The Sunday Call.

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CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

LEGISLATION IN GERMANY.

Organized Opposition to the New Measures.

Proposed Conventions of the Socialists. The Kaiser Celebrates Christmas Day. An Epidemic of Influenza.

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BERLIN, Dec. 26.—When the Reichstag resumes its sittings a bill for the repression of drunkenness, the Bourse regulation measure and a discussion of the commercial treaties with Switzerland, Servia, Spain and Roumania will be the work to be considered. The Landtag has under consideration the new educational measures. The ultra-Conservatives hope to be revenged for their defeat on the tariff question in the Reichstag by the rejection of the Educational Bill, now before the Landtag, and the thwarting of the financial reforms of Herr Miquel, the Imperial Minister of Finance. The Socialist leaders, being conscious of a falling off in the number of their admirers, have made arrangements for a series of congresses, the first to be held in Bremen at the end of January to organize a propaganda among the peasants of the Northwest Provinces. The second of these congresses is to be held in Coblentz on the 31st of January and the third at Neuminster in February. The successive defeats of the strikes which have been begun under Socialist guidance has strongly prejudiced the position of the party.

Despite the fact that a semi-official denial has been made of the report that Emperor William intends to visit Bucharest, the fact remains that arrangements have been made for an official reception of his Majesty there in April. The visit of the Emperor, it is hoped, will keep Roumania closer to the Dreibund.

The Emperor and Empress on Christmas evening presided at a distribution of presents at the new palace at Potsdam. Each of the little Princes had his own table and tree loaded with a variety of gifts. Yesterday Emperor William sent to his own company of guards a large "pfefferkuchen," made by the court confectioner. This pepper-cake, the disuse of which has long been desired by many, continues to be one of the solid institutions of the season.

A report of a startling nature is in circulation and obtains credence in diplomatic circles. It is to the effect that Count von Schouvaloff, the Russian Embassador to Germany, is to be transferred to Moscow as successor to the Grand Duke Sergius, the brother of the Czar, as Governor-General. The Czar has given the Grand Duke Sergius a peremptory leave of absence for a year, and it is looked upon as certain that the Grand Duke will not return to his post at the expiration of that period. It is more likely that he will be sent out of Russia, or be placed under surveillance at some post in Central Asia. The Grand Duke, it is alleged, has been tampering with the allegiance of officers high in command at Moscow, Warsaw, Wilna and other military centers. Count Schouvaloff has been ordered to proceed to Gatschina to confer with the Czar.

The Galician papers are filled with articles advocating the renewed enforcement of oppressive measures against the Jews in Russia and Poland. A large number of persons have been arrested in Warsaw and the immediate vicinity.

The Czarina is suffering from influenza. The Metropolitan Michel is also ill with the disease. The epidemic of influenza still prevails in Galicia, Eastern Prussia and Berlin. An address recently delivered by Professor Nothnagel of Vienna upon the origin and treatment of the disease is the talk of the hour among medical men. Professor Nothnagel, in his address, declared that the malady was distinctly miasmatic in character and certainly infectious, and possibly contagious. He also stated that persons having cardiac affections and those suffering from tuberculosis have the most cause to fear a fatal result. There is no specific means of cure, the professor says. The treatment by anti-pyrine, anti-febrine and phenacetine is unadvisable where the disease is accompanied by any form of congestion of the lungs or weakness of the heart. Such cases are better treated with stimulants like digitalis or brandy, or by subcutaneous injection of camphor.

THE LIBERAL LEADER.

Hartington's Successor—The Parnellite Victory at Waterford.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. — Smalley's special cablegram to the Tribune from London says: The death of the Duke of Devonshire is a great political misfortune. The Duke was not himself active in politics, but he did the state service by living. While he lived Lord Hartington could sit in the House of Commons. Lord Hartington is to-day the Duke of Devonshire, and the House of Commons will know him no more. His departure to the House of Lords, if not a disaster to the Unionist party, does seriously impair his usefulness. He, more than any other or all others, has been the chief reliance of the Unionists. So long as he led the Liberal-Unionists in the Commons it was difficult for the Gladstonian organs to say a word against the loyalty, honor and uprightness of the policy which Lord Hartington directed. Now, there must be a successor, and the successor seems likely to be Chamberlain. Nobody thinks Chamberlain deficient in ability, and nobody among his opponents professes to trust him. They hate him. No man is so hated or reviled. The Tories themselves will not regard him with the same feelings which made them put implicit trust in Lord Hartington. There have been occasions when the Unionist Alliance depended on this trust. There may again be occasions when the Tory party, unable to approve the policy of their allies, will have to accept or reject it on personal grounds. These will not be moments when Chamberlain's leadership will be most valuable.

From the upper Chamber the new Duke of Devonshire may still direct the general councils of his party. It is not supposed that he will withdraw from political life. But in every session, and often in every session, there comes critical moments in the House of Commons when grave decisions have to be taken instantly. They can only be taken by the leader of the party in that House. There is no time for consultation, and then, if ever, will his followers and allies lament the want of Lord Hartington's good sense, good feeling, loyalty, sure judgment and unequaled authority outside as well as inside the House of Commons.

EFFECTS OF DAVITT'S DEFEAT.

The political effect of Davitt's defeat is variously estimated and probably it is too soon to form an accurate opinion. Waterford, no doubt, was a Parnellite stronghold, but Davitt was a strong candidate and until the day before the election he was expected to capture it. O'Brien, Dillon and Davitt himself were prophetic and confident—more than confident, jubilant over the coming victory which never came. Archbishop Walsh, who has a shrewd head for politics, was against the contest. Mr. Redmond, in the flush of victory, sees Parnellism rising again, Phœnix like, from its ashes. The Gladstonians are chagrined and perplexed because Waterford postponed indefinitely that unity of the Nationalist party in Ireland on which Gladstone in 1886 and ever since based his whole argument for home rule. It is now thought that a number of other seats must be carried by the Parnellites. Their distrust of Gladstone is avowed. Their policy is summed up in the word irreconcilable. The Unionists are content; they consider home rule just as much identified with Fenianism as Davitt would if he had been elected. Of course they can endure to see their opponents and their opponents' unity in this kingdom divided. They look without dismay upon the prospects of a prolonged wrangle between the two factions, each of whom claimed precedence in sedition.

A PENITENT PRETENDER.

A London paper started the story this week that Comte de Paris had abandoned or presently would abandon his pretensions to the throne of France, break up his party organization, dissolve his committee, renounce what he calls his claims, petition the Government for leave to return to French soil and become a good citizen of the republic. It was a pretty story, but implied a degree of patriotic good sense on the part of this princely pretender which he has heretofore omitted to show. It was forthwith denied. The denial did not induce the author to relinquish it, nor prevent him from buttressing it with many ingenious qualifications designed to break the force or divert the meaning of the denial. Finally came a statement from Comte d'Haussenville, which seems sufficiently explicit. He informed the Orleanist meeting at Marseilles that his chief's love for his country would never permit him to abandon the cause, which he considers not so much his own as that of France. This "never" seemed to cover a considerable length of future time.

THE CANADIAN SCANDAL.

One of the Accused Boodlers Threatens to Expose His Confederates.

OTTAWA (Ont.), Dec. 26.—Hon. Thomas McGreevy, formerly a member of Parliament, who has been committed for trial on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the Government, stated to-day that he intended to show who the real culprits were when his case came to trial, intimating that he would summon several Cabinet Ministers and members of Parliament to prove that all the money he received from public works contractors went into the Tory campaign fund and some of the Ministers now prosecuting profited by his relations with the contractors and handled a portion of the money, which he claims was obtained with their full knowledge that it was to be used for political purposes. "I am," said Mr. Greevy, "a victim of circumstances and the ingratitude of political friends. The same may be said of Contractors Michael and Nicholas Connolly."

BISMARCK'S LUCK.

He Narrowly Escapes Being Killed by the Cars.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The Post's Berlin special says: Bismarck had a narrow escape from a railroad accident yesterday, which might have proved disastrous. He was crossing the track in a carriage immediately in front of the Friedrichsruhe station. The keeper was absent, the barrier was not lowered and no warning of an approaching train was given. When half over the rails the coachman heard the train coming. He whipped up the horse and cleared the track just as the train appeared around the curve. Half a minute later and the carriage would have been struck. The train dashed into a wagon following close to the carriage containing the Prince and smashed it to pieces, killing the driver and horses.

French Treaties Adopted.

PARIS, Dec. 26.—The Senate to-day discussed the Commercial Treaties Bill. Giffe said he was opposed to the Government having power to negotiate treaties, if the basis of the treaties provided for in such treaties was under the minimum tariff. He said Ribot was paying too high a price in order to maintain friendship with foreign countries. He said this was particularly so in the case in regard to Spain. M. Ribot protested that the Government desired liberty of action, but declared that it would not forget the deference due to Parliament. The bill was finally adopted.

La Grippe in Montreal.

MONTREAL, Dec. 26.—La grippe has a firm foothold in Montreal and now claims 1000 cases. It affects the victims in a different way than before—pains in the stomach and headache, followed by weakness in the lower limbs—but the attack only lasts in most cases from four days to two weeks. The Street Railway Company, the police force and fire brigade are the worst sufferers. Out of 375 men on the police force 55 are laid up with it.

Dynamite in a Church.

ROME, Dec. 26.—While midnight mass was being celebrated in a church in Valencia, four bombs were exploded in the edifice in rapid succession. When the smoke and dust cleared away it was seen that the high altar had been destroyed and several persons near it injured. The side of the church was completely wrecked, and a number of worshipers were bruised by the falling debris. Two persons suspected of complicity in the bomb-throwing have been arrested.

Churches Ordered Closed.

VIENNA, Dec. 26.—Communication from Warsaw says an official order has been issued closing the Catholic churches at Vedislay and Buzki, and that other towns will receive the same orders very soon. This action is said to be taken in obedience to the direct orders from the Czar, who more than ever is determined to stamp out all creeds not in accord with the orthodox church.

Crop Prospect in Russia.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 26.—The Ministry of Finance has issued a report regarding the condition of winter wheat recently sown. According to this report the condition is satisfactory in the whole Russian provinces. In Central Asia, including many famine-stricken districts, in Northern Russia and in the Crimea the crop is in medium condition, while in Southern Russia it is below unsatisfactory.

London's Influenza.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—The fog has partly lifted. Many accidents, falls on the ice, etc., are reported. It is expected that the week's mortality record will show the greatest number of deaths ever known, except in time of plague. Influenza has claimed its victims by thousands, and persons enfeebled by illness have fared badly in the contest.

English Spies Sentenced.

ST. ETIENNE, Dec. 26.—John Cooper and Walter Bednell, the Englishmen arrested in November for offering a bribe to the workmen of the arms factory here to procure samples of the new French and Russian carbines, have been convicted. Cooper was sentenced to fifteen months imprisonment and a fine of $600, and Benwell to two months and a fine of $200.

Persians Opposed to Christians.

TEHERAN, Dec. 26.—Priests still maintain the interdict against the use of tobacco, and people obey them implicitly. A dangerous feature of the matter is the attitude taken against Christians. The walls of the city are placarded with appeals to the Moslems, calling upon them to unite their forces and exterminate the Christians.

Mortality in Russia.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 26.—Typhus and typhoid fever are prevalent among the prisoners at Samara. The doctors whose duty it is to attend the sick prisoners are in despair, and have not visited their charges for a month. The rapid increase in the number of deaths is due to the famine reported here.

ROARING MASS OF FLAMES.

Fierce Fire in a Michigan Insane Asylum.

Frantic Shrieks of Hundreds of Terrified Maniacs—Narrow Escapes—Destructive Fire in Chattanooga.

Special to THE MORNING CALL.

PONTIAC (Mich.), Dec. 26.—A fire was discovered in the north wing of the Eastern Michigan Insane Asylum at 11 o'clock this morning. The flames spread with fearful rapidity, and with the limited facilities at hand the firemen were powerless. Fifteen minutes after the first alarm was sounded the occupants of the wing, 500 women, were turned loose. Screaming frantically with terror the maniacs surged through the corridors where the air was already filled with smoke. Flames were visible through it all, and the sight filled the demented creatures with terror. Some ran like wild animals, trampling their slower companions in their efforts to escape. Others were paralyzed with fear and stood rooted to the spot with eyes staring horribly into the roaring fire.

HEROIC DEEDS.

The attendants performed deeds of heroism in their endeavor to rescue the helpless, rushing hither and thither. Dragging hesitating ones from rooms, they drove the insane women into the open air. When some were once upon the outside they would break and rush for the building again. Superintendent Burr and assistants on the medical staff gave directions for the removal of the inmates, and by their excellent and valiant labors all, it is believed, were rescued alive. Nevertheless some say that several women were seen at the windows after the patients were supposed to be all out. They had torn every vestige of clothing from their persons, and were laughing in hideous glee at the approach of the flames.

PITIABLE SCENES.

By 11:30 o'clock the entire north wing was wrapped in flames. The attendants had done all in their power and nothing was left but to try to save the rest of the asylum from the flames. Spectators declare that they heard shrieks of anguish from the awful pyre as of demented victims yielding their lives to the flames, but in the confusion it was impossible to distinguish the screams of the frightened maniacs without from the expiring outcry of the victims within, if any there were. Strenuous efforts were made to convey the patients to cottages for safe-keeping. This was accomplished with the utmost difficulty. Great fear is felt lest the fire extends to the south wing, where nearly 700 men are confined. Preparations were immediately made to remove the men if it became necessary. Inside the south wing, from the moment the flames came in sight, the wildest excitement prevailed. Seven hundred crazy men tore about their rooms, yelling like demons. Hundreds of people from Pontiac and vicinity joined in the fight with the flames. At this juncture, and by the most stubborn resistance, the wing was saved. Aside from this, everything save the chapel, hospital and engine-house was destroyed.

A number of women who were in the section of the building first destroyed were severely burned while being removed, but prompt attention averted any serious consequences.

NARROW ESCAPES.

James Lyon, Frederick Linton and another attendant whose name could not be learned had a narrow escape while fighting the flames on the fourth floor. Unknown to them the fire surrounded the spot at which the men were working, and only when they found every avenue of escape except one small window closed did they think of their safety. When the flames were nearing them a long ladder was secured and the men rescued just as they were on the point of falling back into the raging furnace. A number of other narrow escapes occurred, and but few of the attendants escaped without severe burns or other injuries.

HEAVY LOSS.

It is difficult to obtain accurate figures on the loss. One of the Board of Trustees of the asylum estimates that it is not less than $500,000. The patients must for several days suffer great hardship. The kitchen is among the destroyed buildings, and some time must elapse before the culinary department can be re-established and the lunatics properly fed.

OVER HALF A MILLION.

Loss of the Most Valuable Business Blocks in Chattanooga.

CHATTANOOGA (Tenn.), Dec. 26.—Chattanooga's most disastrous fire occurred today, originating in D. H. Leveman & Co.'s great dry-goods house on Market street, corner of Eighth. It spread with astonishing rapidity, burning through the elevator shaft and stairways and cutting off the escape of about thirty female employes, who were rescued from the windows with ladders by firemen. Two of the women fell from windows and were somewhat injured, and a third was rescued in an almost suffocated condition. The adjoining buildings were soon aflame, the fire consuming over half a million dollars' worth of property in less than two hours.

Among other losers are: T. C. Ervin & Co., dry goods; Christie & Co., dry goods; Chamber of Commerce; Schwartz Bros., boots and shoes; Silva & Abbott, chinaware; Wesley & Manning, insurance; W. I. Alexander, broker; Great Southern Tea Company; Martin & Henry, real estate; Mrs. Weaver, milliner; Southern Bank & Trust Company; T. A. Roberts, jewelry; W. B. Van Wagner, drugs; Fourth National Bank and a number of office tenants.

The total loss is about $600,000, with about $550,000 insurance. The damage to the Times Building is slight, but the building was almost entirely cleaned out. Hundreds of people were rushing through it, carrying everything portable to places of safety.

Four of the leading dry-goods houses were destroyed, and the principal boot and shoe, crockery and furniture houses, two banks, the Public Library and the Chamber of Commerce rooms, the Cobweb Club and a variety of small shops, offices, etc. The property destroyed was on two of the most important streets in the city.

Old Homestead Burned.

LONG ISLAND CITY, Dec. 26.—The old Wolsey Homestead, on Casino farm in Bowery Bay, was destroyed by an incendiary fire to-night. The loss, including valuable paintings and antique furniture, was $100,000.

Steel Works Destroyed.

READING (Pa.), Dec. 26. — Carpenter's steel works, an industry established three years ago devoted to the manufacture of high grades of steel, was almost totally destroyed by fire to-night. The loss is $125,000.

Family Burned to Death.

GOLDSBORO (N. C.), Dec. 26.—W. H. Pearsall, wife and family, living near here, were burned to death on Tuesday morning. The charred bodies were discovered yesterday. Weightman Thomson, a former rejected suitor of the murdered man's wife, has been arrested on suspicion.

Attempted Jail Break.

OLATHE (Kans.), Dec. 26.—The prisoners in the County Jail in this city made an attempt last night to kill Sheriff Eastdale and escape, but were prevented by the timely appearance of Mrs. Eastdale, who locked the outside doors, and the pluck of the Sheriff, who was inside, locked up and fighting for life with six prisoners. When assistance reached him it was found that the Sheriff had three long gashes in his head.

AN ARCHBISHOP HONORED.

Decorated by the Pope With the Grand Cross.

ROME, Dec. 26.—The Diritto to-day says it is the intention of the Pope to confer the Grand Cross of the Order of Christ on the Archbishop of Aix as a token of the sympathy of his Holiness with the Archbishop in the latter's recent conviction and fine for writing an insulting letter to the French Minister of Public Worship. Should the Diritto's information prove correct, it means that this is the Pope's defiance to the French Government, and that a serious outcome may be anticipated in the near future.

Count Lafevre de Behaine, French Embassador to the Holy See, was granted a special interview by the Pope to-day. During the course of the interview the Embassador assured his Holiness that France considered the recent radical outbursts against the church and the attitude of the French Bishops as a passing cloud. Count de Behaine urged the Pope not to judge of the feeling in France by the embittered utterances which were delivered in the Deputies. The French Government, he declared, was anxious to maintain the most friendly relations with the Vatican, in order to promote the Pope's republican policy. The enunciation of this policy by his Holiness, he said, caused the majority of the French people to entertain a feeling of gratitude toward him.

THE FEELING IN FRANCE.

PARIS, Dec. 26.—The news received from Rome to-day that the Pope intends to confer the Grand Cross of the Order of Christ upon the Archbishop of Aix is looked upon in the present state of the public feeling, when a movement is on foot to separate the church and state, as one of the results of Archbishop of Aix's conduct, supported by letters and sayings of other distinguished prelates, as significant. It will be considered here, should the news prove correct, as a defiance upon the part of the Pope of the Government of this country, and a reply from the French Government may not be slow in forthcoming. Archbishop Bormeaux, it will be remembered, made common cause with Monsignor Gouthe Soulard in the diocesan letter which he addressed to all the Catholics in France. In the letter the Archbishop defends the right of members of the episcopate to join in pilgrimages to Rome. According to this prelate Archbishop Aix, when he wrote as he did, was not prompted by a wish to fight, but simply overcome by disgust.

According to the Figaro the Conservatives of Brest have chosen the Archbishop of Aix, who was recently fined for seditious conduct, to contest the seat in the Chamber just left vacant by the death of Bishop Freppel.

THE PRIZE RING.

Contests Announced for the Madison-Square Garden to Be Prevented.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. — Superintendent Murray this morning announced the police would not allow the Mitchell-Corbett boxing contest to take place. It was announced for February 11th at the Madison-square Garden. Murray also said that the Maher-Dempsey contest could not be held; that also was to be in the Madison-square Garden.

Mitchell and Slavin called at the police headquarters to-day to see Superintendent Murray, but the latter had gone home. Mitchell expressed disappointment at the Superintendent's action and thought it hard. Lumley could not see why the Corbett-Mitchell fight should not come off. It was to be a scientific exhibition, pure and simple. Jim Corbett held the same view. He said that, notwithstanding, he would insist on fighting, and to a finish, before some reputable club.

BOSTON, Dec. 26.—A short time ago A. N. Cook arranged a match between Johnny Murphy of this city and Cal McCarthy of New York to fight in the ring of the Olympic Club of New Orleans for a purse of $2000. Murphy professed to be willing to do battle against his old opponent, and went so far as to quibble over weight and the amount of purse-money. Everything was arranged to suit him, however, and the match was supposed to be "on." To-day he presented himself to Captain Cook, and said that he could not go to New Orleans. When asked why, but little satisfaction could be secured from him, save that he did not want to fight McCarthy. Captain Cooke then wired as follows to New Orleans: "President Charles Noel, Olympic Athletic Club, New Orleans: Murphy throws up the match. He was offered a ticket to go to-morrow night and $50 cash, but declined. I recommend Tom O'Callaghan to take his place. He is a better match for McCarthy."

SHORT HONEYMOON.

A St. Louis Bride Mourns the Loss of Her Husband and Coin.

CLEVELAND (Ohio), Dec. 26.—Some time ago John Anderson, a handsome Dane, met Mrs. Ellen Percel, a fifty-year-old widow, who runs a grocery in St. Louis. Anderson represented himself to be a rich ranch-owner from San Miguel, San Luis Obispo County, Cal., where he owned a magnificent tropical residence. After three weeks of wooing he married the widow, who gave the grocery to her sister, and sewing $1200 cash in her underskirts, the couple started for California via Cleveland, Anderson saying an excursion rate from Cleveland would save considerable expense. This morning at breakfast Anderson hurried with his meal and left the table. When the bride finished her breakfast she went to her room, found the trunks gone, her skirt ripped open and the $1200 missing. Anderson, who also was missing, had taken the train for Boston.

RAILROAD COLLISION.

Three Persons Killed and Two Others Seriously Injured.

ISHPEMING (Mich.), Dec. 26.—By a head-end collision on the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic road a conductor, engineer and firemen were instantly killed and Engineer Raney and a brakeman seriously injured. The wreck was due to a blunder of the operator at Champion, who failed to hold the train as instructed.

Killed With a Christmas Present.

BIRMINGHAM (Ala.), Dec. 26.—William Reese and Sadie Brown were to have been married to-day and yesterday she made him a Christmas present of a revolver. This morning he called at her home for the wedding, but for some cause Sadie wanted to back out and he shot and killed the woman with her own Christmas present. Reese escaped.

Weekly Bank Statement.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The weekly bank statement shows the following changes: Reserve increase, $311,000; specie increase, $1,952,000; circulation increase, $15,000. The banks now hold $19,483,000 in excess of the requirements of the 25-per-cent rule.

Lost or Stolen.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Ogden Mills, a millionaire and brother-in-law of Minister Whitelaw Reid, was robbed of or lost a casket containing valuable jewelry Wednesday afternoon while driving around town in a cab which he hired at Madison square about noon.

Walt Whitman Rapidly Sinking.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 26.—Walt Whitman suffered another relapse this afternoon and his physician said to-night that he was sinking fast and could hardly survive until morning.

TINKERING THE TARIFF.

What the Democrats Will Now Attempt to Do.

No Prospects of Passing a Free Coinage Bill. Protection for Alaska Seal Rookeries.

Special for THE MORNING CALL.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—It is reported that a tariff bill on the line of the Mills bill will be introduced and referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of which Mills is Chairman.

It is believed that if this is done the committee will report the bill favorably, and that it will stand some chance of passing.

The Mills supporters claim that a good many Democratic members who voted for Crisp because they considered him best fitted by temperament for the Speakership are in favor of passing a general tariff bill instead of doing it piecemeal as Springer contemplates. The Mills men claim that a majority of the House Democrats will vote to send such a general tariff bill to the Mills committee, instead of sending it to Chairman Springer of the Ways and Means Committee. The Republicans would of course have something to say about what committee should consider the tariff bills. McKenna of California is a member of the Ways and Means Committee, and he does not believe that the House would consent to the Commerce Committee acting upon the bill. Geary of California, who is a member of the last-named committee, believes that a majority of the Democrats in the House would rather see the tariff bill in charge of Mills than Springer. At any rate the prospects of a lively time in the Democratic ranks seem bright enough.

DIRECT VOTE FOR SENATORS.

The Post publishes editorially short extracts from the prominent newspapers favoring the selection of United States Senators by a direct vote of the people. Some of them are as follows:

Pittsburg Post: We would like to see the Democratic House pass such an amendment and a national convention indorse it. Senator Palmer of Illinois is a strong champion of the reform.

Philadelphia Evening Telegraph: The election of United States Senators by popular vote is a reform that will come in the near future. It is favored by both Republicans and Democrats, and as conservative as the Senate itself has always been on this question, it is now favored by many of the members of that body, and probably by a majority of them.

Philadelphia Record: Senator Turple has made a strong argument in favor of such a change in the Constitution of the United States as would permit of the vote of the people for United States Senator. In making this change one step further should be taken, and the President and Vice-President be made elective by a direct vote. To this conclusion must we come at last.

Chicago Tribune: So great is the political conservatism of Americans that it is not likely that Senator Turple's amendment will meet with an immediate warm and enthusiastic response. There is no reason, however, why Congress should not submit it to the States for their consideration. If that is done, it will not take long to find out whether there is any general demand for the change.

FREE COINAGE AGITATION.

At this time there appears to be an excellent prospect of an agreement among the Democrats to avoid disturbing the discussions in the House through the agitation of the silver question. It does not appear that the silver men contemplate any abandonment of their principles or of the hope of securing the free coinage of silver at some time in the not very remote future, but some of the most active and earnest among them will discourage any agitation of the question, when the only thing that could be accomplished would be to divide their party and provoke hostility in the East, where support is necessary to accomplish such a revision of the tariff as the party believes to be important. It is regarded as entirely probable that such radical free silver men as Bland, will be satisfied to make a declaration of principles "for the hundredth time," and then to await the coming of the time when there may be at least some little prospect of accomplishing their aims.

COULD NOT BE PASSED.

It is very doubtful that a free-coinage bill could be put through the Senate at this Congress, though that was the only body to pass such a bill during the last Congress. Everybody understands how the action of the Senate was brought about at that time—that the election-bill fight had more than anything else to do with it. The same influences probably cannot be made to work in this Congress, but, even if it were possible to pass a bill through both Houses of Congress, it would certainly be vetoed by the President, and nothing would be accomplished by such a course except to excite irritation. The chances are, therefore, that the agitation will be postponed by the friends of free coinage, who are practical enough to care for results only, without any desire to make an empty show.

PROTECTING THE ROOKERIES.

Captain Coulson, commanding the revenue steamer Rush, has made his report to the Treasury Department of the cruise of that vessel in Alaskan waters from October 19th to December 5th. He said the weather was boisterous nearly all the time and considerable difficulty was experienced in executing the orders of the department concerning the collection of data in regard to pelagic sealing and the landing of mail and stores on Seal Island. Captain Coulson says he is convinced, if it is necessary to guard the rookeries on St. Paul and St. George Island until December 1st, it would be the wisest policy to place an officer of the revenue marine on the islands in charge of a number of men to act as leaders in organizing a company or squad of natives for regular patrol and guard. These men would only be required to be at the stations or rookeries on the lee side of the islands, as it is impossible to land on the western side in bad weather. In calm weather a guard should be placed at each rookery.

FOOD FOR RUSSIA'S POOR.

Senator Washburn of Minnesota wrote to Secretary of the Navy Tracy asking the use of a naval vessel to transport to Europe the breadstuffs contributed in this country for the relief of the famine sufferers in Russia. Secretary Tracy replied that it gives him pleasure to say that the Navy Department concurs heartily in the proposal and will willingly do all in its power to further so generous and suitable a project. The sailing ship Constellation, now at Annapolis, which was formerly used to carry food to the starving people of Ireland, is available.

THE BENICIA GUN-FOUNDRY.

Representative McKenna, when Congress reassembles, will introduce in the House a bill appropriating $1,000,000 for the erection, purchase, or manufacture of the necessary buildings, machinery, tools and fixtures for a gun factory for finishing and assembling ordnance for the army and navy and for constructing the mounts for ammunition and other accessories therefor, with a proviso that not more than $300,000 of this sum shall be expended for the erection and completion of the officers' quarters. The said gun-foundry shall be erected upon the United States reservation at Benicia, Cal., under the joint direction and supervision of the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, and upon its establishment shall be placed under the joint and equal control of the Bureau of Ordnance of the Navy Department and the Ordnance Department of the Army.

A BUDGET OF BILLS.

Representative McKenna has prepared the following bills which he will introduce on Monday, January 5th, when the House convenes: For a public building at Oakland, to cost $300,000, and at Alameda, $50,000; also to make Benicia Arsenal an arsenal of manufacture, construction and repair; to encourage silk culture; also bills for the relief of William R. Wheaton and Charles H. Chamberlain, A. P. Jackson et al., Christopher Green, Hugh C. Trainer, Ames & Detrick, George B. Cosby, James Q. Shirley, and the estate of Frances Delong.

A DINNER TO SECRETARY BLAINE.

The Chilean Minister and Mrs. Montt gave a dinner this evening in honor of Secretary and Mrs. Blaine. The invited guests were: Senator Morgan, Senator Stewart, Representative McCreary, the Mexican Minister and Mme. Romero, Ex-Mayor Grace of New York, the Argentine Minister, the Minister from Salvador, Hon. J. W. Foster, the Spanish Minister, Mr. Trumbull and Mr. Del Campo of the Chilean Legation.

PENSIONS GRANTED.

Pensions have been granted to the following Californians: Gustave A. Fruhe, Andrew L. Gricell, George Leist, Daniel J. Fetzer, John Donaldson, Richard B. Avery, John Astbury, James A. Clark and Orlon Capron.

PERSONAL MENTION.

S. Pillsbury of San Francisco and Richard L. Trumbull of Chile are at the Arlington Hotel. M. S. Arndt of Stockton is here. George H. Morrison of San Francisco is at the Shoreham Hotel.

AMOUNT OF BONDS REDEEMED.

The total amount of 4½ per cent bonds redeemed up to date is $22,445,900, leaving outstanding $8,058,800.

CONDITION OF THE SICK.

Representative Wright of Pennsylvania is recovering from an attack of the grip.

Congressman Mills' condition remains unchanged.

There has been a notable change in Speaker Crisp's condition. He is still confined to his room.

Secretary Foster continues to improve slowly.

GENERAL SCOFIELD SUMMONED.

The President summoned General Scofield to the White House to-day and had a long consultation with him regarding the Garza troubles.

POSTMASTER APPOINTED.

J. P. Allison has been appointed Postmaster at Colnmo, Thurston County, Wash.

INVASION OF MEXICO.

Conflicting Reports of the Movements of the Garza Revolutionists.

RIO GRANDE CITY (Tex.), Dec. 26.—The main body of the revolutionary party pursued by Lieutenant Langhorne rode through without stopping anywhere to where Garza was, near the Rodando Ranch in Zapata County, and reported the occurrence to him of the killing of Corporal Edstrom. Garza is reported to have said that their action in attacking the troops of this Government placed a quietus on his hopes of revolution against Mexico, inasmuch as he now had no asylum when pursued by Mexican troops. He at once assembled what men he could and crossed into Mexico, near Arrieros Ranch, above Mier, and it is said he contemplates attacking that place or Camargo or Guerro within the next few days. These reports are given for what they are worth.

LOOKING FOR GARZA.

EAGLE PASS (Tex.), Dec. 26.—Sergeant Fink with eight men left this morning for Penquafeche, crossing the Rio Grande forty miles below, looking after Garza. Jefe Politico Rosas left Piedras Negras on a similar mission with a company of Mexican troops for the same crossing. It is probable that Garza will attempt to enter Mexico at that point with part of his band.

MORE FIGHTING REPORTED.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 26.—The Post-Dispatch has a special from Laredo, Texas, which says: The news to-day from the scene of trouble is to the effect that more fighting has been engaged in, with slight losses on both sides. Last night it was reported that the revolutionists had captured Camargo, and that General Sandual was on the march with 2000 men to join Garza. There was some talk to the effect that a General in the Mexican army had declared for the revolutionists and will march with the soldiers in his command to join the invaders. These reports are meager and cannot be traced to any particular source, but the rumors are credited by some.

CAPTAIN HARDIE IN PURSUIT.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 26.—A Picayune's Laredo special says: City Marshal Yglesias, as Deputy United States Marshal, accompanied Captain Hardie's company on a scout down the river to-night. He reports Captain Hardie pressing close on the trail of 100 of Garza's men who were driven back to this side by Mexican troops last Wednesday. The marauders divided into several bunches and took to the bush. Yglesias states that the reason Garza did not show up in person during the last movement was that an old wound reopened and caused him to keep quiet.

LIABLE FOR MURDER.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—General Schofield has received through the Mexican Minister official dispatches confirmatory of the engagement between Captain Bourke and a detachment of Garza's band of revolutionists. The General says, if captured, Garza's men will be indicted individually for a violation of the neutrality laws and for murder, as they killed a United States soldier.

ESCAPED THE GALLOWS.

Death of a Condemned Murderer in the New Hampshire State Prison.

CONCORD (N. H.), Dec. 26.—Isaac Sawtelle, who murdered his brother, Hiram, died of apoplexy this morning at the State Prison.

In response to a sentiment that has rapidly become a fixed conviction in the minds of many citizens of Concord that the death of Sawtelle resulted from his taking poison Mayor Clapp this afternoon advised Prison Physician Clark to make a careful investigation.

Infected Pork in Italy.

ROME, Dec 26.—The Osservatore Romano says that instructions have been issued by the Government to the effect that pork imported from the United States must henceforth be carefully inspected, owing to the fact that some of the meat has been found infected with trichinæ.

Proposed Tariff Extension.

BERLIN, Dec. 26.—The municipal authorities at the Baltic port of Dantzig have petitioned Chancellor Caprivi to extend the time allowed before putting into operation the reduced tariff on grain in bond, of which Dantzig now holds 23,000 tons.

A Divided Court.

NEW HAVEN (Conn.), Dec. 26.—The Union this afternoon says: It was given out here to-day by counsel engaged in the case that the Supreme Court is divided in the Morris vs. Bulkeley quo warranto suit.

Scanlan, the Actor, Ill.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—W. J. Scanlan, the actor, is ill with brain trouble, and his engagements are all canceled. It is said he will never act again.

Proposed Berlin Exhibition.

BERLIN, Dec. 26.—The Committee of the German Commercial Diet has declared in favor of holding an international exhibition in Berlin.

ALL HANGED ON THE SAME TREE.

Fate of the Notorious Alabama Outlaws.

Capture of Bob Sims and His Followers. Prisoners Taken From Their Guards on the Way to Prison and Lynched.

Special to THE MORNING CALL.

MOBILE (Ala.), Dec. 26.—An artillery detachment of the First Regiment of State troops left here early this morning en route for the house where the Sims party were fortified in Chlocta County, Ala. Sheriff Gavin Christmas morning sent to Bladon Springs for cannon. When Sims heard of this preparation to blow his stronghold to splinters, he looked at his women folk and his heart misgave him. He began to parley with the Sheriff. At 3 o'clock he said he would surrender if the posse would do him no injury and if the posse would protect him from mob violence. A meeting of the posse was held, which lasted more than an hour. There was great excitement and such a diversity of opinion that at first the proposal of Sims was flatly refused, but the fact that there were women in the house was a strong point in favor of mercy to the inmates. It was thought the shooting with cannon at a house harboring women was so repugnant that it overcame almost the wild longing for the blood of the men outlaws, so that at last the terms of Sims were accepted.

At 4:30 o'clock the Sims party laid down their arms and came out of the house. The posse was astonished to see that instead of seven desperate outlaws there were only two men and a boy. Bob Sims, Thomas Savage and young Savage, a nephew of Sims. Four women, Bob's wife and three daughters, came out also. The men were at once ironed and placed in a wagon. The women were placed in a second wagon under guard.

The Sheriff promised the best protection he could give under the circumstances. Sims selected twenty-five men and the Sheriff twenty-five and started with them to Butler. About a mile from Sims' house a body of men, from one to two hundred strong, took them from the guard and hanged them all to one tree. Sims expressed fears that he would never reach the jail dead or alive.

When he was placed in a buggy for the fatal ride he refused to be blindfolded. He held out his hand and asked them to feel his pulse to see if he was frightened, and said he was going to heaven. Young Savage said: "If you think enough of me to bury me, put me by the side of Sims. We are fighting for the same cause." They died cursing. The women were turned loose.

The names of the Simites hanged are: Bob Sims, Tom Savage and Con Savage and his two grown sons. Thus ends the defiance of the United States, State of Alabama and, in fact, all the laws, by the notorious Bob Sims and his followers.

WIND AND SNOW.

Travel Interrupted and Stock Lost by a Blizzard in the Northwest.

OMAHA, Dec. 26.—All day yesterday a blizzard prevailed throughout Nebraska. In the western part of the State there was a snow-storm of several hours' duration. The weather turned intensely cold. The wind blew at a terrific rate and snow fell in great quantities. Traffic on all railroads in the State is seriously retarded, and in many cases along the western division Union Pacific trains are blockaded. The snow drifted furiously, and stock suffered intensely. The farmers feel partially compensated for the loss of stock in the fact of having their winter wheat well protected. In the interior portion a heavy fall of snow occurred before it turned so cold, consequently the winter grain is well protected.

The storm extended throughout Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming and the Dakotas. In Wyoming the loss of stock is reported unusually large, with complete train blockades.

HURON (S. Dak.), Dec. 26.—Yes