The Indiana State Sentinel.

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

Chiefs of Bureaus Reporting Names of Persons That Are Not Needed.

Special to the Sentinel.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Very little difficulty will be encountered by Secretary Manning's committee in finding many superfluous positions in the Treasury Department. No sooner did the Secretary announce his determination to reduce the force than the chiefs of divisions began looking around and reporting the names of men who were not needed. It is stated that about one-third of the positions now filled in the department can be abolished according to the information furnished by chiefs of divisions.

It is wonderful how these chiefs conform to the wishes of the powers that be. Three months ago your correspondent made a tour of the Treasury Department and suggested to about half of the chiefs that it was proposed by the incoming party to make vacancies by reductions of the forces. Not one of them was there but that declared there was not a single person employed there whose services could be dispensed with. They all said the work was far behind and the force too small. Now they assume the opposite position and point out scores of employes who do nothing, and who can be disposed of just as well as not. It makes all the difference in the world whose ox is gored.

This new turn of the chiefs in the Treasury has brought tons of maledictions upon their heads. They are cursed, cuffed, kicked and handled about like foot-balls around political centers, not receiving the respect of any party. Not all the chiefs are guilty of this despicable duplicity, treachery and sycophancy, but most of them are. The Republicans are congratulating themselves that some good may come of the change of administration in cleaning off the ship's barnacles.

The Monumental Gall of Captain Eads.

Special to the Sentinel.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Captain Eads, of jetty and ship-canal fame, is a man of monumental gall. He has for years had a grip on the improvements of the Mississippi River that was, simply astonishing. He came in for local and general improvements to the complete exclusion of men who lived at the point where the work was to be done. And what was still more astonishing he obtained by some means or other the influence of members and Senators in his competition with residents of their own districts. Instance the bill to give him a $7,500,000 contract on the Galveston harbor in the last Congress, which was supported by the Galveston and other Texas members, against the bids of men living in that State. Surely he has proved himself all-powerful, and continues his audacious propositions for continuing work for the Government, notwithstanding the fact that he is receiving a princely salary for supervising the improvement of the Mississippi.

This man Eads, it appears, has taken it into his head that the American people have come to the almost unanimous conclusion that he is the only man who can compass the needs of the country in improving her waterways. It is now stated in newspaper circles here that he proposes to satisfy the small minority that he is actually indispensable, and has put money in the recently-purchased National Republican for the purpose of expounding the necessary conclusive argument.

Captain Eads always turns up at the first session of Congress, no matter if it finds him in the uttermost part of the world, and proposes schemes new for distributing millions of the surplus dollars. It is the wonder now what scheme he has in mind.

Special Agents Require No Civil Service Examination.

Special to the Sentinel.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—"The special agents' march will be played in a few days in all of the departments," observed an Auditor to-day. "The order for the dismissal of twenty special agents from the Postoffice Department," continued the able Auditor, "is only to see how the thing works. Few of them will be retained in any department."

"Will it not impair the service to dismiss so many of these old and experienced men at one time?" I asked.

"No, because they operate almost wholly under instructions from the departments. If experience is any good it will be distributed through the chiefs, who give instructions. Of course some of the old men will be retained, on account of their excellent work, and through the interposition of influential Democratic friends, but it is my judgment that not more than one in ten will be in their places a six-month hence."

"Is not the special agents' roll too large in most of the departments?"

"Yes, and they have been made too large by the demagogues in the House and Senate, who howl over it every year when the appropriation bills are up. They come to the departments and ask to have this friend and that one put in somewhere without civil service examination. Well, of course, the special agents' roll is the only place they can go on, and there they go, until the list is abnormally large. Half of the special agents are superfluous, and the dismissals that are occurring are for the purpose of making vacancies which will not be filled."

Undervaluation of Goods and Consular and Diplomatic Mails.

Special to the Sentinel.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—It is said that one of the first steps Secretary Manning proposes to take in the way of reform will be toward the management of the customs districts, and especially looking after undervaluations and the loose manner of agents who inspect the luggage of outgoing passengers at foreign ports. It is said that millions of dollars worth of goods are brought to this country every year without paying duty. At some places the agents of the United States make the examinations of luggage a mere matter of form, and upon arrival at American ports but little further attention is paid.

The consular and diplomatic mails, it is ascertained, furnish a loop hole, too, for people in that service to smuggle a great deal of foreign merchandise into this country. Said the wife of a consular agent now in England, speaking of this matter here, to day:

"I have just got a dozen pairs of charming kid gloves from my husband."

"You paid duty on them?" I asked.

"Oh, no!" she replied in astonishment "they come through the consular mails. You see, Consuls and Ministers send their mails in separate sacks, and they come here to the Department of State without being opened."

"But do not the people at the Department of State object to sending merchandise through the consular mails?"

"Not at all. I can not remember when the Ministers and Consuls were refused the use of these mails to send these articles. I do not say that persons outside the families of the consular and diplomatic circles get goods in this way, but I suppose they sometimes do."

The evil of such a practice as this can be seen instantly, and it is likely that Secretary Bayard will cut this off. But the most extensive steal is in the undervaluations, which amount to many millions annually. These will be attacked in very short order.

Senator Cockrell and Missouri Office Seekers.

Special to the Sentinel.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Senator Cockrell, of Missouri, is undoubtedly the most thoroughly bored with office-seekers of any man in public life. He is hounded at every step by men who want place. Missouri seems to have marshalled all of her place-hunters and sent them to Washington at one day. The Senator is so besieged at the Capitol that he stays at home every night to get a rest, but they hunt him up and present their little petitions by the hundred.

A six-foot bruiser from "way back" entered his house the other evening. He was one of Cockrell's constituents, but no sooner did he set eyes upon him than he made up his mind not to indorse him.

"I am a candidate for Postmaster in our little town," said the Missourian, pulling forth his petition, "and I want you to indorse me and take my petition to the Postmaster General."

Senator Corkell took the petition and ran his eye over it, as a matter of form, then laid it down, over by his constituent, as much as to say, "I'm done with it; take it up."

"Have a cigar?" said the Senator, handing the constituent a box of five-centers. "Oh! take a couple," he insisted, his friend being on his feet, ready to leave.

The tall and loud-mouthed fellow took in the situation, sat down, inquired for a match, lighted his cigar, put his feet upon another chair, leaned back and complacently inquired:

"Senator, have you another box of cigars?"

"You can't smoke but two cigars at once, can you?"

"No, one is enough; but I'm a great smoker, and I propose to sit here and smoke until I get an answer from you about that petition."

The Senator bit his cigar in two, took up a pen, signed the petition and said, "Go."

He Pays a Visit to the Interior Department Yesterday.

Special to the Sentinel.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Ex-Senator McDonald was at the Interior Department today, and recommended the appointment of ex Representative Stockslager to the position of Commissioner of the Land Office. Other prominent Indianians have joined him in recommending Stockslager, who will doubtless be given some prominent place.

Vice President Hendricks and Colonel Bannister were at the Treasury Department again to day looking after the Fifth Auditorship for the latter.

There is nothing new in the race for the Indianapolis Postmastership. Mr. Bynum made another call upon the President this morning, but did not get any definite information. It is understood Postmaster General Vilas has turned the papers all over to the President with a statement of the case, as he understands it, but without recommendations.

Senator Harrison started home this evening.

Captain McKee, Assistant Superintendent of the Senate Document Room, arrived here this morning from Logansport.

John A. Henry, an attorney of Indianapolis, went to New York this evening, and will return to Indianapolis some time next week.

Jim Jordan, of Richmond, is an applicant for a place in the Postoffice Department. He is well and favorably known among newspaper men here.

Mrs. Senator Voorhees and daughter entertained a large number of their friends this evening.

Hot Debate in the Senate About the Giving Out of Its Secrets

Special to the Sentinel.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—The close mouthed and conscientious and fearful Senators have given the happy-go-lucky ones another "turning over" for giving out the secrets of executive sessions. Quite a long and heated debate has just taken place in an executive session on the subject. Two or three Senators accused by indirection and innuendo some others of disregarding the oath taken to keep the executive proceedings inviolate, and the accused Senators flew into a passion and hurled back the insinuations with great heat. The debate, which occupied considerable time, is said to have been very hot.

There are a number of goody goody Senators who look an armory at the newspaper man who ventures to use the expression "executive session" in their presence, and desiring to show great virtue, insult members of the press on every hand. They have threatened to have every newspaper man excluded from the gallery who uses executive news, and to ostracise "all who have the impudence to inquire about the executive proceedings."

If this thing continues to gather in volume there will be a good sized fight in the Senate, and bad blood will be engendered. An investigation is going on quietly by two or three Senators, in the hope of spotting the Senators who talk about executive sessions.

Ways of the Present Administration.

Special to the Sentinel.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Much surprise has been expressed at the nominations that have been made so far by the President. This surprise is not considered as conveying an unfavorable opinion of the appointees nor reflecting upon Mr. Cleveland, but evinces a feeling that the ways of this administration are not those entertained and practiced by predecessors in the White House. It is now considered a misfortune by applicants for position to have their names mentioned in print, since that class of men are invariably left out of the lists of nominations being made up.

Generally it is thought that the President makes up his mind largely from the impressions he gets of men who ask for places. The importunate ones he doesn't heed, because he fears they will make him trouble if once they get in.

Visitors to the White House Diminishing.

Special to the Sentinel.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—At the White House it was stated to-day that the crowds have very materially diminished daily during the past week until not more than one-tenth as many people call now as a week ago and not 5 per cent. as many as a fortnight since.

"Three or four days after we came here," said the Private Secretary, "the crowds were so numerous that nothing could be done by anybody. I think the President manages to put in seven or eight hours of solid talking, writing or reading out of every twenty-four."

The sergeant of the police in charge of the guard says there is not near such a number of callers now as four years ago. He thinks things are getting down to a comfortable basis.

All Parties Rejoicing Over the Discharge of Turncotts.

Special to the Sentinel.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—"Good and patient Lord, slow to wrath and so slow to punish, deliver me from the political sycophant," exclaimed ex-Commissioner of Patents Butterworth this afternoon. "The clerks in the departments become trimmers very quickly," continued Butterworth, "and soon occupy much of their time in running their little ships on popular breezes. It is a pitiable sight to see a man who has to lie, crawl, betray friend and deny his Christ, simply to hold office or secure promotions."

"What have you in view?" your correspondent asked.

"Well, think of how Commissioner of Pensions Clark crawled and begged to be retained; denied his politics; betrayed his political friends; made overtures to his enemies; tried to manipulate the employes in the office, all to be kept in the place. It was so disgusting that the Democrats, after using him against Dudley, threw him overboard. Now he is a castaway and can't get into either party, and we are all glad of it, men in all parties. There was Dyrenforth, who was Deputy Commissioner of Patents through a long term of Republican rule, who tried the reversible change and played Democrat to get the Commissionership. The fact that he retained his place under Republican administration by striving to sympathize and aid that party was enough, and he was quickly superceded. It does my heart good to see the Democrats weeding them out, and I will guarantee that if all of these thousands of sycophants are dumped out there will be no fuss made by Republicans on civil service ground. The good men are few, and ought to be retained. If only the deserving men are kept in their places the Democrats will not be deprived of many offices."

Sudden Death of E. D. Clark, the Newly Appointed Assistant Secretary of the Interior—Other Interesting News.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—E. D. Clark, of Vicksburg, Miss., the newly appointed Assistant Secretary of the Interior, who has been suffering from an attack of pneumonia for about ten days, and was considered out of danger last evening, had a sudden relapse about midnight, and died at an early hour this morning. His remains will be sent tonight to Holly Springs, Miss., in charge of his wife and Senator Walthall. Inasmuch as Mr. Clark had not taken the oath of office, Joslyn is still Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and has promised Secretary Lamar to remain in office until a successor is appointed.

It is said at the White House that the President will take no action in regard to the Postmastership of New York for some time.

Mr. Montgomery, the new Commissioner of Patents, to-day took the oath of office. He will leave to-morrow for his home in Michigan for the purpose of arranging his private business interests, which were left unsettled on his unexpected departure for Washington in answer to the President's summons.

Secretary Manning received a telegram from M. J. Durham, the newly appointed First Comptroller of the Treasury, dated Danville, Ky., saying he will assume the duties of his office on Wednesday.

The Secretary of State is informed by the United States Minister at Stockholm that the Swedish Diet has voted to admit pork, all grain, flour and meat into the ports of Sweden duty free.

Mr. Atkins, the new Commissioner of Indian Affairs, is expected here to-morrow.

Mr. Hay, the First Assistant Postmaster General, has designated E. C. Flower, of the appointment division, to act during his absence.

The President to-day received a telegram from B. B. Smalley, dated Burlington, Vt., saying: "The Democracy of Vermont sincerely thank you for the nomination of Mr. Phelps. It is an appointment worthy of you."

Secretary Manning to-day sent a circular letter to the heads of bureaus and chiefs of divisions of the Treasury Department, requesting them to report to him, in writing, as soon as practicable, whether, in their opinion, the force employed in their respective offices can be reduced, and to what extent without detriment to the public service. They are also requested to report whether the methods of business can be simplified, and in general to make such suggestions and recommendations as may occur to them as to how the efficiency of the service may be improved, business in the department facilitated, and the expenses curtailed.

The excess of the value of exports over imports for the month ending February 21, 1885, was $11,934,531; for the twelve months ending February 28, 1885, $144,142,240. Messengers and doorkeepers of the Senate have been instructed not to talk to outsiders. An additional doorkeeper has been stationed at the gallery door of the Senate opening upon the press room. The purpose is to make sure that the publication of executive secrets, which the Senators think have grown to be an evil of great magnitude, shall no longer continue.

The Weil & La Abra treaty was disposed of. A majority of the Senate are understood to be in favor of its ratification, but the friends of the claimants are trying to talk the treaty to death and prevent a reopening of the case in trust. An adjournment seems to be chiefly a question of physical endurance.

The report of the expert bookkeepers of the Railroad Commissioner's office, on the financial operations of the Union Pacific Railroad for the past year, has been received at the Interior Department. One item of $50,000 has been disputed by President Adams, of the Union Pacific Company, and was referred to the Secretary for settlement. It is understood that the Secretary will sustain the position taken by the department's experts, adverse to the company's claim.

Postmaster General Vilas to-night confirmed the Associated Press dispatch from Madison, Wis., concerning the appointment of General Bryant, and said he felt it desirable to have at the head of the law department of his bureau a gentleman whose political opinions are in consonance with those of the administration. "General Bryant is," he said, "a Democrat and an old personal friend."

He is a fine lawyer, and has within a year published a valuable treatise on the justice system of Wisconsin. Until four years ago he was General Vilas' law partner, and was associated with him in editing and publishing the first twenty volumes of the reports of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. He is about forty-eight years of age.

Owing to the heavy pressure for clerkships in the Navy Department Secretary Whitney has prepared a circular, which will be furnished all applicants, referring them to the civil service commission.

Secretary Lamar has decided to appoint a commission to investigate the workings of the Interior Department with a view to reorganizing and rearranging the work and force. Chief Clerk Lockwood, Assistant Secretary Joslyn, Mr. Atkins, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and Mr. Montgomery, Commissioner of Patents, are named as likely to compose the commission.

Something About the Nominees.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The Associated Press gives the following account of Edward J. Phelps, nominated to day for Minister to England: He is a prominent lawyer of Burlington, Vt. He is about sixty years of age and the possessor of a moderate fortune. He is ex-President of the American Bar Association. Has practiced before the Supreme Court in Washington, and is highly esteemed as a lawyer and a man of culture. He has several times been the Democratic candidate for Governor of Vermont, but so far as known here he has never had a public office. For two years past he has delivered lectures on law to the graduating class of Yale College.

Mr. Phelps is the son of ex Senator Phelps, of Vermont. Senator Edmunds was his legal preceptor. Phelps is a personal friend of Justice Field, of the Supreme Court, who speaks in the highest terms of his learning and ability.

Robert M. McLane, nominated as Minister to France, is the present Governor of Maryland.

Henry Rootes Jackson, nominated as Minister to Mexico, is a native of Georgia, and is sixty-four years of age. He graduated at Yale College in 1839, and shortly afterward was admitted to the bar. He was Colonel of a Georgia regiment in the Mexican war, and for four succeeding years was a Judge in the Eastern Circuit of Eastern Georgia. In 1853 he was sent to represent the United States at Vienna, Austria, where he remained five years. During the rebellion he was a Southern Brigadier General, and had a command on the upper Potomac. Since the war Jackson has practiced law in Georgia. He has of late years held no public office. He is a man of independent fortune, and is highly indorsed by prominent men of his State. Mr. Jackson is an author of several poems, "Tallulah" being among them.

The New Commissioner of Internal Revenue—Confirmations—Minister Morton, Etc.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Mr. Miller, the newly appointed Commissioner of Internal Revenue, entered upon the dicharge of his duties this morning. He was the recipient of many congratulations from callers and by mail, and during the day received all the principal officers of the Bureau.

The Vice President to-day laid before the Senate a memorial from the Montana Legislature, stating that nearly all the public domain in Montana is desert land, and protesting against the repeal of the desert land act.

Confirmations—Martin V. Montgomery, of Michigan, Commissioner of Patents; Milton J. Durham, of Kentucky, First Comptroller of the Treasury; Malcom Hay, of Pennsylvania, First Assistant Postmaster General; Joseph R. Ryan, of Nevada, Commissioner of the Mint at Carson; William Garren, of Nevada, Superintendent of the Mint at Carson City.

There is no foundation for the statement that President Cleveland has requested Minister Morton to remain at Paris.

The Senate, in executive session, ratified an additional article to the Mexican treaty, extending until May 20, 1886, the time for the approval of the laws necessary to carry into operation the commercial convention between the two governments, concluded at Washington, January 28, 1883.

The Secretary of the Treasury has appointed Assistant Secretaries Fairchild and Coon, and Assistant Treasurer Graves, a commission, with instructions to make an examination of the Treasury Department, with special reference to the simplification and improvement of the methods of doing business, and to the reduction and rearrangement of the official and clerical force.

The President has accepted the invitation of the veterans of the First and other corps to visit the battlefield of Gettysburg, when they make their historical visit there on the 4th and 5th of May, unless prevented by some urgent necessity of the public service. The President is anxious to be on the field when the leading Generals of both armies are there to explain their movements.

It is understood that at an informal conference of Senators of both parties to day, it was agreed the Senate should adjourn next Monday or Tuesday, unless the President shall signify his desire that the session be prolonged.

A misapprehension appears to exist in regard to office of Chief of the Appointment Division of the Treasury Department. The present incumbent of the office, Mr. Trevitt, tendered his resignation about two weeks ago, and it was accepted by Secretary Manning, to take effect April 1, and Trevitt was granted leave of absence till that date. In the meantime Eugene Higgins, of Baltimore, was given a position on the "fraud roll" of the special agents division and assigned to duty as Acting Chief of the Appointment Division, and was promised the office as soon as Trevitt's resignation shall have taken effect. A question has arisen which may prevent Higgins from receiving appointment to the office for which he has been selected. If Higgins is permanently appointed without examination, to the office for which he has been selected, it is claimed it will be in violation of the civil service law, but yet in perfect accord with the rules as published by the Civil Service Commission. It is understood the matter has been brought to the attention of President Cleveland, and he expressed himself as desirous of carrying out to a letter the civil service act without regard to special rules. If this is done, Trevitt's place as Chief of the Appointment Division can not be filled by arbitrary appointment.

An Able Argument of His Case by His Counsel.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Judge Mackey to-day concluded a very able argument in behalf of General Hazen before the General Courtmartial. He said the return by the Secretary of War to General Hazen of the letter written by the latter was a most gracious act; an act that should have awakened only gratitude in the breast of the chief signal officer. It was so felt, but the sense of gratitude that was felt is marred by the knowledge of the fact that a copy of the letter appears to have been kept. The Secretary in this kept his word of promise to ear but broke it to hope. This was not the open blow of a Saxon, but the stiletto thrust of an Italian. Judge Mackey called attention to the fact that the accused is on trial before a court with unchallenged membership. The accused, he said, is aware that while the court was authorized by the President of the United States that the order detailing it was from the Secretary of War. The accuser drew the charge, selected the officers to try it, and appointed the prosecuting officer. In closing, Judge Mackey said: "The accused awaits your judgment with confidence. He feels he is locked up in armor of triple steel against this assault. He feels this Parthenian shaft will be shattered on the bright shield of his soldierly record; but if your judgment be against him, you inflict a scar broader and deeper than those he now bears upon his body, to attest his honorable services in his country's wars."

The Judge Advocate, in summing up, simply reviewed the charges and specifications. Enough evidence, he considered, had been adduced to sustain them, and at the conclusion of his remarks the court went into secret session to consider the case.

SENATE PROCEEDINGS.

The South American Commission Savagely Attacked by Mr. Van Wyck.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—The resolution for the appointment of an Alaskan Committee was laid before the Senate, and Mr. Manderson moved its reference to the Committee on Territories. A debate arose, during which Mr. Van Wyck attacked the South American Commission in vigorous style. He said the first thing they did was to go to San Francisco, then to New Mexico, then to see the New Orleans Exposition. Each member was provided with $7,500 for his expenses. The commission consisted of two men and a boy, for its Chairman remained in Albany. The first thing these two men and boy did was taking a palace car at $35 a day, for which the total payment was $1,447 before they got to New Orleans. Then they furnished themselves with "supplies." The Utah Commissioners boldly charged for lager beer and wine. This commission charged only for "supplies," which doubtless included liquids and solids. He would ask his friends on the Republican side of the chamber if it was time to stop. This (the Senate) was all the party had left. The Democrats had possession at the other end of the Capitol and of the administration. About the 1st of January the Commission got ready to start from New Orleans. From the 1st of October to the 1st of January their expenses were $6,000. Men who robbed safes were comparatively honorable. This money was taken from the pockets of tax payers, who were hardly able to pay $2 a night for lodging on Pullman cars when they traveled. In addition to this expense they paid for their supplies and their cook, and were allowed $7,500 a year each besides. The Chairman of the Commission, who never left New York, resigned on the 25th of January, and drew out of the Treasury $1,679. It cost the Government about $100,000 for this Commission before the two men and boy got ready to leave New Orleans. This reckless waste of money was a real wrong upon the people who paid the taxes. What made it worse was the outrageous bills of that Commission had been approved and paid. He denounced this as worse than highway robbery. He said a man who enters a house at night and robs it is honorable in comparison with those who robbed the Treasury by such expenditures as he has described. It is worse, he said, than stealing the public lands, and here he referred to the Backbone patents as a robbery of 7,000,000 acres at one lick.

Mr. Manderson referred to the resolution of Mr. Van Wyck providing for a committee to prepare a detailed statement of the expenses and improvements of the Mississippi River, under which, Mr. Manderson said, his colleague might be able to make a junketing excursion from the headwaters to the mouth of the river.

Mr. Harrison charged Mr. Van Wyck with having offered the resolution merely for the purpose of obtaining pay for his clerk during the recess, and with the view of saving to the Government the $1,500 to $1,800 salary of the clerk, he offered a resolution that Mr. Van Wyck's resolution be rescinded, and asked that it be referred to the Committee on the Improvement of the Mississippi River. Laid over.

Mr. Vest said that it was not his purpose to become a participant in the very interesting domestic discussion on the Republican side of the Chamber. Mr. Van Wyck was like the boy who participated in the murder of his own father. He said the old man was about to be beaten to death, and as he could not help it, thought he would give him a lick to help him out of his misery. For twenty-five years he (Vest) had been an intimate personal friend of one of the members of the South American Commission, and his record, public and private, was as stainless and without reproach as that of any man could possibly be. The man who charged in his (Vest's) presence that Thomas C. Reynolds had ever by extravagance or otherwise wrongfully taken one cent of the people's money, made a statement which he (Vest) contradicted absolutely and unqualifiedly. He was now in Costa Rica and was performing his functions in a manner so satisfactory, that the new Secretary of State had said he regarded him as one of the best officers in the service of the Government. Two men and a boy, the Senator from Nebraska had said—the boy was nearly fifty years old and had been editor of one of the leading papers in Chicago, and had rendered valuable political services. Governor Reynolds would be compelled soon to return to this country by reason of the illness of a near relative, and he (Vest) challenged the Senator from Nebraska to go into these questions after his return.

Mr. Van Wyck disclaimed any personal reflections. He had made his remarks with respect to the Commission and not respecting its members. He interpreted Mr. Vest's challenge as a threat, and said, substantially, he would be ready to repeat his statements.

Mr. Hawley inquired whether the Senator (Van Wyck) knew enough about the details of these transactions to justify him in attacking the honor of a gentleman who had always stood as high as he (Van Wyck) could ever hope to stand.

Mr. Van Wyck replied by reiterating some of his previous statements.

The Alaska resolution was referred to the Committee on Territories.

Mr. Gorman offered a resolution directing the Secretary of the Interior to furnish the Senate copies of the contract entered into between the Union Pacific Railroad Company and other railroad companies, effected by the act approved by the act of July 1, 1862, and the Western Union Telegraph Company, together with all statements now on file in the Interior Department touching the same. Adopted.

Mr. Sherman offered the following:

Resolved, That so much of the several resolutions passed the first day of March as provide for a clerk for any of the standing committees of the Senate during the recess of Congress be rescinded.

Laid over until to morrow. After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

MISS MADISON.

The Mystery of Her Murder Not Yet Solved—Arrest of an Accused Young Lawyer.

RICHMOND, March 21.—The excitement here over the Fanny Lillian Madison mystery is so great that the officers who arrested Thomas J. Cluverius in King and Queen County, charged with her murder, deemed it prudent to bring him to the city in a private vehicle instead of on the train. The case against young Cluverius rests entirely on circumstantial evidence, which daily accumulates. The aged father of the girl is still in the city. Her body, since it was found floating in the city reservoir, has lain in a little chapel here. One of the father's first acts, after recovering from the shock, was to purchase a handsome coffin, and upon this he had placed a silver plate, with the words 'At Rest." He has shown a determination to aid the officers in their efforts to find his daughter's murderer.

Cluverius is a young lawyer of Piamunk, King and Queen County. The dead girl's father says that there he was not looked upon by intimate acquaintances as her beau, but that they have been on the best of terms from childhood and were much attached to each other. Fanny knew, according to her father's understanding, that Cluverius was affianced to a young lady in King and Queen County. Cluverius was a frequent visitor to Mr. Madison's house, and in the last few years was in the habit of stopping there on his way to court. In August last he stopped there and inquired for Fanny, and was informed that she was staying at Mr. Joseph Walker's, who lived near by. Cluverius went there and remained that night and the following day. During there was no one in the house except Miss Madison's aged grandfather, Miss Fanny and Cluverius, Mr. Walker being away on his farm. At the next term of court, Mr. Madison says, Cluverius shunned him. He thought it singular, and so expressed himself, because before this the young man had always greeted him very cordially.

The fact that the post-mortem indicated that the girl would have become a mother in two months is deemed of importance in making up the case against the young lawyer. All, however, that has been discovered against him so far is that his name was found on a scrap of paper, which the girl tore up and threw in the hotel waste basket, and that he was in the city at the same time, and left on the morning of the day her body was found in the city reservoir. He has yet to be connected with her at the reservoir. A gentleman's watch-key was found there which had been torn from a chain.

Cluverius was a law student at Richmond College for years ago. He went there by the nickname of "Smiling Moses," as he was continually smiling. He is pleasant mannered, about twenty two years old, has a light-colored moustache, and is of slight build. He was arrested while eating supper, and at once employed Speaker H. R. Pollard, of the the Virginia House of Delegates, and the Hon. A. Brown Evans, a prominent lawyer, as his counsel.

The authorities have sent to Bath County, to the family in which Miss Madison was governess, for her trunk. One of her friends here avers that she had a number of letters written by a young man of whom the informant speaks as Miss Madison's beau. She says she also had his photograph.

Detectives are now trying to trace Cluverius's movements while he was here. It is known that two men met Miss Madison while she was at the hotel on the morning of her murder. Cluverius says that he can account for every hour he was here. He is very cool. He denies that he saw the girl during her stay in the city. What caused Cluverius's arrest was the finding of a note in the girl's room at the hotel addressed to him and reading as follows:

"I will be there. Please wait for me."

He said he was not expecting any note from her. It is expected that the watch they found on the reservoir bank will play an important part in clearing up the mystery, and accordingly the officers, when they arrested Cluverius, looked at his watch chain particularly. They saw that he had attached to the chain a short pendant, but no key. When he reached this city this pendant had disappeared. He said in response to questions that he had left it at home. The officers say it disappeared on the way to Richmond. When he was arrested he had on his person a package of letters addressed to himself from ladies. They were from different correspondents, and of a very tender nature. On the outside of one of the recipient is requested not to break the seal unless he will make the most sacred vows not to divulge its contents. The envelope was opened by the police, and the letter bore evidence of having been perused. It was from a young lady in the prisoner's county, and was of a devoted nature.

Cluverius expressed surprise when he was arrested. He admitted that he had read in the papers of the finding of Miss Madison's body. His friends indignantly deny that he is capable of such a crime. They have ample means.

His Death Song.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., March 21.—Last evening Mr. H. B. Plant, of New York, capitalist, railroad man, and President of the Southern Express Company, was coming down the St. John's River from Sanford on the steamer Debary. Accompanying him were several officials of his various companies, including Colonel F. E. Whitfield, of Mississippi, a distinguished public man of that State, and the attorney of Mr. Plant's corporations.

When nearing Palatka the party had gathered around the piano in the saloon, and Colonel Whitfield, who was a vocalist of much power, was entertaining with songs the gay party of ladies and gentlemen. Suddenly, after singing a plaintive ballad with unusual tenderness of expression he turned, faced his audience, grew pale, tottered in his seat and without a word fell dead. His remains, accompanied by his wife, reached the city this morning and were forwarded for interment to his home in Corinth, Miss.

Colonel Whitfield was reckoned next to Mr. Lamar as the most eloquent man in Mississippi, and the brightest political hopes were entertained for him by his friends. His death is felt keenly by Mr. Plant and the officials of his various corporations.

Mrs. Harley Still Missing.

Special to the Sentinel.

DELPHI, Ind., March 23.—A reward of $200 was offered to-day for the person of Mrs. Charles Harley, the lady who, while temporarily demented, mysteriously disappeared from her home on the 18th inst. All detective work has been of no avail, and no reliable clue has been obtained at this hour, 7 p. m. The search goes on with unabated vigor, and the sympathy is universal.

RED FLAMES

Lick Up a Large Portion of New Jersey's Capitol, With the Records.

TRENTON, March 21.—A large portion of the capitol building burned early this morning. The flames were extinguished after four hours' fighting. The loss will be enormous. The Chancery office, containing all the records of courts of the State, deeds, etc., was destroyed.

Two explosions of gas occurred in the Quartermaster General's office on the first floor, at the northwest corner of the State House at 3 o'clock this morning. The explosions were followed by flames that shot through the windows. In ten minutes the apartments were in ruins. The flames followed the steampipes to the floor above and quickly set fire to the offices of the Clerk in Chancery. From these the conflagration extended to the geological museum on the third floor. In this there were many valuable State relics, but the most valuable had been sent to the New Orleans Exposition a month ago. The battle flags were rescued by the firemen at the risk of their lives. The sword and saddle of General Kearney were destroyed. The fire then moved back toward the dome, and it looked as though the Supreme Court-room, Chancery Court-room and legislative chambers would have to go. Books and documents were removed hastily from the offices of the Comptroller of the State Treasury and Secretary of State. The fire was finally checked at 7 o'clock, although the engines are still playing on the ruins in order that access may be had the chancery vaults, where exceedingly valuable papers relating to thousands of estates are kept. The vaults were not burned, but are believed to be full of water, which will cause almost as much damage as fire. The loss will not fall below $100,000. The part destroyed is the facade of the original State House, built in 1795. Only the museum, Quartermaster Gore's office and Chancery Office were completely destroyed, and other departments were somewhat damaged by water. The Chancery and Supreme Court-rooms and Senate and Assembly chambers remain intact. The entire building is worth $500,000, with a liberal insurance on the structure.

The Langdon Hotel, Chicago, Burned—Several Lives Lost.

CHICAGO, March 21.—At 8 this evening fourteen fire engines poured water into the Langdon Hotel, which was a mass of flames. The fire originated in one of the lower rooms. At the time the restaurant of the house contained 100 guests at supper, and as many more were in the rooms. The people in the restaurant had no trouble in getting out, but several persons in the upper rooms had very narrow escapes. The flames spread with marvelous rapidity, and before the second alarm was turned in the flames were bursting through the rooms. A general alarm was given half an hour after the fire broke out, but all the engines which could be brought to play upon the flames could not get the fire under control. Mrs. Belknap, an elderly lady, was killed by jumping from the fourth story into the alley. Subsequently a cry was raised that the walls were falling, and that Bullwinkle's Fire Insurance Patrol men were inside the building. A portion of the south walls were seen to totter and then it came down with a crash.

Two members of the fire insurance patrol barely escaped the tumbling bricks and timbers, and two others were pinned fast, but after strenuous efforts were finally extricated, the legs of both being severely bruised. Patrolmen A. Jones and John Walsh are believed to have been suffocated beneath the wall, as no trace was found of them up to a late hour. Policeman Marks saw two domestics at one of the second-story windows after it was supposed all the inmates had been rescued. He rushed up the burning stair case, and a few moments later appeared dragging out both women, who had been rendered unconscious by smoke.

The hotel, which is a total loss, was erected immediately after the great fire. While substantial looking on the outside it has been called a firetrap. It was formerly known as the Sardick House, then as the Crawford and recently the Langdon.

The Loss of Life at the Langham Hotel Much More Dreadful Than at First Supposed.

CHICAGO, March 22.—The fire which destroyed the Langham Hotel last night proved much more dreadful in loss of life and physical injuries entailed than supposed until a late hour last night. It is now known that at least five persons were killed and four injured. Just before the south wall of the hotel fell upon the Faxion Building a number of persons besides those of the fire patrol were inside the latter building, assisting to save goods, as no immediate danger was apprehended. There is no means of knowing just how many of these volunteer helpers were in the structure at the time, but the excavations have proceeded to an extent which justifies the hope that all the dead have been found. As far as known those at work in the Faxion Building when crushed by the falling hotel walls were the following: Captain Edward Shepard, James Boyd, Knute Thime, Patrick Mullens, John Walsh and Frederick Jones, all of the fire insurance patrol; William Beam, piano tuner, and John Hennessy, clerk, both employed in the building. Mullens and Thime being near the rear of the building, were forced out through one of the windows by the rush of air as the building fell, and are not dangerously hurt. Captain Shepard and Boyd were pinned down by the fallen timbers and rescued alive about midnight, both seriously hurt, but it is believed they will recover. Walsh and Jones were taken out about 1 o'clock this morning, both crushed to death. Beam was alive when found, and taken to the County Hospital, where he died at 5 o'clock this morning. The body of Hennessy was recovered at 6 o'clock to night. Soon after the walls fell the wreck took fire, and the firemen turned several streams on the blazing mass to save their comrades from being roasted to death, though at the immense risk of drowning them. The water was ice cold and drenched the poor imprisoned fellows, chilling them to the marrow. Mrs. C. V. Belknap, who was killed by jumping from an upper window, was the widow of Colonel Belknap, who died some years ago at New Orleans. She has many friends in Cincinnati. Her remains are still at the City Morgue.

Narrowly Escaped From Being Buried Alive.

CINCINNATI, March 22.—A Freeport, O., special says: Benjamin Forsyth, aged sixteen, died apparently last Thursday, and was prepared for burial. He preserved a life-like appearance, and at the grave, yesterday, to satisfy his mother, the coffin was opened. A slight moisture attracted attention, and the body was removed to a house near by, where, after several hours incessant labor, the boy was restored to consciousness, and will now, it is believed, recover.

THE CRAZE.

Dr. Talmage on Roller Skating—Not Yet Ready to Join the War on It.

NEW YORK, March 21.—Rev. Dr. T. DeWitt Talmage, who has just returned from a Western tour, was asked to-day for his views about roller skating.

"Roller skating?" said he, "why, I've just returned from the headquarters of roller skating—Richmond, Ind.—and the people out there are fairly crazy about the sport. I spoke to the proprietor of one of the largest rinks in Richmond, and he told me roller skating was the most innocent, enjoyable and beneficial amusements imaginable. I have read some of the objections of brother clergymen that have been printed, and although I don't say I agree with them, I don't want as yet to collide with their views—not until I have investigated the matter thoroughly. The striking-out motion—and here the Doctor pushed the roller arm-chair behind, while he stood and struck out with as graceful a movement as the most adept whirler—develops the lower limbs better than anything else I know of.

"Speaking of roller skating reminds me that I did ask that Richmond manager about how affairs were conducted, and he told me that the least unwarranted gallantry was a signal for the ejection of the offender from the rink. This is at it should be, and I guess our managers here in Brooklyn are fully as particular as to their patrons as they are out West. Will I visit the rinks? Well now, that is a suggestion, and I will in a few days go to every one of them and see for myself. Try on the rollers? No, I think not: I have some regard for my bones yet."