OUR NATIONAL CAPITOL.

Interesting and Newsy Items from Washington.

THE NATIONAL BANKS.

Improvement in the Carrier Service—To Establish a National University at Washington—Can't Have 1 Cent Letter Postage Yet.

Postoffice Robbers Arrested.

Col. D. W. Wheeler, chief postoffice inspector, received a telegram from St. Louis announcing the arrest there of Andrew Webb and Henry Irving, who were wanted for robbing the postoffice at Tahoma, O. T.

Lieut. Lafitte Appointed.

The war department at Washington has officially announced the detail of Lieut. J. de Lafitte, U. S. A., for duty with the State National Guard of Louisiana. The order will be effective at once.

Davis Resolution Will Pass.

Senator Lodge has made a canvass of the senate on the Davis resolution affirming the Monroe doctrine, and says that he has not been able to find more than eight votes that will be cast against it. He says there are still a large number of speeches to be made on the subject, and that it is too early to say when the vote will be taken, but that the debate will be pressed along rapidly after the bond bill shall be disposed of.

The Mint in Running Order.

Director Preston Saturday issued orders to Mr. Overton Cade, superintendent of the New Orleans mint, to get in readiness for the resumption of business, beginning February 1st. The order is to the effect that 500,000 silver dollars are to be coined monthly out of the bullion now on hand at the New Orleans mint. The order is to be operative until otherwise rescinded, and the force furloughed on November 1st is to be restored to duty.

One Cent Letter Postage.

Bepresentative Loud of the house con postoffices and postroads has prepared a bill to carry out the recommendations of ex-Postmaster General Bissell and Postmaster General Wilson relative to second-class mail matter. The committee will give hearings to publishers and other interested parties. Mr. Loud says that one-cent letter postage cannot be had while the second-class business costs the public so much more than the receipts from it.

Bills Reported Favorably.

The senate committee on commerce at Washington Thursday authorized Senator McMillan to report favorably the bills providing for two additional revenue cutters on the great lakes, two on the Pacific coast, one in the vicinity of New York and one on the Gulf of Mexico, and also a bill for a lighthouse tender on the Florida coast. Senator Vest was authorized to report his bill regulating bridge building on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, and Senator Frye to report a substitute for his bill for the retirement and promotion of officers of the revenue cutter service.

Action Regarding Public Lands.

The house committed on public lands Friday at Washington, decided to favorably report the senate bill to devote 25 per cent. of the proceeds of the sale of mineral lands in the public land States to the support of schools of mines. The senate bill to compel settlers on railroad land grants who paid the companies only in part for their lands and paid less than the government qrice for the same lands, to pay sums equal to the difference to the government, was also favorably reported.

Ericson Provisionally Accepted.

Secretary Herbert has decided to accept the torpedo boat Ericson from the builders, the Iowa Iron Works, subject to a dock trial at New London, to demonstrate that her engines are in good order, and have been repaired properly since her last mishap. The department is satisfied that if properly handled the boat can make at least 25 knots per hour, or a half knot more than is required by the contract, so that another speed trial at sea will not be called for. The only deductions made from the contract price of $120,000 will be $16,000 on account of delay in completion of the craft.

Algiers Dry Dock.

The sub-committee on naval affairs, before which the Algiers dry dock project is pending, has passed upon the various estimates in the naval appropriation bill as drafted before the full committee. It is apprehended that Mr. Boutelle, chairman of the committee, who has shown some hostility to dry dock projects, may assail the Algiers dry dock scheme, and until the bill comes out safely from the committee, the adoption of the estimates recommended by Secretary Herbert for continuance of the work on the Algiers dry dock will be involved in doubt and uncertainty.

Pensions as Vested Rights.

The sub-committee on invalid pensions Saturday considered the terms of a general bill to make pensions vested rights, and to provide for the repeal of the clause in the act of 1890 requiring widows to prove as a condition precedent to obtaining a pension that they are dependent on their daily labor for support, and to substitute these for a provision along the lines of that ruled out while the pension appropriation bill was before the house requiring them to prove that their net income does not exceed $500. The bill was drawn and submitted to the full committee.

Protection of Forests.

The fifteenth annual meeting of the American Forestry Association convened at Washington Friday. The main object of the gathering is to secure the enactment of a law for the proper administration of the forest reserves in the United States, which aggregate 17,568,100 acres, and to secure the protection of the forests on public lands. Forestry protection was discussed Friday, when speeches were made by Secretary of Agriculture Morton, president of the association; Senator Dubois, Representatives Lacey and McRae and others.

The National University.

A number of distinguished men gathered in the room of the house committee on education, to urge action on the bill to establish a university of the United States at Washington. Those present included ex-Senator Edmunds, ex-President William Peffer, University of Pennsylvania Hon. Andrew D. White, ex-President Cornell University; ex-Gov. John Lee Carroll, of Mryland; Gen. John Easton, ex-Commissioner of Education: Hon. Gardiner G. Hubbard, of the District of Columbia; Simon Newcombe, Hon. A. J. Casson, G. Brown Goode and ex-Gov. John W. Hoyt. Half a dozen of these gentlemen addressed the committee, setting forth in detail the reasons why the government should establish such a university at the capital of the nation.

Extending the Postal System.

Postmaster-General Wilson Thursday issued a general order providing that in all cities and towns having free delivery postal service, the postal system be extended to include house to house collections. For the convenience of the department, however, the introduction of boxes in the houses until further orders, will be confined to twenty-five places, including Atlanta, Ga., Charleston, W. Va., New Orleans, La., Richmond, Va., St. Louis, Mo., and Vicksburg, Miss. The action taken is the result of practical tests made in St. Louis and Washington. These were regarded as satisfactory, and probably the time saved to carriers, no longer compelled to await answers to bells, may be utilized in further extending the boundaries of routes in rapidly-growing communities. Householders in the cities will be required for their own convenience and at their own expense, to supply a box of a kind already approved by the department.

The National Banks.

The abstract from the reports made to the comptroller of the currency by the 3,706 national banks of the United States, showing their condition on December 18, 1895, shows loans and discounts amounting to $2,020,961,792, against $2,059,408,402 on September 23, 1895, the date of the last report. The gold coin held by the national banes on December 13 last amounted to $113,843,400, against $110,378,360 September 23. The gold treasury certificates on hand amounted to $20,936,030, as compared to $21,535,940 on September 28. The gold clearing house certificates aggregated $33,465,000, as compared with $31,021,000 on September 28. The silver treasury certificates amounted to $25,878,328, as compared to $22,614,280 in September. The total specie on hand on December 13 was $206,713,410, as compared with $196,237,311 in September. The United States certificates of deposit for legal tender notes on hand aggregated $31,430,000, as against $48,920 in September. The reports show that between September 28, 1895, and December 13, the national banks increased their individual deposits from $1,801,655,522, to $1,720,550'241.

Harvey Steel Priced Too High.

The inquiry into the navy department's connection with the manufacturers of Harveyized steel was continued by the senate committee on naval affairs Saturday. Commander Folger, against whom, as chief of the bureau of ordinance, the investigation is largely directed, was present, but at Chairman Cameron's suggestion, postponed his statement until the other witnesses should be heard. There were, therefore, no witnesses before the committee Saturday. Senator Chandler presented the record in the lawsuit of James R. Davies against the Harvey company, in which Folger's connection with the company was developed. The committee then entered upon a discussion of the cost of the manufacture of armor, in which connection there arose an informal discussion of Senator Smith's bill for the establishment of an armor manufactory at Washington. None of the committee members was possessed of detailed information as to the cost of armor and if it was determined to obtain definite information on this point. Sufficient information was elicited, however, it is said, to convince the committee that the price of $500 per ton now paid is too high.

A Clean Run at Pittsburg.

The harbor at Pittsburg, Pa., is now practically clear of coal. Almost six million bushels were started south last Monday, requiring every available towboat. What little coal remains can be shipped as soon as soon as some of the returning fleet can get through the floating ice, which is being followed closely by the boats now going down.

GENEROUS LAD.

Mother—What did you do with the medicine the doctor left for you?

Small Boy—I heard there was a poor boy ill in the back street and I took it around and left it for him.

FIFTY FOURTH CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Washington, Jan. 21.—The senate put aside finance and foreign affairs to-day and gave the day to work on comparatively minor bills on the calendar. About seventy bills were passed, clearing the calendar of much accumulation and leaving only the important measures pending. The Cuban question received brief and inconclusive attention early in the day.

HOUSE.

The house to-day passed the urgency deficiency bill. The bill carried $4,415,922, of which $3,242,582 was for the expenses of United States courts. The abnormal growth of the expenses of federal courts came in for a good deal of criticism and there was general expression in favor of a salary system.

SENATE.

Washington, Jan. 22.—The senate session to-day was marked by notable speeches and notable debates. Late in the afternoon a controversy occurred between Mr. Sherman, Mr. Gorman, Mr. Teller and others, which led to the most spirited financial debate that has occurred since the present congress convened. Mr. Sherman spoke at length and with great earnestness, deprecating the thrusting of an "old worn out issue"—the silver question—into the senate at a time when practical legislation was imperative. Mr. Teller and Mr. Gorman answered Mr. Sherman from their respective standpoints, while Mr. Aldrich, Mr. Lindsay, Mr. Gray and others took part in the exciting debate. Mr. Wolcott's speech, criticising the president's attitude on the Venezuelan question, was the notable event of the early part of the day. For an hour the senator commanded the attention of a crowded chamber and overflowing galleries.

Two important reports were made by the committee on foreign affairs, one strongly presenting the serious condition of affairs in Turkey and urging prompt action by the civilized powers, and an adverse report on Mr. Call's resolution calling for the official dispatches of United States consuls in Cuba.

HOUSE.

In the absence of any regular business in the house today the session was devoted to the consideration of minor matters and legislation, by unanimous consent. The major portion of the day was consumed in the discussion of the senate resolution appropriating $25,000 for architectural aid in the preparation of plans for the Chicago public building. The resolution was amended so as to provide that the appropriation should cover the supervision of the construction of the building and as amended it was agreed to.

The house adopted the report of the elections committee in favor of Harry Miner, of New York, in a contest brought for his seat by Timothy J. Campbell. A joint resolution was adopted to extend the time for the completion of an inclined railway on West mountain, Hot Springs Reservation, Arkansas.

At 8 o'clock the house adjourned until tomorrow.

SENATE.

Washington, Jan. 24.—After a brief but stirring debate the senate, to-day, agreed to the concurrent resolution urging decisive action by the European powers against Turkey, and pledging to the president the support of congress in the most vigorous action he may take for the protection of Americans in Turkey and the redress for injuries to American persons and property. Mr. Cullom, of Illinois, who reported the resolution, urged its adoption in a speech which set forth the startling extent of the massacres, the greatest in the history of the world, the senator said. Mr. Blanchard of Louisiana, spoke in the same line. The climax of the debate was reached when Mr. Frye, of Maine, supported the resolution in a speech which aroused great enthusiasm from the galleries for its expressions of sympathy with the Armenians and for its bitter arraignment of Great Britain's course toward America.

Mr. Jones, of Arkansas, gave notice that on Thursday next he would ask the senate to sit until a vote was taken on the silver bond bill.

Mr. Baker, of Kansas, spoke for an hour on limiting the pending silver coinage substitute to the silver of American mines.

SENATE.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The three subjects most prominently before the public—the Monroe doctrine, finance and tariff, each came in for consideration in the senate today, Mr. Daniel, of Virginia, speaking for two hours in support of a vigorous upholding of the Monroe doctrine as applicable to Venezuela, Mr. Duke Dubose, of Idaho, dealing with the silver phase of the financial question, and Mr. Warren, of Wyoming, pointing out the disastrous effects of the tariff legislation of the last congress on farm products in general and on wool in particular. Aside from these speeches the day developed little of importance.

The president submitted during the day the report of the secretary of the state concerning the treatment of American citizens in Turkey.

Mr. Jones, of Arkansas, sought to secure unanimous consent for a vote on the pending bond silver bill next Tuesday, but at the request of senators withdrew his request until the arrival of the new members, when he will again seek to fix a time for closing the protracted debate on the bond silver measure.

HOUSE.

The house resumed the consideration of the rules and disposed of the last amendment offered by the committee. It is to substitute for the quorum counting rule of the fifty-first congress the method of compelling the attendance of a quorum proposed in the forty-sixth congress by J. Randolph Tucker, with some modifications. It was not until the rules of the fifty-first congress stood adopted with the few modifications reported from the committee that something like excitement was engendered by an eloquent speech from Mr. Dolliver, (Republican of Iowa.) He taunted the Democrats with at last acquiescing in the adoption of all the principles embodied in the rules of the fifty-first congress against which they had raised their voices in 1890.

This speech drew forth an indignant reply from ex-Speaker Crisp, in the course of which he reviewed the whole history of the controversy and charged the other side with trying to make political capital by false pretenses

SENATE.

Washington, Jan. 27—Senators Frank J. Cannon and Arthur Brown of the new State of Utah took the oath of office in the senate today, the former drawing the term ending March 3, 1899 and the latter the term ending March 3, 1897. With the exception of the contested Delaware case this establishes the political division of the upper branch of congress until March 1897 as follows:

Republicans 44; Democrats 39; Populists 6. Total 89.

Necessary for majority 45.

Should Mr. Dupont be seated from Delaware the Republican vote would be increased to 45, but at the same time the number necessary for a majority would be increased to 46.

Aside from this event the session was given to further speeches on the silver bond bill, two of the new members of the body, Mr. Nelson, (Republican, of Minn.,) and Mr. Bacon, (Democrat, of Georgia,) making speeches the former against the free coinage of silver and Mr. Bacon urging the evils of a gold standard. Mr. Hansbrough, (N. D.,) severely criticised the secretary of agriculture for the alleged failure to distribute seeds in accordance with the law. Mr. George, (Miss.) defended Secretary Morton's action. The debate will proceed tomorrow. Mr. Lodge offered an amendment to the bond silver bill, providing for a bond issue of one hundred million dollars, the proceeds to be used for coast defenses.

HOUSE.

The house today, after an interesting four hours' debate, adopted the resolutions passed by the senate last week calling on the powers signatory to the treaty of Berlin, to enforce the reforms in Turkey guaranteed to the Christian Armenians and pledging the support of congress to the president in the most vigorous action he might take for the protection and security of American citizens in Turkey. The house committee has prepared some resolutions on the same subject, but it was deemed advisable, after the senate resolutions reached the house today, to substitute them for these prepared by the committee. Mr Quigg of New York, who had charge of the bill, made an able presentation of the case, but there was a disposition on the part of some of the members to go further than the resolutions did and Mr. Hepburn, of Iowa, proposed to give the Turkish minister his passports and sever all diplomatic relations with Turkey. His remarks denouncing the Turkish outrages and charging that the powers signatory to the treaty of Berlin were actuated from political and other considerations in maintaining the "balance of power" in Europe, were received with great enthusiasm and at one time it looked as if the house might be carried to his way of thinking; but the council of Mr. Hitt not to take any rash action, in the course of which he pointed out the dire consequences that might result from a severance of diplomatic relations with a friendly power that had fulfilled her treaty obligations to us, prevailed and the Hepburn proposition was overwhelmingly defeated.

Mr. Bailey opposed this resolution on the ground that it would be improper for us to "insult" the parties to the treaty of Berlin by intimating that they had not carried out their obligations. Mr. Turner, of Georgia, took a similar view and Mr. Grosvenor, of Ohio, chaacterized the resolutions as "incomplete, inefficient and unworthy" and requested the committee to withdraw them. They were finally passed, however by a vote of 143 to 26, after a motion of Mr. Bailey to send them to the committee had been defeated 55—103.

THE DRUG CLERK'S STORY.

He Talks of Headaches and Nervousness and Gives a Cure for Both.

From the Evening News, Newark, N. J.

It was the drug clerk's turn to tell a story of one of his experiences, and the reporter, expecting something good, as usual, settled himself comfortably in a chair prepared to give his undivided attention to the speaker. The latter was Henry Maier, who resides with his parents on Acquedact Street, Newark, N. J., and who hands out medicine over the counter of Dr. Andrew F. Burkhardt's drug store at 271 Orange Street, this city.

"Perhaps I can do nothing better," he began, "than to tell you the secret of my good health. It is a story that I have told to many, recently, and as it resulted in good in each case, it may be worth your while to listen to it. To begin with, I was not always strong and robust, as I am now. Long hours of work and hard study had left me in a wretched condition. Frightful, lingering headaches found me a ready victim, and at times I was so nervous that the dropping of a pin would cause me to give a violent start, and then I would be seized with a fit of trembling that was, to put it mildly, exceedingly bothersome. Well, I began to doctor myself. Now I flatter myself that I know something of medicine; but with all my knowledge, I could find nothing that would cure those terrible headaches or put an end to my extreme nervousness. When I picked up a bottle my hand would shake as though I had the chills, and if it was a powder that I was handling I stood a good chance of sprinkling it all over these black trousers. Things went from bad to worse, and I soon realized that a man of my physical condition had better not attempt to mix any medicine.

"Try a box of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills," said Dr. Burkhardt one day; and as you know the doctor's advice is always worth following, I got the Pink Pills and began to take them. Aladdin's lamp never performed the wonders of these pills. Would you believe it? Before I had taken the contents of one box my headache began to give me a day off occasionally, and soon it left me entirely. How about my nervousness? Well, the pills put an end to that with almost startling abruptness. You see I know enough about the business to appreciate the importance of following the prescribing physicians' directions, and by paying strict attention to those given by Dr. Williams with each box of his Pink Pills, I was soon another fellow. Look at me now! A picture of health, eh? Well, that is what Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will do for a man, or a woman either. See, I can hold this glass of water out now without spilling a drop, but I couldn't do that two months ago and—

"What is it, ma'm?" he asked as a neatly dressed woman came up to the counter. "A box of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills." "Yes, ma'm, fifty cents, please. Thank you."

"These Pink Pills are great things," said Mr. Maier as he turned to the reporter again, and the latter, after all he had heard, thought so too.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills contain all the elements necessary to give new life and richness to the blood and restore shattered nerves. They are for sale by all druggists, or may be had by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y., for 50c. per box, or six boxes for $2.50.

NEVER HER HEAD.

Maud—Doesn't your head ache awfully after you have been to a tea?

Ethel—No, not at all. My tongue and feet do, but never my head.

New England Bayberries.

Bayberries are gathered in large quantities in Essex, Conn., for the manufacture of bayberry tallow. After the leaves are all off the bayberry bushes the picking of the berries begins. The berries are of a slate color, rather small in size. After being gathered they are put into large iron kettles, when they turn a black color and settle to the bottom of the kettle, and the tallow floats on top. It brings from twenty to twenty-five cents a pound, and is used for making toilet soap, ointments and other articles.

English Slavery.

Slavery survived in England much later than is generally supposed. The word bondage in Northumberland still means a female farm servant. The coolies and salters (i. e., salt miners), of East Lothian, were actually slaves until 1775. If they deserted their service any one harboring was liable to a penalty of £5 if he did not restore them in twenty-four hours. The last slave in England was not freed completely till 1799, and in 1842 there was a coolie living, who, as well as his father and grandfather, had worked as a slave in a pit at Musselburg.

London pays forty-two per cent. of the income tax of England and Wales.

A London rector has arranged for storing bicycles in the church vistibule during service.

A person with a thin skin ought to have a clear conscience.

V. N. U. 5-96