, on the 26th, (the 27th being Sunday) by the American Club of Pittsburgh, by a banquet to which 310 distinguished guests sat down. The toasts and speeches occupied the hours until midnight.

The Inman Steamship Company filed a bond of indemnity with Collector Erhardt, of New York, on the 23d, for the steamer City of Berlin, which was threatened with unloading her cargo without a permit from the customs authorities, and the vessel sailed the same day.

The National convention of colored men, held in Washington, on the 4th, perfected a permanent organization by the election of Rev. J. C. Price, of North Carolina, as president, and W. C. Chase, of Washington, secretary. A list of honorary vice-presidents, one from each State represented in the convention, was also selected.

The propeller S. E. Hodge arrived at Buffalo, N. Y., at half-past two o'clock on the afternoon of the 27th, with a cargo of 6,000 barrels of flour from Duluth, being the first boat from Lake Superior this season. It is expected that some of the Northern boats will make a round trip in April with loads both ways, which will add still further to the early record.

DURING a fire in a New York tenement house, on the 27th, Daniel Rossier, one of a number of tenants who were cut off by a defective fire-escape and driven to the roof, obtained a rope and lowered a large number of women and children in safety to the street. Some men then climbed down the rope, and last of all Rossier. But the rope was so worn by this time that it broke beneath his weight and he fell to the pavement, but fortunately was not seriously hurt.

A highly important meeting in favor of woman suffrage was held in London on the 24th. Lady Sandhurst occupied the chair, and a number of prominent members of the leading political parties, who have publicly committed themselves to the movement, delivered speeches.

CURRENT TOPICS.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

FIFTY-FIRST CONGRESS

In the Senate, on the 22d, the District of Columbia Appropriation bill was passed. The House amendment to the Zoological Park bill requiring half the expenses to be borne by the District of Columbia was agreed to and the bill was passed. In the House the Senate amendments to the World's Fair bill were agreed to. The House amendment to the whole of the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill, which was made the subject of a long debate, during which the President's administration of the Civil Service law was criticized and warmly defended. Pending a motion to strike out the appropriation of \$2750 for clerks for senators the House adjourned.

In the Senate, on the 23d, nearly all the session was taken up in the discussion of the Ohio and Greek at Cleveland, which was passed. A bill to create a customs district in the Territory of Arizona, was passed. The Senate bill for the appropriation of \$200 for the erection of a statue to Major-General Stark at Manchester, N. H., failed of passage for want of a quorum. The Law-Forfeiture bill was taken up and became the unfinished business. In the House the day was occupied in discussing the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill, the pending question being on the motion to strike out the clause providing clerks for senators.

In the Senate, on the 24th, the bill appropriating for an expedition state of General John Stark, at Manchester, N. H., was passed. The amendments to the House bill to transfer the revenue-cutting service from the Treasury Department to the Navy Department, reported from the committee on naval affairs, were agreed to. The amendments proposed by the Senate committee on public lands were agreed to. In the House the day was taken up with the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill, which was considered at length, and the Civil Service law was discussed. The House bill to transfer the revenue-cutting service from the Treasury Department to the Navy Department, reported from the committee on naval affairs, was agreed to. The amendments proposed by the Senate committee on public lands were agreed to. In the House the day was taken up with the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill, which was considered at length, and the Civil Service law was discussed.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

NOAH PALMER, aged seventy years, a member of a band of desperadoes camped at Morrisville, N. J., who had been on protracted spree, shot his wife, on the 24th, killing her instantly. He next attempted to shoot his daughter, but failed, and then shot himself in the back of the head, inflicting a fatal wound.

A WELL-to-do farmer named Morrison, of Shelburne, Ont., drowned three of his children in a barrel of rain-water, on the 23d, and then attempted to drown himself in a creek.

The World's Fair bill was approved by the President on the 25th.

The main shaft of the Sander's power line at Haverhill, Mass., was twisted off on the 23d, and over 2,500 hands were rendered idle for two days. One-quarter of the shoe district was shut down.

The sixty days' notice given by the coal miners and coke workers of the Smithton (Pa.) district expired on the 24th, and a strike taking out over 1,000 men was inaugurated. A protracted struggle is anticipated.

The New York State Senate, on the 23d, recalled from the Assembly the Land-Forfeiture bill and repassed it, after changing it so as to agree with the amended Saxton bill which was recently agreed to by the Governor, Mr. Saxton and others.

EMIL PASHA with 500 porters, five German officers and a large body of Nubian soldiers started from Zanzibar for the interior of Africa on the 23d.

The Inman Steamship Company was crushed under falling walls caused by an explosion of vitriol during a fire in the large new building of the Union Silk Manufacturing Company, at Catsauqua, Pa., on the 24th. Four others were fatally and five severely injured.

The only hope of the creditors of Montana is in an extra session of the Legislature. The Supreme Court has decided an action brought against the State Auditor to recover money for the State printing adversely to the Journal Publishing Company.

The President, on the 25th, withdrew from the Senate the appointment of Captain W. T. Thompson to be postmaster at McKeesport, Pa., because it is charged that he plays poker, drinks whiskey and swears.

PRESIDENT HARRISON, on the 25th, approved the joint resolution passed by the House and Senate on the same date, appropriating \$150,000 for the relief of Mississippi river flood sufferers.

SPECIAL crop reports from all parts of Manitoba state that never before were indications at this season of the year more favorable for a prosperous season. JAMES LAYTON, assistant postmaster at Sandborn, Ind., was sentenced, on the 24th, to a year in the penitentiary for rifling registered letters.

MISSOURI STATE NEWS.

Mrs. Senator Cockrell gave a charming tea in Washington recently in honor of Miss Dameron and Miss Briggs, of St. Louis. In order to give Missouri ladies an idea of the affair the following is taken from a St. Louis paper.

The room presented a pretty spring-like appearance, decorated with a few potted plants and flowers, while through the windows streamed a flood of sunshine. Nearly every one who came in was greeted with flowers, which added greatly to the general effect. The hostess wore a gown of light blue velvet, with full sleeves and a high collar. Her hair was dressed in the latest style, and she wore a necklace of pearls. Her guests were Miss Dameron and Miss Briggs, light blue China cups and Miss Dameron white and lavender India silk. The other ladies of the evening party were Mrs. McLean, of St. Louis, in black lace and hat; Miss Harlan, daughter of Justice Harlan, in French gray; and Miss Durkin, dark blue dress. In the room Mrs. Cockrell's young daughter, who will not reach her majority until next season, sat, wearing a gown of light blue velvet, with full sleeves and a high collar. Her hair was dressed in the latest style, and she wore a necklace of pearls. Her guests were Miss Dameron and Miss Briggs, light blue China cups and Miss Dameron white and lavender India silk. The other ladies of the evening party were Mrs. McLean, of St. Louis, in black lace and hat; Miss Harlan, daughter of Justice Harlan, in French gray; and Miss Durkin, dark blue dress.

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MARY ANDERSON, in a letter to a friend at Louisville, Ky., confides the report of her engagement to Mr. Navarro, and declares that she will never again appear on the stage.

Fire broke out again in the Union Silk Mill at Catsauqua, Pa., on the 25th, and the flames communicated to the vault, damaging silks stored therein to the extent of \$40,000.

A notable citizens' meeting was held at Sioux City, Ia., on the evening of the 25th, at which it was decided by a unanimous vote to build a corn palace this year to a greater and grander scale than ever before. A guarantee fund of \$25,000 was subscribed.

When Sheriff McFeely at Marion, Ind., called his prisoners for breakfast on the morning of the 25th, it was discovered that five of the eighteen had carried their way to liberty during the night. They got out by prying up a stone in the floor and tunneling through a two-foot stone wall.

A RAILROAD was current in New York, on the 25th, that indictments had been found against Colonel John A. Cockerill, Julius Chambers and City Editor Graham of the World for certain publications relative to the late Stewart will case, which were intended to reflect upon ex-Judge Henry Hillton.

HENRY STRAUSS, of Chicago, purchased the wife of Fritz Lander, of Salt Lake City, Utah, on the 25th, for \$100. Mrs. Lander and Strauss were sweethearts in Germany, but became separated by circumstances. The reunited couple at once took the train for San Francisco.

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The brake rod of an engine attached to an express train on the Chesapeake & Ohio road broke at three o'clock on the morning of the 25th, as the train was descending a heavy grade, and it dashed into Staunton, Va., at the rate of eighty miles an hour, when the Pullman sleeper, containing the members of the "Pearl of Pekin" Opera Company, left the track and was wrecked. Miss Myrtle Knott died of her injuries, and several others were more or less severely hurt.

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INTER-STATE COMMERCE.

Decision by the Inter-State Commerce Commission. The Interstate Commerce Commission has decided upon the following limitations imposed on common carriers by the Interstate Commerce Act in the matter of forwarding traffic.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—The Interstate Commerce Commission decided yesterday the case of Bennett D. Manning, a distiller of Louisville, Ky., against the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in favor of the defendant. The decision was prepared by Commissioner Schoenmaker. The Pennsylvania company operates the Jeffersonville, Madison & Indianapolis railroad, and a branch of this road lying wholly within the State of Indiana, forms the only connection at New Albany, Ind., between the Louisville, Evansville & St. Louis consolidated railroad and the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago railway. At New Albany the Pennsylvania company received complainant's grain from the former company, but refused to deliver it to the latter for transportation to Louisville, preferring to take the freight to that point over the Jeffersonville, Madison & Indianapolis, its own road.

The points decided in this case, briefly stated, are as follows: The provisions of the act to regulate commerce construed in the light of the principles that apply to interstate commerce as enumerated by the courts of the United States, must be understood as intended to regulate all the commerce subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of Congress, including the agents and instrumentalities employed and the commodities carried, with only the limitations found in the act itself. The provision in the first section that the provisions of the act shall not apply to the transportation of passengers or property, or to the receiving, delivering, storage or handling of property wholly within one State, and not shipped to or from a foreign country from or to any State or Territory as aforesaid, that it be by continuous carriage or shipment, only excludes from regulation the purely internal commerce of a State, that which originates and ends in the same State, when a State carrier engages in interstate commerce it becomes a national instrumentality for the purpose of such commerce, and is subject to regulations prescribed by the National authority. It can not limit its obligations in that business, but must serve the business offered, initially and without preference or discrimination. The National regulations prescribed are not in all respects co-extensive with the power of Congress, and do not provide for ordering through routes and through rates. While it is the duty of a State carrier which engages in interstate commerce to forward traffic offered from a connecting line, there is no authority under the present act to compel the carrier to forward the traffic over a route not operated or selected by itself.

A DELEGATE SPEAKS.

Senator John Alfonso, Delegate from Chili to the Pan-American Conference, announced as false and unwarranted the utterances of a Chilian citizen.

New York, April 26.—Senator John Alfonso, delegate from Chili to the recent Pan-American Conference, regrets that through a reporter's carelessness the remark of a Chilian citizen concerning his country had been published, as if emanating from a delegate to the conference. The incident makes it appropriate, however, for Senator Alfonso himself to express his views, which he does as follows:

"I regard the mere holding of the conference as an important matter in itself. While there may be no immediate results, the work done will surely bear good fruit in the end. Chili desires the trade of this country. We have been most cordially treated by the people here, and I desire to denounce as false and unwarranted the statement made by the citizen referred to."

A REGULAR DELUGE.

Gainesville, Tex., visited by a Regular Deluge which swept away forty dwellings and caused the loss of one life.

GAINESVILLE, Tex., April 26.—A terrific storm of rain and hail struck this city Thursday night, deluging the streets to the depth of three feet, and destroying over \$50,000 worth of property. The cloud-burst was preceded by a four-hour rain, accompanied by lightning and lightning. A week which flew through the center of the town rose and swept away forty dwellings, but the whole city came to the rescue and only one life was lost.

Yesterday morning washouts were reported on all the railroads, and all traffic was suspended on the Santa Fe. Crops have suffered, many farms being under water. Mrs. Costman died of fright while being carried from her home.

The Cowden Plan for the Improvement of the Mississippi River.

WASHINGTON, April 26.—The Senate committee on commerce gave a hearing yesterday morning to the advocates of the Cowden plan of improving the Mississippi river by making the Lake Borgne outlet, etc. Among those who addressed the committee were Captain T. P. Leathers, ex-Solicitor-General Goodie, John Cowden, a representative of the Knights of Labor named Schultheis. The committee took no action on the bill.

A Would-Be Murderer.

BOSTON, April 26.—Mrs. Mary Crimlock, a middle-aged lady living at the North End, has been arrested for conspiring to kill her husband by poison. She told her desire to be rid of her husband to a physician, who was attending him, and the physician gave her a medicine which she believed would be poisonous and which she administered to her husband. The physician had several interviews with her at his office, and each time she came asked for stronger poisons. Witnesses were in concealment and evidence was prepared sufficient to warrant arrest.

County Supervision Defeated.

County supervision of the public schools was defeated in most of the counties in which the proposition has been submitted.

LAW MUST BE SUPREME.

The President directs the Attorney-General to see that the laws of the United States are properly respected in certain counties of Florida. Attorney-General Miller has directed the United States Marshal Weeks.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—The President has sent to Attorney-General Miller the following letter:

"I have had frequent occasion, during the last six months, to confer with you in relation to the obstruction offered in the counties of Leon, Gadsden, Madison and Jefferson, in the State of Florida, to the execution of the process of the courts of the United States. It is necessary to say more of the situation than that the officers of the United States are not suffered freely to exercise their lawful functions. The condition of things can not be longer tolerated. You will therefore instruct United States Marshal Weeks, as soon as he has been appointed, to proceed at once to execute such writs of arrest as may be placed in his hands. If he encounters resistance, he will employ such force as may be necessary to overcome it. He should proceed with calmness and moderation, which should always attend a wholehearted execution of his duty, and at the same time with firmness and courage that will impress the masses with a wholesome sense of the danger and futility of resistance. You will assure the officers of the law and those who have loyally and scientifically endeavored to bring every resource of the Constitution and the laws, will as necessary as possible hold a Federal commission and to execute the duties it imposes. Very respectfully,

BENJAMIN HARRISON.

Acting upon the suggestions of the President, Attorney-General Miller yesterday sent the following letter to Marshal Weeks:

WASHINGTON, April 26, 1890. Robert E. Weeks, United States Marshal, Jacksonville, Fla.

"You have doubtless ere this received your commission as United States Marshal for the district of Florida. For several months past it has been reported that in certain counties of your district writs of arrest issued by United States courts have not been executed, and that of resistance, actual and threatened, by those sought to be arrested and their partisans. This state of things can not and will not be longer tolerated. A letter from the President, of which I enclose a copy, speaks for itself. You will at once proceed upon the lines indicated in the letter, and will promptly any attempts to interfere with you in the discharge of your duties. I am informed that recently, in some places, the marshals, seeking to serve writs in civil cases, have been refused the ordinary accommodations, such as horse hire, hotel accommodations, and the like. It is necessary for them to be able to travel and bring into court offenders against the law. Very respectfully,

W. H. MILLER.

A GENERAL DELIA.

The Editor of the Jacksonville (Fla.) Times-Union Denies the Existence of the State of Affairs Charged Above and Makes Counter Charges Against the Federal Authorities.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., April 27.—Editor Hawthorne of the Times-Union publishes an open letter to President Harrison stating that the people of Florida regard the President's letter to Attorney-General Miller with surprise and a deep sense of injury. They are convinced that the statement it contains about resistance to legal process in Florida must have been based upon misinformation as to the actual state of affairs in the counties named. This misinformation probably existed in the reports made to the Department of Justice by officers of the court for this district.

Mr. Hawthorne proceeds to cast discredit upon the reports by asserting that District Judge Swaine openly boasted that the policy of his court would be one of bitter persecution of Democrats. This threat put the Democrats on the defensive, and provoked widespread suspicion of Judge Swaine's tribunal.

The letter goes on to say that the United States jury commissioner flagrantly discriminated against Democrats, bringing two out of twenty-three members being Republicans. Wholesale indictments against Democrats for political offenses were then found on most unreliable testimony. This roused the people to indignation and fear. In the cases that came to trial the court's rulings were often partisan. No wonder the people of the counties referred to shrunk from appearing for trial before such a court, or that they preferred the hardship of concealment to the dangers of unfair trial. These people are industrious and law-abiding. They have been terrorized by the political persecution to which they have been subjected. This accounts for their reluctance to admit process, but they have been grossly misrepresented in other respects. They are not incompatible to the marshals. The writer has the statement of eleven of these marshals that they were "treated like gentlemen" at Madison, where it has been alleged that they were refused accommodations. If the court is cleared of partisanship and injustice so that it will meet no resistance, obstruction or evasion.

The Emma Cameron War Claim.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—In the celebrated case of Emma Cameron, who has a claim against the Government for damages done during the war on her place, "Cameron Hill," near Chattanooga, the Senate committee has agreed to a report authorizing the Secretary of War to pay Mrs. Cameron whatever he shall find to be due her. Mrs. Cameron is now a resident of San Francisco.

Rescued from the Deep.

NEW YORK, April 27.—The steamship General, plying between New York and Haytian ports, arrived here yesterday with seven of the passengers and crew of the wrecked steamship Italia, who were picked up in the last stages of exhaustion on the morning of April 17 between Fortune Island and Bird Rock. They were without food and water and had nothing to eat for twenty-four hours when picked up. The passengers were Mr. and Mrs. Humphreys, of Columbus, O. Mr. Humphreys is a relative of the wife of ex-Secretary Tilden.

KEMMLER'S FATE.

The Arrangements Completed for the First Taking of Human Life by Electricity Under Legal Sanction. The Paraphernalia will supersede the Old-Time Gallows—Kemmler's Will.

ANNAPOLIS, N. Y., April 29.—The State prison at Auburn, where Kemmler has been waiting since midnight on Sunday for his death by electricity, was built in 1816, and the town grew up around it like the homes of tenantry around a great manor house. It looks more like a castle than a jail, and its top is surmounted by a trivial copper figure of a soldier in continental uniform as inappropriate and as vain as the painted decorations on an iron safe.

The copper soldier was typical yesterday of the people of Auburn in their apathetic interest in what might be going on inside the stone walls over which he has stood and kept guard for over half a century. The big prison has no interest to them, they pass it by with the contempt of familiarity, and it has less consideration in their eyes than the post-office and railroad station which it faces. So they went about their business yesterday as unconcerned as though the eyes of the whole country and of countries across the sea were not turned on it with morbid human or scientific interest. And while all of these people milled about at the delay,