

DIRECTORS MISLED.

ILLINOIS NATIONAL OFFICERS ACCUSED.

The President to Blame—Director Page Declares That Calumet Loans Never Approved on Books Submitted to the Loan Committee.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—"Never did I see on the book kept for the purpose of informing the directors of the bank as to who were the applicants for loans the name of the Calumet Electric railway," said Director Page of the defunct National Bank of Illinois to-day when asked how such large loans were made by the bank and ostensibly given with the sanction of the directors.

Mr. Page said as to the manner in which the business of the bank, as far as the directors were concerned, was conducted: "The directors appointed from among themselves what you might term for convenience sake an auditing committee. The plan was to let one director drop out each month, some other taking his place. Each day the committee would meet at the bank, its business being to pass upon the applications for loans. A record of these applications was kept in a book designed for the purpose. In this book was also kept opposite the name of each applicant a record of the collateral offered to effect the loan. When the committee was ready for business Mr. Schneider would come into the room, bringing with him this book and with it another book in which was recorded the daily balance of the would-be borrower and also a record of how much he had previously borrowed."

PRESIDENT SCHNEIDER TO BLAME.

"You say that Mr. Schneider used to bring this in?" "Almost invariably. Seldom was Mr. Hammond before the committee. At odd times he would be called in to answer some question as to an applicant's business or to clear up a point about some collateral offered, but Captain Schneider was almost always the bearer of the books. The committee would look over the books carefully, and in some instances refuse to sanction a loan. In others the loan asked for would be cut down, and in cases where the applicant and security were all right the accommodation was of course granted."

"Did the committee ever ask to see the actual collateral offered or did they simply take the word of Mr. Schneider or Mr. Hammond that the security was actually in the bank and actually what it purported to be in the memorandum book?" "We had been in business with Mr. Schneider and Mr. Hammond many of us for thirty years. To have made such a demand of them would have been a personal insult."

SHARP WORK ON TWO SIDES.

The Post declares that W. A. Hammond, second vice president of the closed National Bank of Illinois, is to be made the scapegoat of the failure, and continues, quoting a friend of Hammond: "Hammond is a broken man to-day, but he is not any more to blame for the amount of money loaned on Calumet securities than are the members of the finance committee of the bank and its directors. It was necessary to the purposes of a man connected with the South Chicago City railway and an officer of one of the best known banks of this city, to deplete the Calumet Electric road's stock, and to this end these two men brought about the wrecking of the National Bank of Illinois. Of the bank's funds \$2,475,000 had been loaned on the Calumet securities. The plan for wrecking was brilliant. Cause an investigation, depreciate Calumet stock and buy it. Then combine this valuable property of sixty-three miles of new track equipment and franchise with the South Chicago railway, eventually combining with the Chicago City railway and make a fortune of millions within five or ten years. The truth of the matter is that members of the finance committee and certain directors of the National Bank of Illinois have known the amount of the Calumet loan and have hoped to make individual fortunes on the success of the venture."

George Schneider, the president of the National Bank of Illinois, lives in a rather showy brick residence at 2000 Michigan avenue. He is 73 years of age and is rather feeble in health. When called upon to-day he said he should have no statement whatever to make and seemed quite broken.

Big Lumber Deal Closed.

ASHLAND, Wis., Dec. 24.—The Weyerhaeuser lumber syndicate closed a deal purchasing large tracts of pine lands situated in six or seven counties in Northern Wisconsin. The purchase involved \$700,000, and is one of the largest and most important known in lumber circles, involving the fee title to nearly 30,000 acres of land.

W. H. Hatch Critically Ill.

HANNIBAL, Mo., Dec. 24.—Ex-Congressman W. H. Hatch, who has been far from well the last few months, is much worse, and his death may be momentarily looked for. He is suffering from Bright's disease.

Congressman-Elect Callahan Dying.

GUTHRIE, Okla., Dec. 24.—Congressman-elect J. Y. Callahan is dangerously ill at his home in Kingfisher, and is not expected to live. In case of his death Governor Renfrow will appoint a congressman. Senator-elect John Dubois of this city is also near death's door.

George G. Saxe Kalls Dead.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—George G. Saxe of the firm of Estey & Saxe, piano and organ manufacturers, fell dead in the street at Madison N. J., yesterday, of apoplexy. He was a brother of the late John G. Saxe, the poet. One of his sons is a physician in Montana.

POWERS AFTER TURKEY

Are Determined to Enforce Reform—For a Policy of Coercion.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—As had been frequently announced from various capitals since the visit of the czar to the queen at Balmoral, in September, the powers have finally become convinced that the sultan's promises amount to nothing, and are determined to begin a policy of coercion. The ambassadors at Constantinople have received instructions to concert proposals with the view of improving the situation in the Ottoman empire. The proposals, before being submitted to the sultan, will be referred to the respective governments.

Monday Premier Salisbury summoned the ambassadors to the foreign office, and communicated to them the views of the British government on the definite proposals of Russia for joint intervention, in order that each ambassador might communicate them to his government.

There is reason to believe that unless the sultan shall, within the next ten days, show a preference of which at present he is little suspected, very decisive steps will be undertaken in the name of the joint powers. The Novoe Vremya of St. Petersburg says that it is probable that within a few days the Russian black sea fleet will appear in the Bosphorus, where it will be joined by the squadrons of the other powers from the Dardanelles.

SPAIN IS IN HARD LINES

Entire Philippine Island in Revolt—Suppressing the News.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—A Madrid dispatch says: "In order to secure the success of the next loan the government is straining every nerve to conceal the true situation in the Philippines. The whole colony is in revolt, and scattered bodies of Spanish troops have been hemmed in by the rebels. It is rumored that a certain proportion of German reserve officers are in the insurgent ranks."

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23.—Private advices from Manila, Philippine islands, reached here to-day and are verified by an account that appears in the Hong Kong Press, received per Belgic. The news contained in the communication deals with the attack of the Spanish on the Novolista isthmus, and the attempt of the Spanish to dislodge the insurgents in Cavite and Viejo. At the end of the campaign, which lasted until the 14th of November, the Spanish authorities sent out dispatches reporting that the attack had been successful, and that the rebel loss was very heavy. The Spanish claimed to have lost about 25 killed and 100 wounded. It is now learned that the great victory that the Castilians predicted ended in ignominious defeat. The rebels held Novolista against warships and troops. The Spaniards retired after suffering heavy loss.

SPAIN WILL NOT ANSWER.

Cabinet Will Make No Reply to the President's Message.

MADRID, Dec. 24.—The cabinet meeting yesterday was presided over by Senor Canovas del Castillo. The cabinet considered President Cleveland's message in so far as it dealt with the Cuban question, and also measures for the coast defense and increase of the fleet. It is reported officially that the cabinet decided not to make any reply to Mr. Cleveland's message through diplomatic channels.

WILL BE PROTECTION.

Chairman Dingley Forecasts the Work on the New Tariff Bill.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—"It will be a bill for protection," said Chairman Dingley to-day, in forecasting the work of the ways and means committee on the new tariff. "Protection will be the great purpose of the bill. Protection to American industries will be the actuating motive in framing the measure, and the protection that is needed will be given. It will not matter whether the duties necessary to give that protection be high, low or moderate. That will have nothing to do with it. What is needed will be given. It is protection, you understand; protection, that we are after."

To the inquiry how the new duties will compare with those of the McKinley law of the tariff of 1890, Mr. Dingley replied: "I do not see any reason for supposing that any of the duties will be higher. I do not know of any industries which need more protection now than then. I do not think that there are any such industries. Where the industries need less protection, the duties will be lower than they were in the McKinley act; but the fact that protection is to be the keynote of the new tariff bill should not be lost sight of. It should be kept in mind all the time."

LOST IN A FIERCE GALE.

Twelve Passengers and All but Four of a Bark's Crew Lost Off Mexico.

SAN DRAGO, Cal., Dec. 24.—A fierce storm occurred in the Gulf of Camoche December 11 and 12 and among other casualties reported, is the wreck of the bark Jamaica, with twelve passengers and most of the crew lost. The captain strapped 100 Mexican dollars upon him and clinging to a barrel, tried to reach shore. The survivors saw him sink, owing to the weight of the metal. One passenger after another sank, the boats proving entirely unmanageable. Only three men and a boy escaped. The vessel sank soon after she was abandoned.

Mrs. Harrison's Watch Recovered.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 24.—Several weeks ago General Harrison was robbed of a gold watch belonging to his wife. He offered a reward for its recovery, and yesterday he received a package from Chicago containing the watch.

Ex-Queen Liliuokalani Traveling.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 24.—Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii arrived here this morning, accompanied by Mrs. E. Graham and her two children, Arthur and Annie, a maid and a male attendant. She left immediately over the Louisville & Nashville for the North.

LEFT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Governor-Elect Leedy Will Not Leave Offices Vacant.

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 24.—Governor-elect Leedy has given notice that he will close his office to-morrow afternoon and will hear no more applications for places until after New Year's day. He will spend Christmas with his family in Lawrence.

Mr. Leedy said that he had decided to appoint an adjutant general. This is one of the offices of the state government there is talk of abolishing altogether, or materially reducing by making the incumbent simply a clerk in the governor's office and requiring him to do all the work, but there is such a demand for the place that the governor-elect says he will probably make an appointment, leaving it for the legislature to continue the place or abolish it altogether.

On Bob Semple's roster of the patriots who want office are said to be nearly 100 who want to be adjutant general. They are from all over the state. Many of them are old soldiers, and some are just common militiamen.

Mr. Leedy said incidentally in discussing the policy of appointing an adjutant general, that he had about decided to shift on the legislature much of the responsibility of continuing or abolishing some offices which are regarded as useless.

"How about the metropolitan police commissioners? What are you going to do with them?"

"Well, now, I am looking for somebody to advise me on that subject. I want a man who can show me some new way out. I am going over to my office in the Veale block in a few minutes and the first man I see will say just one word on that subject. I hear it all day long and my slumbers are disturbed by horrible nightmares of it."

GRAVES DESPOILED.

Ghouls Make Successful Raids on a Kansas City Cemetery.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 24.—The professors in the medical colleges of the city have commenced their winter lectures on surgery and anatomy and the grave robbers are called upon to supply the dissecting rooms with subjects. Of late the ghouls of this city have become bold and instead of stealing bodies from cemeteries of the towns surrounding Kansas City they have invaded Union cemetery, at Twenty-seventh and Main streets, and stolen the bodies of three men. It is believed that other graves have been tampered with. Detective Andy O'Hare will investigate.

The graves of Charles W. Turner, Andrew Van Vleet and George W. Charles were opened this morning by Detective O'Hare and Sexton William Todd. Only the caskets were found. The bodies were gone.

TRIED TO KILL THAYER.

Scores of Christmas Shoppers Scared at Kansas City.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 24.—Oscar O. Wahlfeld, president of the Wahlfeld wholesale clothing house and manufacturer of children's garments, 428 Houston street, New York, attempted to kill W. B. Thayer, secretary of the Emery, Bird, Thayer Dry Goods company, at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, on the second floor of the company's store.

The store was thronged with shoppers at the time of the assault, and Wahlfeld, whom his friends insist was temporarily insane at the time, was only overpowered by Mr. Thayer with the assistance of Joseph T. Bird, vice-president of the firm, and Judge R. E. Ball after determined resistance. He was taken in charge by the police and an effort will be made to have him committed to a private asylum.

THE GRAND ISLAND SOLD.

Only One Bid of \$5,000,000 Made for the Road.

HASTINGS, Neb., Dec. 24.—The public sale of the St. Joseph & Grand Island railroad was held at the depot here to-day. Edward Simonton, special master of St. Paul, Minn., had charge. There was but one bid and that was by William Bull for Frank H. Olochs, who represents the first mortgage bondholders of New York. The road sold for \$5,000,000.

The "Sun" on Mr. Olney's Standing.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—In a leading editorial in the Sun Charles A. Dana asked this question: "Does not the Honorable Richard Olney, secretary of state of the United States, know that exactly sixty years ago President Andrew Jackson wrote a message to Congress referring to that body the question of recognizing the independence of the republic of Texas, and deferring to the decision of Congress in that matter? In the Senate was pending a resolution recognizing the Texan republic. General Jackson, like Mr. Olney and Mr. Cleveland, was disposed to disregard the resolution as premature. Under such circumstances he sent to Congress the message of December 21, 1836, setting forth his own views with frankness, but declaring that the decision was with Congress and not with the executive."

Freak Deputy Appears in Paris.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—The Paris newspapers are full of gossip about Dr. Granzere, who has been elected deputy for Pontarlier as a Radical. Dr. Granzere is a rigid Mussulman, and he intends to wear the turban and the burnous in the chamber of deputies. His election was due to bad management by the Moderate Republican committee. He stood for the election with the title of "The Prophet of God."

Gave His Life for Another.

INDEPENDENCE, Kan., Dec. 24.—Yesterday Henry Holl and Harmon Long were digging a well at Edna, where they struck fire damp. Holl quickly tied a rope around Long and he was hauled up. In saving his friend's life Holl sacrificed his own.

A Rich Misourian a Suicide.

PILOT GROVE, Mo., Dec. 24.—William J. Ryan, a wealthy cattleman of Bell Air, committed suicide yesterday by hanging himself in the loft of his barn. He was an influential Democrat and a Mason of note. He had been insane for some time.

FROM DR. ZERTUCHA.

HE DESCRIBES GENERAL MACEO'S DEATH.

His Story a Graphic One—The Cuban Leader Declared to Have Been Killed in Open Battle—Heroism of Young Gomez—Charges of Jealousy.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—The Herald publishes a long letter from Dr. Maximo Zertucha, General Maceo's physician, who has been exonerated as a traitor. It is dated at Melena del Sur, Cuba, December 19:

"General Antonio Maceo at 8 p. m., December 4, accompanied by part of his general staff—namely: Generals Miro and Diaz, Colonels Nodarez and Gordon, Majors Piedra, Justis Ahumado and Penalver, Captain Sauvanel and myself as surgeon of headquarters, with four orderlies and Lieutenant Francisco Gomez, crossed the military line between Mariel and Manana at the former point. At 9 o'clock the following morning we joined some twenty-five cavalry men belonging to Colonel Sartorius's command at Mosquitos. On the 6th we started towards Bazaró. During our march some eighty men of Lieutenant Colonel Acosta's command were incorporated with our ranks. Together we went at 9 o'clock that night to the grazing farm (potrero) of San Pedro, between Lincoln and Covea. There we met the forces under Brigadier Sanchez and Colonel Delgado, numbering some 400 men, all cavalry.

"It was 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the next day when word came to our camp that the enemy's forces were moving in our direction, following the trail. We prepared for the engagement. The left flank was commanded by the general of division, Pedro Diaz. The right was under the command of Colonel Delgado and Lieutenant Colonel Acosta. Brigadier Sanchez took command of the center.

HOW GENERAL MACEO DIED.

"The fight was under way when General Maceo, accompanied by Brigadier Miro, his adjutants, Justis and Sauvanel, and myself, started toward the battlefield. Maceo issued orders as he proceeded. He then took his position at a point outside the sphere of active operations, but, all of the enemy's fire suddenly centering upon that point, it was lead rather than air that we breathed there. General Maceo moved forward to within 500 paces of a stone fence, behind which the enemy's infantry was entrenched. Brigadier Miro was to the right and I raised his sword and saying to Brigadier Miro: 'This goes well, fall as if struck by lightning from the horse he was riding to the ground. I was on the spot at once, examining his wound. A Mauer bullet had entered the right side of the chin, causing a fracture of the lower jaw in three places, coming out of the left lateral side at the base of the neck. The bullet in its course tore the carotid artery, bringing on a mortal hemorrhage, which caused death in a minute.

"The moment General Maceo was wounded I called to his assistance those who accompanied him. On being told however, by Brigadier Miro and Major Justis that they, too, were wounded, I compelled them to get out of range of fire. A trooper, whose name I regret not to be able to remember, came to my aid. He helped me with great bravery under the enemy's fire to raise the body of the general. The trooper was at that moment wounded in the thigh. Bullets were pouring over my head as I remained entrenched behind the general's horse, by the side of his body.

HEROISM OF YOUNG GOMEZ.

"At that moment I saw 'Panchito' (as we called the son of Major General Maximo Gomez) before me. He had been wounded in the left shoulder during an engagement we had had on December 3 between Cayababo and Colanos. His arm was in a sling. He said to me: 'I will help you, doctor.' We again raised the body of Maceo and placed it upon the horse. He ('Panchito') took hold of the horse's bridle, while I held the general by the feet. Then we started toward a gate, which was the outlet to the inclosure we were in. 'Panchito' was then struck by a bullet. It pierced his shirt and coming out at his right side completely shattered his elbow. He sank to the ground. I went to his assistance and General Maceo's body fell from the horse. What to do then I knew not. The enemy was advancing. I begged, I beseeched Gomez to let me carry him on horseback out of that place. Nothing would avail to that purpose. He would reply to every appeal: 'Let the general be carried out. I will go.'

"Then almost crazed, I galloped on the general's horse toward our forces, which owing to the incidents of the engagement, was at a fair distance off. I met Brigadier Sanchez and informed him of what had happened. He avoided issuing orders, giving excuses and doing nothing. Then I sought another chief, that brave and honest Pedro Diaz. Hearing what I had to say to him and hastening to do his duty, was the work of an instant. The enemy had advanced. It was necessary to dislodge them and then we recovered the bodies of General Maceo and Lieutenant Gomez. Had the latter died from wounds he had received in the chest and arm? No, he was stabbed over the left side near the breast. He had over his forehead also a machete wound which had divided his skull. The bodies had been stripped of their shoes, stockings, side arms and jewelry.

"At 7 o'clock that night the bodies were taken to a shed on the grazing farm and there I appeared before the commanding officers, who were ignorant of General Maceo's death. An affidavit of what had taken place was drawn up and sworn to and with other official documents in the case was sent to Major General Maximo Gomez.

JEALOUSY OF MACEO CHARGED.

"Who killed Antonio Maceo? Who killed Jose Maceo? Was it the enemy's bullets at Elgato and San Pedro? No, I will say a thousand times, no. They were killed through the men of the council. They were killed through those who having received money from the Spanish government, afterward

THE ALTON'S STATEMENT

The Losses Placed between \$2,500 and \$3,000—Messenger's Conduct Dwelt Upon.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—At the office of the Chicago & Alton railroad company the following official statement in regard to the Blue cut robbery was given out:

"The train was flagged by red and white lanterns just west of the Mission Pacific bridge east of Independence. The robbers took charge of the engine and made the enginemen get off. The conductor and brakemen came ahead and the robbers to charge of them. They made the brakemen go back and get the train wren and cut off the express car. They made considerable noise and did not talk and pounding on coupling while doing the work in order to give the express man a chance to hide away his stuff. When the train was cut off the robbers made the trainmen get off while they took the engine and express car away. The next stopped in the cut about half way between the top of the hill and Glendale, and rapped on the express car door. The expressman opened it and realized for the first time that he was being held up. All of his valuables were exposed. He claims not to have had time to put them in the safe before leaving Kansas City. It was, therefore, not necessary to open the safe, although they were amply provided with dynamite for that purpose. The amount secured foots up \$2,500 in cash, and may reach \$3,000. After robbing the car, they cut the bell cord, pulled the tank pin and cut off the air and ordered the expressman to set the hand brake on the express car. They all got on the engine and ran to the second iron bridge east of Glendale, where it was left without water, steam, fire or air.

TO DEFEAT VEST.

Gold Democrats and Republicans in the Missouri Legislature to Unite.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—News has reached Washington of a movement in Missouri to defeat Senator Vest for reelection through a combination of gold Democrats and Republicans. Some of the particulars of the proposed fusion were learned here to-day from a prominent Missouri Republican. According to his statement, a meeting was held in St. Louis shortly after the election to consider the matter. It was decided to make a canvass of the legislature to ascertain how many Democrats could be counted on to go into the scheme. The Republicans in the legislature, he said, were to be managed by Mark Hanna. The man with whom it was proposed to beat Senator Vest was George A. Madill of St. Louis, one of the most eminent lawyers in Missouri.

How far the movement had progressed the gentleman who gave this information could not say. He said that it was the intention to raise \$50,000 to bring about Senator Vest's defeat and that this amount had been practically subscribed for the purpose. Senator Vest was seen at his home in this city, and the story of the movement against his re-election was related to him.

"You do not think there is any chance of any such a combination being effective, then?" "I hardly see how it could be. The state went overwhelmingly for free silver, and the Democrats have a clear majority in any contingency of ten on joint ballot. Besides, there are four-teen Populists who are silver men. I hardly think they would permit the election of a gold man if there were a possibility of such a combination as is contemplated becoming formidable."

"Did you hear that a fund was to be raised?" "Yes, I heard they were doing that. I guess they will have to raise a pretty big sum," said the Senator, smiling. It was evident from the Senator's manner that the news of the movement against him did not give him much concern.

A SPANISH ROUT.

Train Dynamited and Arms Obtained by the Cuban Insurgents.

TAMPA, Fla., Dec. 25.—One of the Cuban leaders here received news from Havana last night confirming the report recently of Spanish losses sustained near Santiago and other towns near by, while attempting to capture the cargo of a filibustering vessel. The Spaniards were routed, and they wired to Deschelaino, thirty miles away, for aid. A train was made up there at once with great secrecy, but the watchful Cubans there knew of it, and sent word out to a nearby insurgent camp. The train came along the bomb exploded, causing great destruction, four cars being almost blown into splinters. The terrified Spaniards poured out of the wreck only to receive a withering fire from the Cubans concealed behind the road bed. The Spaniards fought bravely for a few moments, but the odds were too much, and they fled in all directions, the Cubans pursuing them for miles. Over forty Spanish soldiers were killed or wounded, and forty were taken prisoners. The Cubans also secured a quantity of arms and ammunition and medicine. The Havana authorities, it is said, are greatly stirred up over this and say that dynamite is not a civilized agent to use. It is reported that the expedition landed all safely, and that all the cargo was taken to Gomez's camp.

Shot by His Own Trap Gun.

SEDALIA, Mo., Dec. 25.—J. W. Clark, a North Laramie street grocer, had set a trap gun in the store to kill burglars. It was arranged so that a person passing in front of the muzzle would discharge the gun by running against a string. When Clark opened the store he carelessly rubbed against the string and received the whole load in the hip and side.

Mammoth Grain Elevator.

KANSAS CITY, Kan., Dec. 25.—A mammoth million bushel grain elevator and annex has just been completed by the Great Western Railroad company at Kansas City, Kan. The grain capacity of the annex is 600,000 bushels, and of the elevator proper, 400,000. The buildings are divided into ninety-five compartment bins.

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GOT ABOUT \$2,000.

The Amount of the Haul Made by the Blue Cut Train Robbers.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 25.—No arrests have yet been made of the Blue Cut train robbers, but the officers are at work on several promising clues and expect soon to capture the bandits. The robbers searched the express car coolly and leisurely. Messenger Frier was forced to surrender the key to the local safe, in which are stored packages for delivery at points along the run. It is an iron box about three feet long by one and one-half feet wide. From the box the robbers reaped a harvest, but the exact amount of money taken the United States Express company refuses to state. It is thought to be about \$2,000.

The train robbers tore open the envelopes and threw aside all those which did not contain money. They laughed and shouted with glee when they discovered bills in any of the packages, and joked with the messenger about their "rich haul." In an envelope they found several gold coins, and one of the robbers tossed them high in the air and catching them deftly, said: "Yellow boys; that's the stuff." There were more money packages than usual in the small safe on account of the holiday business.

Directly across the car from the small safe was a large iron through safe. In this safe large amounts of money are often carried, but as a protection for the express company the manager is not given the combination. The safe can be opened only at the end of the run. The robbers were finally induced by the messenger to abandon it, and escaped.

NEW MINISTER RECEIVED.

President Cleveland Recognizes the Greater Republic of Central America.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—After several weeks' consideration of the status of Senor Rodriguez, the first minister of the Greater Republic of Central America, President Cleveland to-day received him and accepted his credentials in a short speech, which, while formal in tone, was thoroughly earnest in its evidence of good will toward the new American union.

The President emphasized the purpose of our government to hold the individual states of the new union to responsibility for past claims, and he indicated an expectation that Guatemala and Costa Rica, which have so far refrained from joining with the others in the new republic, would soon give their adherence.

The minister was accompanied by the state department by his secretary, Senor Cores, and his son, J. D. Rodriguez, Jr., who is an attaché of the legation. He was escorted to the White house by Secretary Olney.

CLEVER SWINDLERS.

Two Men Work Ohiolos for Money and Postoffice for Themselves.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 25.—About six weeks before the recent election two men took rooms at the Chittenden. They represented themselves as connected with the National Democratic state committee, and wrote to several gold Democrats that President Cleveland was about to remove 100 Ohio postmasters and had placed in their hands the task of selecting 100 successors, who were presumed to be gold Democrats. J. J. Runyan of Mt. Gilead was selected as one of the successors, and he sent \$100 in currency to the men for insurances contained in three strictly confidential letters. Runyan waited a reasonable time for his commission and then called the attention of the authorities to the fact that he had been swindled, after he had unburdened himself to a friend, who had also purchased \$100 worth of experience.

Slavery Abolished in Madagascar.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—One of the earliest reforms of the French government in Madagascar is embodied in a decree abolishing slavery, a copy of which has reached the state department from Consul Wetter at Tamatave. It declares all the inhabitants free, forbids traffic in human beings, nullifying every contract providing for the sale of persons, and imposes penalties for violations of the law, which are to be tripled in case of second offense. Other features of the decree are that France promises not to impose on the people of Madagascar any extraordinary war tax and offers aid to dispossessed owners of slaves in the form of territorial possessions.