

CURRENT NEWS.

WASHINGTON.

The Senate, on the 14th, confirmed the following nominations: Alex. M. Blair, Collector Internal Revenue, District of Kansas; Jas. L. Dyer, Receiver of Public Moneys, Wichita, Kas. Postmasters: John J. Squire, Taylorville, Ill.; John B. Sinking, East St. Louis, Ill.; E. T. Woodworth, Columbia City, Ill.; N. C. Chazy, Petersburg, Ill.; James W. Ripley, Columbia, Mo.; Isaac B. Huggins, Palmyra, Mo.; J. H. Holcomb, Butler, Mo.; Jas. T. Beach, St. Joseph, Mo.; Mrs. Ida Welsh, Hot Springs, Ark.; Jas. Harbottle, Abilene, Kas.

The reported transfer of Gen. Hancock from New York to the Pacific Coast is denied by authority.

Inspector-General James H. Hardee, U. S. A., died at his residence in Washington on the 14th.

Four hundred employees of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing were discharged on the 16th. About two-thirds of them were women.

The President of the Senate has adopted the following new form of receipt for Electoral votes as delivered by messengers to the Vice-President:

CHAMBERS OF THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON, D. C. Received of _____ claiming to be a messenger to deliver a certificate of the vote given for President and Vice-President of the United States, by the Electors of the State of _____, alleged to have been elected November 7, 1876.

President pro tem. U. S. Senate.

Congress.

In the Senate, on the 15th, the resolution providing for an investigation in regard to the appointment of the Oregon Elector was taken up, and Mr. Thurman spoke at some length thereon, arguing that there were two sides to the question, and that Gov. Grover had good authority for making the commission. Watts and Granting the certificate to Cronin. In support thereof he read an opinion of Judge Hoar, of Cincinnati, as recently published, and in the course of Gov. Grover. When the Clerk read the paragraph in regard to the alleged plan to have Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, made President and the Secretary of purpose of counting the electoral vote, etc., Mr. Sherman said he wished to say this whole story about a conspiracy to elect him President of the Senate was simply a newspaper ruse, without one word of truth whatever. Mr. Mitchell replied to Mr. Thurman, asking whether any member of the Democratic party was willing to rise up in his place and affirm the right of Gov. Grover to adjudicate upon the eligibility of Watts. They dare not do so, he commented on the action of Gov. Grover, and said it was a gross usurpation of power; a gross violation of law. He quoted at length from the Constitution and laws of Oregon, and urged that Senators on the Democratic side of the chamber had ignored the Constitution and laws of the State. They had evaded the question. In the House, the resolution in relation to Louisiana affairs was brought about by the consideration of the bill to pay the expenses of the investigating committee. The report of the discussion of the report of the Democratic visitors to Louisiana was read from the Clerk's desk, its printing in the Congressional Record being thus secondarily.

The Senate was not in session on the 16th. The House passed the Post-office Appropriation bill. The communication from Mr. Merrion, Chairman of the Louisiana investigating committee, in regard to the refusal of Mr. Cronin to deliver the certificate of the electoral vote, was referred to the Judiciary Committee. The special order was taken up, and several members delivered enlogies on the late Speaker, Mr. Keim.

In the Senate, on the 18th, Mr. Edmunds' resolution, referring the message of the House of Representatives in regard to devising means for counting and declaring the electoral vote to a select committee of seven Senators, to act with the committee appointed by the House, was agreed to by a unanimous vote without discussion. The bill was referred to a special committee. Mr. Wright called up the message of the President sent to the Senate last session, relative to the bill regulating the salary from \$20,000 to \$25,000 per annum, and the question being, shall the bill pass notwithstanding the objections of the President thereon, discussion followed, and the Senate voted to pass the bill over the veto—yeas, 25; nays, 19—two-thirds voting in the affirmative.

The House, Mr. Knott introduced a bill regulating proceedings in the electoral count for President and Vice-President. Referred to a select committee. Mr. Frye offered a resolution for the appointment of six to inquire into the manner in which the election was conducted for members of Congress last November in the Sixth District of Missouri, and the Fourth District of Alabama; and whether in such districts there was any intimidation of candidates or voters. The House refused to concur in the resolution. The resolution was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Banning moved to suspend the rules and adopt the resolution calling for General Sheridan's report on the removal of Governor Wells of Louisiana. Adopted—yeas, 150; nays, 63.

In the Senate, on the 19th, the resolution of Mr. Mitchell in regard to the appointment of Cronin as Presidential Elector in Oregon was taken up and discussed by Senators Mitchell, Morton and Boyer. At the expiration of the counting hour, the Senate voted to formally present a statement of Samuel Adams and John Wiathrop. In the House, Mr. Wood, from the committee on Ways and Means, reported a resolution for the adjournment of the House for next Saturday, the 23d, to Wednesday, the 27th, and on Saturday, the 30th, to Wednesday, the 3d of January. Mr. Wood explained that it was the understanding of the committee that there would be no business done between Friday next and 3d of January. The House voted to suspend the rules without transacting business. The resolution was adopted—yeas, 21; nays, 92.

The Senate, on the 20th, passed the Pension appropriation bill. The resolution in regard to the alleged ineligible Elector in Oregon was again taken up and discussed at some length. The House passed a resolution instructing the committee on Foreign Affairs to report in reference to the congratulatory address to the Irish Nation in the United States, of which Mr. J. O'Connor Power was the bearer to the Irish Nation. The report of the Judiciary Committee on the question of the power of the committee to compel the production of telegrams was made, with a report which asserts that right. (The Committee stood 6 to 5 on the adoption of this report.)

EAST.

Gen. W. F. Bartlett, a distinguished Federal officer during the late war, died at his home in Pittsfield, Mass., on the 17th.

The New Jersey Legislature, which has a United States Senator to elect, hinges on one vote, which is contested.

W. C. Wall, Money-order Superintendent in the Pittsburgh Post-office, has absconded, leaving his accounts about \$8,000 short.

WEST AND SOUTH.

Twenty-two business buildings were burned at Bolivar, Tenn., on the morning of the 15th. Loss about \$200,000; insurance about \$20,000.

A large portion of the town of Blackville, Barrowville County, S. C., was burned on the 14th, and the town of Florence, in the same State, was also partially burned. Both fires are said to have been the work of incendiaries.

G. W. R. Bayley, resident engineer of

Eads's jetties, died suddenly on the 13th, of heart disease, aged 54.

The Missouri and Western Railway has been completed to Oswego, Labette County, Kansas.

The Ohio Democratic State Central Committee has issued a call for a State mass convention, to be held at Columbus, on January 8, "to take such action as may be deemed necessary to preserve the purity of the ballot and maintain the rights and liberties of the people." Preliminary county meetings are to be held on December 30.

The United States engineers, sent down to examine Capt. Eads's jetties, report in favor of paying over the first half-million, provided he establishes a channel 300 feet wide and 20 feet deep through the shoal at the upper end of the pass. They regard the temporary character of some of the jetty work as unavoidable, but recommend that more stone be applied and the sea-ends of the jetties buttressed before the second and third payments are made.

The official canvass of West Virginia shows the following result: Tilden, 66,565; Hayes, 41,996; Cooper, 1,387.

Little Rock, Ark., was visited by another destructive fire on the night of the 19th. The Miller and Penzell block and a number of buildings adjoining were burned to the ground. Loss, about \$150,000.

Rev. J. Spalding, of Louisville, Ky., has been appointed Bishop of the new Catholic See of Peoria, Ill.

A serenade was tendered to Gen. Nichols and Mr. Wiltz, Democratic candidates for Governor and Lieut.-Governor, at New Orleans on the 19th. Gen. Nichols made a short speech, in which he expressed his belief that he had been honestly elected Governor by over 8,000 majority, and announced his determination to assert and maintain his right to the position. Mr. Wiltz made a speech of similar import.

A young man named Gally Bond shot and killed an old man named L. S. Hill, about four miles north of Shelby Depot, Tenn., on the 18th. Bond was an unsuccessful suitor for Hill's daughter, and after shooting the old gentleman, he seized the girl, and forcibly carried her to the residence of a neighboring clergyman, where he insisted upon being immediately married. Before the ceremony could be performed, however, a posse of neighbors came up to arrest Bond, and he deliberately shot one of them, and taking the wounded man's horse, rode off and successfully eluded his pursuers.

The steamer Montana, plying between San Francisco and Mexican ports, was burned off Cape Harrow, Gulf of California, on the 14th. The steamer was run ashore and all the passengers and crew safely landed, but the vessel and cargo were a total loss.

A party of five men, in charge of four freight teams, were attacked by the Indians while in camp on Indian Creek, six miles north of Hot Creek, Wyoming, on the night of the 19th. Three of the men escaped, but the other two were murdered and their bodies horribly mutilated.

Gen. Diaz has proclaimed himself Provisional President of Mexico, in opposition to the claim of Iglesias, and the contest for the control of the Government is now solely between these two, and Diaz occupies the City of Mexico, having driven out Lerdo and his Cabinet, while Iglesias is at Leon. Matamoros is held by Gen. Revueltas, who recognizes Iglesias as the head of the Republic. The news of the death of Escobedo is confirmed.

FOREIGN.

The dwelling of R. McInnes, of Huron County, Ont., was burned on the 18th, and four children perished in the flames.

SOUTH CAROLINA AFFAIRS.

The Senate and Republican House elected Corbin United States Senator, on the 18th. The Democratic House commenced balloting for a United States Senator, but up to the 16th no choice had been effected.

The Democratic House, on the 16th, announced the result of the vote for Governor to be Hampton, 92,261; Chamberlain, 91,127; Hampton's majority, 1,134. This includes the votes of Edgefield and Laurens Counties, thrown out by the Board of Canvassers, and is certified as correct by the Secretary of State.

Up to the 19th there was no material change in the situation of affairs. The Democratic House, as a matter of form, balloted daily for a United States Senator. The Congressional and Senatorial committees were working actively but quietly, and the evidence taken is not given to the press. The following correspondence speaks for itself:

ROOMS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 18, 1876.—TO D. H. CHAMBERLAIN, ESQ.—Sir:—Having been legally elected and duly inaugurated Governor of South Carolina, I call upon you to deliver forthwith into my possession the great seal of the State, the State-house, offices, appurtenances, etc.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, (Signed) W. A. HAMILTON, Governor of South Carolina.

ROOMS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 18.—W. A. HAMILTON, ESQ.—Sir:—Your note demanding the seal of the State, offices, appurtenances, etc., is received. Being legally elected and duly qualified Governor of this State, I see no reason why your demand should be complied with. (Signed) D. H. CHAMBERLAIN, Governor of South Carolina.

In the Democratic House, on the 19th, 79 Senators and Representatives being present, claimed to be a legal quorum of the Joint Assembly, M. C. Butler was chosen United States Senator.

CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS.

Louisiana.

The Senate Investigating committee met in the United States District Court-room in the Custom-house, on the 18th. There were present, T. O. Howe of Wisconsin, Chairman, McMillan of Minnesota, Oglesby of Illinois, Wardleigh of New Hampshire, McDonald of Indiana, and Sanbury of Delaware. The committee having been called to order, Mr. Howe stated that in the interest of harmony there would only be a certain number of persons present—five representatives of each party to act as counsel, and members of the press.

The Republican and Democratic State Committees, on the 19th, submitted to the committee the line of evidence which they respectively intend to produce. The Republican charges are as follows: General intimidation, corporal punishment, and murder of R-pullies in certain parishes by so-called bulldozers, by which from 12,000 to 15,000 Republicans were altogether prevented from voting, and from 5,000 to 6,000 Republicans forced against their will to vote the Democratic ticket, the localities where such intimidation, etc., existed, being the whole or part of the following parishes, to-wit: East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Ouachita, Morehouse, Richland, Grant, Livingston, Franklin, Sabine, Caldwell, Lafayette, East Claiborne, De Soto, Jackson and Calcasieu. The specific instances of such crimes adduced are: the murder of John Gair in East Feliciana, the murder of Dr. B. H. Dinkens in West Feliciana, and the attempted murder of Senator Twitchell in Red River. All of which are charged as the result of political hostility and hatred, and, as is further charged, the result

Florida.

The investigation by both the Senate and House Committees was in progress on the 18th, but no material evidence had been so far made public. The question of the legality of the proceedings of the Returning Board was still at issue before the Supreme Court.

Before the House Committee, on the 19th, 11 colored men whose names appear on the list of Precinct 13 in Tallahassee, and for which there were votes in the box to correspond, each testified that he did not vote in that precinct. In reference to the election, the whole vote from which was thrown out because there was no Clerk in the county during the election, Judge Graham testified that the Governor did not fill the vacancy in time to complete the registry, but that the election was regularly called by the Republican County Commissioners and regularly held by inspectors appointed by them, and that no one was allowed to vote at said election without first subscribing to the oath which recited that he was a regularly qualified voter, and was on the registry list of the year before, and was on the registry list of the year before, and was on the registry list in secret session, and did not make public any of the evidence taken before it.

South Carolina.

Comptroller-General Dunn appeared before the House Committee, on the 19th, and testified that the Electoral vote was canvassed by the State Board of Canvassers, and was made up and counted from returns of the county canvass-

ing, including the counties of Edgefield and Laurens, which are excluded in the count for members of the Legislature. The Senate Committee was in secret session.

Ineligible Voters.

The sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, have taken testimony regarding the alleged illegality as Presidential Electors of Benjamin Williamson, of New Jersey, and Gen. F. F. Frost, of Missouri, according to Mrs. Williamson's testimony before the committee, he was appointed United States Commissioner about 23 years ago, had probably exercised the duties of the office about twice, and had never received any money through the office. He had no idea he was ineligible until after he retired from the office, and as soon as he found the question of his illegibility was raised he sent his resignation to Gov. Reble. In the case of Gen. Frost, it was shown by the evidence of Thomas Thorogood, a member of the Missouri Electoral College, that Gen. Frost was not present at the meeting of the College when the votes for President and Vice-President were cast, and the College filled the vacancy by electing LeGrand Atwood to act in place of Gen. Frost. C. G. Stifel, Republican candidate for Elector in the State, then appeared, and claimed the right to cast a vote on the ground that Frost was ineligible. He presented his claims to the College in writing, and they were tabled. Mr. Stifel testified that he filed with the Governor papers setting forth his claims and showing that Gen. Frost was ineligible. The Governor stated that he had issued a certificate of election to Gen. Frost, but he ordered the Secretary of State to give Stifel a certificate of the official vote of the Third District. General George H. Spier, Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, corroborated Stifel's testimony.

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The committee heard considerable evidence on the 14th, two or three colored men testifying as to being threatened and assaulted for voting the Democratic ticket. Chairman Morrison telegraphed to the State, known other facts that impediments were being thrown in the way of getting evidence, and that witnesses were being threatened and dare not testify. He also transmitted a copy of a telegram from the United States, President of the Western Union Telegraph Company, refusing to permit the employees of that company to produce telegrams before the committee, and the House Committee, which have approved the subpoena of the committee and directed their demands to be enforced.

On the 16th, several negro witnesses who had testified to having been threatened and assaulted for voting and working for the Democratic ticket, were cross-examined. One Ward, who canvassed the State for the Democrats, said that before making the arrangement he had proposed to the Republican Executive Committee, he had been threatened by the Democrats, but they did not want him. The Democrats agreed to pay him for making the canvass. M. S. Peller, a United States Senator in New Orleans, testified that Deputy Marshal Casey wanted to take the poll-book in his district and fix it up, and offered him \$500 to deliver it over to them. Witness refused, and was afterwards arrested and taken down by Casey. On cross-examination, witness said he did not make any complaint against Casey, as he intended to vote for the Democrats, and he was still a Republican, and had called upon Col. Patton (Democrat) for protection. Pompey Soles, Marshal Taylor, E. J. Jones, and Henry Smith, who had voted the Democratic ticket, testified that they had been assaulted and beaten therefor.

Before the committee, on the 17th, George Johnson, colored, who testified a few days ago, was recalled. He stated that he had been assaulted by colored Republicans since he testified before the committee. He was taken to the penitentiary by violence if he testify. E. W. Barnes, manager Western Union Telegraph Company, who had been subpoenaed to produce dispatches sent and received by Kellogg, Packard, Dibble, and other colored men, and Arthur Auger, from and after the 15th of August, 1876, was called before the committee, and testified that he was under instructions of his superior officers. The committee resolved (the Democrats voting yea and the Republicans nay) to report Mr. Barnes, manager Western Union Telegraph Company, to the Senate, and to report Mr. Nichols would be counted out even if he was elected; knew of intimidation by Republicans of negroes who intended to vote the Democratic ticket; they are the greatest enemies of the colored people who are afraid to vote the Democratic ticket at the last election at Vidalia; about 100 voted for Tilden, and 150 for the State ticket. On cross-examination, said he was a Republican, and a colored Democrat—only threats. J. Floyd King, of Concordia Parish, testified to many colored men voting the Democratic ticket, and others being intimidated. Thomas Dawson, colored, testified that he was President of a colored Democratic club of 33 members on the plantation managed by Floyd, the preceding witness; no violence was done to colored Democrats, but some threats made. Ex-Governor Wolfe, of Parish, testified that over 1,000 negroes voluntarily voted the Democratic ticket; an effort was made to kill the Democratic candidate, Sheriff DeLoach, at one night; the candidate for Sheriff of Feliciana was killed a few nights before the election. Judge Kennard testified that he was one of the Democratic campaign committees, every effort was made from the start to have a fair and free election. Cross-examined, said there were no organized political regulators, who were organized to stop petty delinquencies of members of the plantation managed by Floyd, the preceding witness; no violence was done to colored Democrats, but some threats made. Ex-Governor Wolfe, of Parish, testified that over 1,000 negroes voluntarily voted the Democratic ticket; an effort was made to kill the Democratic candidate, Sheriff DeLoach, at one night; the candidate for Sheriff of Feliciana was killed a few nights before the election. 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