

A FIGHT FOR A TRAIN.

Four Brave Men Drive Off a Band of Robbers That Held Up a Seaboard Air Line Train in Florida.

McClenny, Fla., Jan. 16.—Passenger Train No. 76, east bound, on the Seaboard Air Line, was held up one mile east of Sanderson at 7.45 o'clock tonight by four white men. The door of the baggage car was blown open with dynamite, the robbers mistaking this car for the express car.

DEATH OF JAMES L. BLAIR.

A Prominent Citizen of St. Louis Dies in Florida Under a Cloud.

Eustis, Fla., Jan. 16.—James L. Blair, of St. Louis, Mo., died here this morning. Mr. Blair came here about five weeks ago in search of health and it was thought that he was improving in health until last week, when his condition changed alarmingly for the worse and the physicians advised that his wife should be telegraphed for, and she and her son, Percy Blair, arrived this morning a short time before his death.

The Ohio River Frozen.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 17.—Dispatches from Ohio river points tonight indicate new ice forming while the gorges between Evansville and Louisville were already firm and also those between Madison and Cincinnati. The same conditions exist for seventy miles above Cincinnati where the gorges are almost continuous, and at some places icebergs thirty and forty feet high exist. Navigation on the Ohio and its tributaries has been suspended for almost six weeks and many river towns without railroads, that depend on the boats for mail, groceries, fuel and almost everything, are suffering great inconvenience.

Epigrams for Advertisers.

One step won't take you very far, You've got to keep on walking; One word won't tell folks what you are, You've got to keep on talking.

Boulder, Colo., Jan. 17.—The mother of Capt. Richmond P. Hobson died today, at the home of Shirley Davis, after a long illness. Her son was with her when she died and will leave with her remains tomorrow for Greensboro, Ala., where they will be interred.

Cape Haitien, Jan. 17.—The government troops which disembarked yesterday at Sosna were ordered yesterday to march on Puerto Plata. A brisk attack, supported by the guns of a Dominican war vessel, began in the evening. This morning operations were resumed and the government troops entered Puerto Plata causing the flight of Gen. Deschamps, who took refuge in the United States consulate. The United States cruiser Hartford has arrived.

Letter to Sheriff Scarborough.

Dear Sir: Pay more for Devoe; be glad to it. It is full-measure and honest. Paint is a watch-dog. How would you like a watch-dog that wouldn't watch from two to five o'clock in the morning? That's short-measure.

NEW YORK IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST.

Platt-Odell Fight Threatens Republican Success in the Empire State.

New York, most important of "doubtful States", will be a party and factional storm centre in the coming Presidential campaign. Democracy has a new stimulus in the rise of Charles F. Murphy, the Tammany leader, by force of sensational ability to handle the most complex political machinery. David B. Hill is overshadowed. The party will fight a struggle between an old man with an old machine behind him, and a young man with the vigor and skill to construct a machine of his own.

Richland's Example.

While the suggestions are being made as to how to raise more money, it would be well to look to Richland county. In less than a year the new county auditor, Mr. W. Hampton Gibbs has, by attending to his business and enforcing the laws already on the books, added more than a million of dollars' worth of property to the tax-books. Think of adding more than a million dollars' worth of taxable property in a single county, and the lawmakers have some idea of the possibilities of leaving well enough alone and getting men like Mr. Gibbs, to enforce the present laws.

That is where the great trouble really is. The office of county auditor ought to be taken out of primaries, and in that way out of politics. County auditors ought not to be afraid of losing votes by imposing income taxation or getting property up to its full value and as long as the position is in politics there will be trouble.

Mills Run Short Time.

Charlotte, N. C., Jan. 18.—Eight large cotton mills at Concord, N. C., operating 88,000 spindles and 3,300 looms will, beginning this week, run only four days a week. This action is taken on account of the scarcity of cotton and the low price of manufactured goods. Two thousand hands are affected.

Fall River, Mass., Jan. 15.—The sales in the print cloth market will reach a total of about 150,000 pieces for the week, mostly odd goods. Today M. C. D. Borden, of New York, came into the market and bid 3 11-16 cents for regulars, which is an advance of 1-16 of a cent over last week's figures. It is learned that not only a moderate amount was secured at this price, as manufacturers consider this a low basis in view of the firmness of the cotton market and are holding out for 3 3/4 cents.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 16.—A state of the late Rev. John Jasper, the famous colored preacher of "Sun Day Move" fame, is to be unveiled Sunday next in the church of which Jasper was pastor. The exercises in connection with the unveiling are to last nine days and an admission fee is to be charged to help defray the cost of the statue.

Pensacola, Fla., Jan. 16.—The suit of Judge W. A. Milliken, of New York, against Martin H. Sullivan, of this city, for \$100,000, claimed as commission for the sale of a large body of land to Russell A. Alger and others, was settled today. Sullivan deposited a check for \$55,000, subject to the order of the United States Court. The sale was made several years ago, and since that time several judgments have been rendered in favor of Judge Milliken, the most recent one by the Supreme Court of the United States about two weeks ago. The result is a compromise.

Colorado Springs, Colo., Jan. 17.—Col. John H. Bacon, who was mayor of Colorado Springs in 1880 and prominent as a business man, committed suicide today by shooting because of his illness. He left a note saying that he had suffered so much pain from rheumatism and insomnia that it more than offset the pleasures of this world. Col. Bacon was 75 years old.

Republicans in Washington are commenting on an utterance attributed to Justice John M. Harlan, of the supreme court, during a lecture on "Constitutional Law" before the class at the Columbian university law school. He is quoted as follows: "Let us hope that this great instrument, which has served so well, will weather the storms which the ambitions of certain men are creating in an effort to make this country a world power."

A bill should be passed preventing South Carolina divorces in Georgia. We are opposed to being the clearing house for Palmetto State quarrelling couples. It makes Augusta as odious as Chicago.—Augusta Chronicle.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

No Material Change in the Situation.

Each Day There is Less Hope of a Settlement Without an Appeal to Arms.

Japanese Determined to Fight Rather Than Yield.

London, Jan. 18.—In what it claims as an authoritative statement the Daily Graphic this morning announces that the negotiations have arrived at a stage leaving two points upon which neither Russia nor Japan is inclined to yield, and as to which no means of a compromise have yet been found. Both these points concern Manchuria and their acceptance would not in the slightest modify the legal status quo, or change the administrative situation in Manchuria, but Japan insists "that they be embodied in a treaty between Japan and Russia," while Russia, as a matter of amour propre, "refuses to accept such dictation at the hands of Japan."

The statement adds: "Of course any attempt of Russia to increase very largely her naval forces in the far east by moving her Black Sea or Baltic fleets would make war a question of only a few hours."

This statement seems to be borne out by the Associated Press dispatch from Tokio yesterday that Japan had received Russia's communication saying that Russia would respect the rights and privileges already acquired in Manchuria under the existing treaties with China, except in the case of the establishment of foreign settlements, which show that negotiations are continuing on the question of Manchuria.

At the Japanese legation last night it was said that no fresh news had been received and that the situation remained unchanged. The Daily Mail's Tokio correspondent says that M. Pavloff, the Russian minister at Seoul, has notified the Korean government that Korean troops have crossed the Chinese boundary repeatedly and committed excesses against the inhabitants. Russian custom officials on the extreme northeastern border report similar occurrences and assert that the Koreans are burning villages and killing people. Minister Pavloff warned the authorities that such proceedings will necessitate severe measures.

The correspondent says that riots have broken out at Chyung Chyongdo, in the province of Piyongan, Corea. The Daily Mail's Seoul correspondent cabling yesterday makes no mention of these disturbances, but according to The Daily Telegraph's Tokio correspondent the Seoul correspondent of The Jiji Shimpo learns that a general rising is imminent at Phong Yang, and that Korean soldiers are co-operating with the rebels. Phong Yang was the scene of the rising which led to the war between Japan and China.

The Daily Mail's Seoul correspondent says that an armored train with quickfiring guns from the ships is ready at Chemulpo to rush men to Seoul at a moment's notice. The correspondent says that the Japanese have secured control of the Korean coast and that the emperor has wired Peking and Tokio advising a triple offensive and defensive alliance and promising not to leave Seoul.

According to the correspondent, McLeavy Brown, supervisor of Korean customs, secured possession of Korean field guns on the pretense that they needed repairs and locked them in the customs house.

The Daily Mail's Port Arthur correspondent, estimates that the total number of Russian troops now in Manchuria is 200,000, half of whom are guarding the railway. The correspondent says: "China's firm stand since the reoccupation of Mukden has complicated the Russian arrangements in Manchuria for defense and doubled the difficulties of guarding the long line of communication between the boundaries and the coast line."

"The council of war is sitting daily. The port of Newchwang and ports on the Yalu river are icebound."

FROM THE JAPANESE CAPITAL.

Tokio, Jan. 6.—Japan does not anticipate Russia's rejoinder for at least one week. In the meantime the nation is prepared and grimly reconciled to war. Political and other distinctions have disappeared and the country is patriotically united. The government is receiving many offers of contributions in the event of war, amounting to many millions of yen. The Japanese people would welcome an honorable peace, but are resolved to fight before receding from their position in oriental affairs. They fear the aggression of Russia and believe if it is not stopped now it never will be stopped. They are confident that their demands are fair and moderate and that their diplomacy which has been patient, has gone to a reasonable limit. They expect the world's sympathy in the struggle and have a splendid confidence in their army and navy. In the event of reverses or a national disaster, it is thought that England and the United States would intervene to preserve a balance of power in eastern Asia. There is no fear of an invasion of Japan, a country which probably is the most strongly defended in the world. The growth of British and American sentiment is remarked. Numerous displays of the two nations are made and popular songs reciting the glories of the "Lion" and "Uncle Sam" are sung.

The characters of "Uncle Sam" and "Jonny Bull" are also seen at public dances. The activity of the United States in opening the ports of Mukden and Antung is keenly watched and in some quarters it is hoped that this may aid in solving the problem insuring peace. The censorship prohibits the publication of military movements. At present the movements are merely preliminary and aimed to insure an immediate dispatch of an immense land and sea force if it should become necessary.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 18.—The Associated Press correspondent, on high authority, is able to give the following as the present status of the negotiations between Russia and Japan: "Russia recognizes Japan's predomi-

nence in Corea, and Japan recognizes Russia's special position in Manchuria. There are two main questions still at issue—the Russian demand for a neutral zone on the Korean side of the Yalu river, which Japan met with a proposal for a similar neutral strip on the Manchurian side. Japan also asks for certain guarantees covering Manchuria, which Russia, thus far, has declined to grant. It is pointed out, however, that the assurances given a few days ago by Russia, regarding open ports in Manchuria and respect for treaty rights, is a concession on this point."

That the two countries are not so far apart may be fairly inferred from the following statement, made by Mr. Kurino, the Japanese minister, to the Associated Press correspondent:—"War would only be disastrous to both countries. Owing to the geographical situation, an armed conflict would result in a great drain of men and treasure of both Japan and Russia, without being decisive. Besides, I believe it would not be worth while to go to war on the questions still in dispute."

OUR MARINE GUARD AT SEOUL. Washington, Jan. 18.—Minister Allen, at Seoul, Corea, has made a request of the State department that the legation guard be increased. The request has been referred to the navy department, which is considering means of sending more marines from Cavite to Chemulpo. It will require about a week to reinforce the present guard.

JAPANESE QUIT MANCHURIA. Port Arthur, Jan. 18.—The Japanese banks are rapidly closing up their accounts in Manchuria, and are stopping business. Japan is seeking for agents in Manchuria and Corea to supply the Government with information of the Russian movements, in view of the hurried departure of the Japanese residents.

The Russian occupation of Sin-Mintun, thirty miles west of Mukden, is now reported to be an accomplished fact.

Very Important.

"Speaker Cannon, of the House of Representatives, has given Congressman Lever an assignment as a member of the committee on agriculture. While this is the only appointment Mr. Lever received, it is upon an important committee and places him where he can be of benefit to the great majority of his constituents. And there is no doubt that he will use every opportunity that offers in the interest, not only of the farmers, but those of every other occupation."—Sumter Herald.

We take the above from the Sumter Herald. The District should congratulate itself upon the fact that Congressman Lever has been assigned to a committee of so much importance to its agricultural interests, and to the industrial development of the State and South. This committee takes rank with the most important of the House committees, and there is always an earnest contest for assignments on it, especially between members from the South, representing agricultural districts. Through the recommendations of this committee to the House, the Department of Agriculture, which is doing so much for the education of the farmers and the development of the farming interests of the country, receives its power.

It is particularly gratifying to have southern members on this committee, for they well understand the peculiar needs and possibilities of the southern farmers; and we feel sure Congressman Lever will devote his best efforts to bringing to the attention of the committee and Congress the vast agricultural resources, both of his district and the entire State.

It was upon this same committee that the late and lamented Dr. Stokes served with so much benefit to his people during his congressional career, and it is very pleasing to the friends of young Lever to know that the leadership of the House regards his ability so favorably as to place him in the same seat at the committee table which his distinguished predecessor occupied—and this after so brief a service in the House.

Representative Williams, the present Democratic leader on the floor of the House, left this committee only this year when he was elevated to the minority leadership. That our Representative should be selected for this place is a high compliment, both to the District and to him, and the Dispatch wishes to extend its heartiest congratulations to our young Congressman, and to wish him a career on the committee, brilliant for himself, and beneficial to his State and District.—Lexington Dispatch.

The Force of Habit.

Representative Foster, of Vermont has a fund of stories about the days when the Green Mountain State was a prohibition stronghold. A few years ago there was an old farmer who lived a few miles out of Bennington, who was perfectly well, so far as his family could see, but who insisted he should have a doctor.

The doctor came and examined the old man thoroughly. Then he said, "There is nothing the matter with you physically that I can find, but as you are getting old it might not be a bad idea for you to take a tonic of some kind regularly. Suppose you drink a little good whiskey each day." "Doctor," the farmer replied, "I couldn't do that. I have a son who lives with me and I wouldn't have him see me taking whiskey for another farm as big as mine."

"Well," said the doctor, "he needn't know it. Suppose you take a drink when you shave yourself each morning." The farmer agreed. A week later the son came in hot haste to the doctor's office. "I want you to come out and see father," he said.

"What's the matter?" asked the doctor. "Is he sick?" "No, I don't think he's sick," the son replied, "but he's losing his mind. He shaves himself half a dozen times a day."

PANAMA TREATY REPORTED FAVORABLY.

Two Democrats Vote Against It in Committee—Three Amendments Adopted.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The senate committee on foreign relations today directed Senator Cullom to report the Panama treaty, with three amendments. The Republican members voted for the treaty, but only two Democrats, Morgan and Money, were present. The former voted against the treaty and Mr. Money stated that he had not yet had time to consider it, as it was the first meeting of the committee he had been able to attend. The three amendments related to sanitation, limitation of cities and control of harbors. The United States by the amendment relating to sanitation is granted more direct power in all sanitary regulations. The amendment concerning the limitation of the cities more specifically defines what are the limits of Panama and Colon in relation to the canal zone. The harbor amendment gives the United States control of the harbors for the purposes of improvements.

Today when the committee met the absentees were Senators Foraker, Bacon, Clark (Mont.), Clark (Wyo.), and McCreary. All the amendments were subject to final action though one or two had been tentatively agreed to. After they had been incorporated in the treaty today, Senator Morgan moved to strike out article 22 of the treaty, which provides for the completion of negotiations with the new Panama Canal company for their rights and concessions on the isthmus. Senator Lodge insisted that this was not a pending amendment under the resolution adopted Saturday and it was ruled out of order. An amendment had been prepared by Senators Bacon and Foraker relating to appeals to United States courts in certain cases arising in the canal zone. This was voted down. Senator Morgan protested against this action, saying that the amendment should not be acted upon in the absence of the senators who had offered it. Protest also was made by the majority against the cutting off of opportunity to vote on the amendment striking out article 22.

Majority members of the committee say that for two weeks the treaty has been under discussion and they felt that ample time had been given to its consideration.

FIRE IN FLORENCE.

Partial Destruction of a Large Tobacco Ware House.

Florence, Jan. 18.—The large new brick stemmy and dry plant of the Enterprise Tobacco Company, operated by the Charles A. Gregory Tobacco Company, came very near being destroyed by fire at 4 o'clock this morning; as it is, the plant is badly damaged and it will cost several thousand dollars to repair it. The fire was discovered in what is known as the dry room and had made considerable headway before being detected. The substantial manner in which the buildings were erected and the precautions used for subduing the flames in case of fire, and the excellent system of water-works, together with the hard work of the fire department, under the direction of Chief Wilkins, reduced the loss to a very great extent of saving the property from complete destruction.

The entire plant is owned by the Enterprise Company and is valued at \$22,000. The insurance carried on the plant is \$10,500. The loss on the plant will be about \$5,000. The stock of leaf tobacco was owned by the Charles A. Gregory Tobacco Company and was valued at \$6,000. The loss and damage from fire, smoke and water will amount to \$3,500.

To Regulate Telephone Lines.

Columbia, Jan. 14.—One of the important bills is that of Mr. Morgan, of Greenville. He proposes to give the railroad commissioners jurisdiction over all telephone lines in this State as follows:

Section 1. That on and after the approval of this Act by the Governor the railroad commissioners shall have and shall assume the same jurisdiction and power over and concerning all telephone lines and persons, firms and corporations operating telephone lines as they now have over and concerning railroad, telegraph and express companies; and they shall especially have to right and power to regulate rates to be charged by the telephone lines, and to require reasonable connections to be made and maintained with other telephone lines and to prescribe a proper division of rates between connecting lines, and to require all telephone lines to arrange reasonable connections with themselves by individuals, firms, or corporations desiring to connect with them, and to regulate the charges therefor.

Section 2. That the persons, firms or corporations owning or operating telephone lines in this State shall bear their proportion of the expenses of the railroad commissioners, including salaries, and the salary of their clerk or secretary, along with the several corporations mentioned in Section 2-066 and Section 2,221 of the Civil Code (Vol. 1, Code of Laws of 1902) and to that end the Comptroller General and the fiscal officer named in said section shall place all such telephone lines in the same category as to the pay of the said commissioners as the said other corporations, and shall assess and collect their pro rata of the said other corporations; and all duties, and requirements and penalties which the law provides against the said other corporations, with regard to said salaries and expenses, and with regard to observing the orders and rulings of the said commissioners shall devolve upon and be incurred also by every person, firm or corporation owning or operating any telephone line in this State.

New Bern, N. C., Jan. 18.—Seven people, all colored, were killed instantly today by the explosion of a boiler in a saw mill owned by S. E. Sullivan in James City, near here. The mill was demolished and all the machinery practically destroyed.

BRYAN INSISTS ON KANSAS CITY PLATFORM.

Free Silver Leader Delivers Significant Address at Complimentary Banquet.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 18.—A formal welcome to Wm. J. Bryan on his return from Europe, taking the form of a "dollar dinner," was held tonight and was attended by nearly 700 Democrats. The dinner was intended as a testimonial of regard and sympathy with Mr. Bryan's political policies and to mark his entry into active participation in the pre-convention campaign. Mr. Bryan spoke of "The Moral Issue." His speech was heartily applauded.

Mr. Bryan said: "Instead of talking of concessions and compromises, it is time for honest and aggressive action. We are confronted with a condition that may well alarm the thoughtful and patriotic. We find corruption everywhere. Voters are bought at so much a head, representatives in our city governments are profiting by their positions and ever federal officers are selling influence. What is the cause? The commercial spirit that puts a price on everything and resolves every question into 'will it pay?' This commercialism has given popularity to that theory of government which permits the granting of privileges to a favored few and defends the theory by an attempt to show that the money thus given directly finds its way indirectly back into the pockets of the people. If a party makes certain classes rich by law will it not naturally turn to these classes for contributions during the campaign? If congress votes millions of dollars annually to tariff barons, money magnates and monopolists, is it not natural that aldermen should traffic in the small legislation of a city council, and if officials, high and low, use the government as if it were private asset, is it surprising that many individuals who are without official position yield to the temptation to sell the only political influence they have, namely, the ballot? What is the remedy? There is only one remedy, an appeal to the moral sense of the country, an awakening of public conscience."

"And how can this appeal be made? Not by showing a greater desire for the spoils of office than for reforms, but by turning a deaf ear to the contemptible cry of anything to win and by announcing an honest and straightforward position on every public question."

"Shall we accept imperialism as an accomplished fact in order to appease those who are willing to endorse government without the consent of the governed? There can be no thought of such a surrender, for who would trust us to deal with other questions if we prove false to the fundamental principles of self-government?"

"Shall we change our position on the trust question in order to secure the support of the trust magnates? Not for a moment can we think of it. We want the trust magnates against us, not for us. Shall we abandon our advocacy of bimetallic in order to conciliate those who defeated the party in other campaigns? Never. Some phase of the money question is always before congress, and no one can predict when the coinage phase of the money question will again become acute. No reform of any kind would be possible with the money changers in control of the party."

"Shall we change our position on the tariff question in order to win over Democrats who are enjoying the benefits of protection? It is absurd to suggest it, for the same vicious principle runs through all of the abuses from which the people suffer."

"The Kansas City platform is sound on every plank, and the first act of the next Democratic convention should be to reaffirm it in its entirety and its next act should be the adoption of new planks in harmony with it and covering such new questions as demand consideration."

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

Official Call Issued for the Gathering at St. Louis on July 6th.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The following official call was issued today for the assemblage of the Democratic national convention at St. Louis, July 6th next:

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18, 1904. The Democratic national committee, having met in Washington on the 12th day of January, 1904, has appointed Wednesday, the 6th day of July, 1904, as the time and chosen St. Louis, Mo., as the place for holding the Democratic national convention.

Each State is entitled to representation therein equal to double the number of its senators and representatives in the congress of the United States and each Territory, Alaska, Indian Territory and the District of Columbia shall have six delegates.

All Democratic citizens in the United States who can unite with us in the effort for a pure and economical constitutional government are cordially invited to join us in sending delegates to the convention.

(Signed) James K. Jones, Chairman.

C. A. Walsh, Secretary.

Chairman Jones has announced the personnel of the committee on arrangements for the convention and has called a meeting of that committee for Feb. 2nd next at 10 o'clock a. m., at the Southern hotel, St. Louis, Mo.

The membership of the committee is as follows: James K. Jones, chairman ex-officio; Wm. J. Stone, vice chairman ex-officio; J. M. Guffey, Pennsylvania; D. J. Campau, Michigan; N. E. Mack, New York; J. G. Johnson Kansas; John R. McLean, Ohio; J. M. Head, Tennessee; John E. Osborne, Wyoming.

Cape Haitien, Jan. 17.—Five persons, connected with the conspiracy headed by Gen. Monplaisir, to start a revolt against Gen. Nord, were condemned to death by a military tribunal, and were executed today in the presence of a vast crowd. Several foreigners who took part in the conspiracy will probably be deported.