

Generally fair. Slightly colder at night. Northwestern winds.

DEFINED BY DEMOCRATS

Bryan and Other Leaders Explain the Party's Creed.

MAJORITY VERSUS MINORITY

Democratic Nominee Says It Was Defined in the Chicago Platform. Gov. Stone, Mr. Bland and Many Others Give Opinions—Senator Morgan's Broad Review.

Special to the Times.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 18.—The State this afternoon publishes a number of letters from Democrats of national reputation, defining democracy in a political sense and explaining why they are Democrats. The communications are in reply to requests from the State.

Hon. William J. Bryan says: "I have not time to answer your questions at length. In a broad sense a democracy is a government in which the people rule, and a Democrat is one who believes in such a government. In a party sense, Democracy is defined by the Chicago platform, and the person who supports the party and its platform can call himself a Democrat. The platform was entirely satisfactory to me. In my judgment it applies Democratic principles to present conditions.

"IF A MINORITY HAS A RIGHT TO GIVE A PARTY DEFINITION OF DEMOCRACY, THEN THERE MAY BE AS MANY DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF DEMOCRACY AS THERE ARE PERSONS WHO DESIRE TO WEAR THE NAME."

Gov. Stone of Missouri says: "I believe in a democracy because I believe in the principles and policies embodied in the platform adopted by the Democratic national convention held at Chicago in July last.

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CHANGE OF FRONT ON CUBA

House Looks With Disfavor on the Cameron Resolution.

LEADERS ARE OPPOSED TO IT

General Belief Is That the Popular Branch Will Not Support the Foreign Relations Committee—Republicans Fear to Saddle a War on McKinley.

By the action of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday Congress has practically been brought face to face with the Cuban question. Whatever may be the fate of the Cameron resolution in the Senate, it is not believed that the House will sustain the action of the committee.

Mr. Hill, of Illinois, the chairman of the House committee, is out of the city, and is not expected to return until after the holidays recess. Several other members of the committee have presumably left town.

Of those who remain—and of this number a Times reporter talked with five—the entire quiet strongly opposed any action at this time. The Republicans objected to any step which would, in their opinion, bring about a war with Spain on the ground that the McKinley administration ought not to be met at the very moment of coming into power by the following an international problem. It was thought better that Mr. McKinley should formulate his own Cuban policy and in this conclusion the Democrats fully concurred.

Other members felt that it would be impolitic for the House to recognize the independence of the belligerent of the Cubans until the real situation in the island was known. SENTIMENT AGAINST IT.

Another member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee said the time for action had passed; that the island was bankrupt; that American interests in Cuba were destroyed; that our commerce with the island had practically disappeared; and that recognition now would be a mere sentiment without a practical consideration behind it.

"If," said another member, "we are to have a war with Spain, we are at liberty to have it but not with my consent. If we had intervened a year ago the war would have ended in thirty days. American property rights on the island would have been saved, and our trade with Cuba would have suffered only a partial interference. Today, as I say, the island is bankrupt and our trade will be worth nothing to the United States for twenty years."

INSANE FROM JOY.

Paroling of a Convict Believed to Have Unhappily His Mind. Baltimore, Dec. 18.—Gov. Lowndes today pardoned S. R. O. Speed, a young man who was serving a sentence in the Maryland penitentiary for burglary. When he came out, bearing his release arrived at the prison, the man was found to be insane. He was removed to the Maryland General Hospital and placed in a cell in the insane ward.

Mrs. Ballington Booth, of the Salvation Army, who was instrumental in securing the pardon of the convict, was informed of the man's insanity. She is now at the bedside of the released convict.

Speed has suffered considerably from Bright's disease and it is a question in the mind of the physicians whether his illness is the sudden result of his incarceration in the penitentiary, or whether it is a hereditary ailment. Little hope of his recovery is entertained at the hospital.

DIVORCED BY DEATH.

Wife Kills Her Husband When Unable to Obtain Decree. Lawrence, Kan., Dec. 18.—At Lake View last night Mrs. Bronson, a woman of the heart by his young wife, who then sent a bullet through her own breast, just as she was about to be divorced.

Berman was standing in front of his house watching a passing Santa Fe train, when his wife slipped in behind him and fired the revolver. Her husband was instantly killed. The wife may recover.

Mrs. Berman said to those who came to the house: "I have shot my husband. I am a murderer, but my only regret is that I did not kill myself. I tried to get a divorce and he would not let me. We could not agree and I killed him. My husband was a prosperous farmer."

KILLED BY CONSTABLES.

Desperado in South Carolina Meets Death While Resisting Arrest. Columbia, S. C., Dec. 18.—A special to the State from Greenville, S. C., says: This afternoon Constables Crawford and Brown made a raid into the Dark Corner, seven and one-half miles above Greer, and attempted to search the house of John Sims.

The constables with a rifle and in the fight received four wounds and was killed.

It was said to have been an escaped convict from Columbus, Ga., county, N. C., charged with killing two men in that State.

JURY WAS LENIENT.

Found Private Allen Guilty of Manslaughter Instead of Murder. Chicago, Dec. 18.—The jury in the case of Private Allen, of the Fifteenth Infantry, U. S. A., who shot and killed Private Call, of the same regiment, at Fort Sheridan, last March, returned a verdict of guilty of manslaughter in the United States court this evening.

The maximum punishment for this crime under the Federal law, is three years' imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000. A motion for a new trial will be argued next Tuesday and if refused sentence will be pronounced by Judge Grosscup.

The light verdict was due to a belief in the defendant's mental weakness, which is said to be hereditary.

RESCUE IN SIGHT.

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SHOT HIMSELF IN THE HEAD

John Niernsee, of This City, Attempts Suicide in Baltimore. Baltimore, Dec. 18.—John R. Niernsee, twenty-five years old, of No. 1813 Ninth street, Washington, D. C., shot himself tonight, and is now in the city hospital. He engaged a room at a Pratt street lodging-house this evening and at midnight shot himself through the head.

No Cause Assigned for the Rash Act—Lying Unconscious at a Hospital.

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MINERS' FATAL PLUNGE

Cage in Which They Were Working Fell 1,000 Feet.

HE SPENDS A QUIET DAY IN THE CHICAGO SUBURBS

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COW OPENED THE SWITCH

Peculiar Accident on the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern.

Postal Clerk King smothered to death by shell corn—Others May Die.

Chillicothe, O., Dec. 18.—A fatal wreck from a very peculiar cause occurred on the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern Railroad way, at the east edge of Handen, near here, this afternoon. The fast westbound express, in charge of Engineer Cutler and Conductor Thomas Brown, was entering Handen, and getting ready to pass an hour.

Just as Cutler whistled for the station the engine struck a cow. She was thrown against a switch with force enough to open it.

The engine took the switch track, while the coaches kept on the main track. The engine jumped the track, ran into the bank and overturned there in a heap. The coaches struck the tender which lay partially across the main track, and jumped to the other side where they encountered a car of shell corn. The baggage and postal cars also left the track.

Michael King, postal clerk of Cincinnati, was buried in the shell corn and smothered to death.

O. H. Smith, postal clerk also of Cincinnati, sustained a fractured rib and was injured internally, so badly that he may die.

Postal Clerk Shannon of Cincinnati was seriously injured, and is now in the hospital.

Conductor Brown was badly bruised in the abdomen and narrowly escaped death. A rail splintered the car floor at his feet and tearing his trousers as it shot past him to the roof.

None of the passengers was injured beyond bruises that are not serious.

ATTACKED BY THUGS.

Benjamin Johnson Seriously Cut and Beaten.

Benjamin Johnson of 118 L street northwest, an ex-member of the police force and recently a runner on the U. S. S. Marblehead, was assaulted last night by an unknown white man on D street near Ninth, and was taken to the Emergency Hospital in the ambulance, suffering from a scalp wound three inches in length and possible fracture of the skull just above the left eye.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and his sister and brother-in-law, Mrs. and Mr. Fred H. Gehman, were walking in company through D street to the Ninth street cars, and discovered the man as they saw Mr. Johnson lying in the street nearly unconscious, with the blood streaming down his face.

The injured man was assisted to a drug store at Ninth and the Avenue, where the flow of blood was temporarily checked.

KNIFE USED ON WARREN

Wyoming Senator Operated on for Appendicitis—Condition Serious.

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Dr. Haunmuller, who attended the Senator during the evening, said tonight that he was doing fairly well and he thinks that the operation will prove successful.

EX-CONGRESSMAN DEAD.

Roswell G. Horr Passes Away After Two Weeks' Illness.

Plainfield, N. J., Dec. 18.—Ex-Congressman Roswell G. Horr died tonight at 11 o'clock after an illness of two weeks with bronchitis and Bright's disease.

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an accompaniment of numerous exciting episodes.

Senator Proctor said that the resolution of the committee would pass the Senate easily.

Senator Chandler is also of that opinion, and would not think it will be favored by the House committee.

One of those interviewed said that he understood that a poll of the Committee of the House on Foreign Affairs had actually been taken yesterday after the resolution of the committee.

Mr. Curtis of Iowa favors granting belligerent rights but not acknowledging the independence of the island.

From all these expressions, from the opposition of Burrows and Hale and others known to be opposed, and from the number of Senators who are not openly in favor, it is not unlikely that the resolution may be talked to death unless the idea of Cuban liberty is supported by the traditionally unemotional Senate.

The matter caused a lively movement among the delegates to secure the floor, and free silver oratory filled the hall.

Delegates John B. Lennon of the Journey-Tailors offered as a substitute a resolution reaffirming the stand taken by the American Federation of Labor at its three most recent sessions.

The silver question came up early in the day, when Delegate Weissman offered a resolution that the former action of the Federation favoring free coinage of silver be reconsidered, and that the resolution committee, through which it was presented, be dissolved.

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