

THIRTEENTH YEAR.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Constitutional Amendments Regarding Suffrage and the Veto Power Proposed.

Mr. Grooms Wants a Canal, and Mr. New Two Conventions.

Bills and Resolutions Which Will Attend Opp. Opportunity for Talk, If Nothing More.

THE FORTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS, SENATE.

WASHINGTON, December 6.—Among the memorials and petitions presented in the senate to-day were the following: By Mr. Maudsler—Resolutions of the Nebraska legislature, asking that railroads which the government has granted lands be compelled to take out patents, so such lands may be taxed or revert to the people. Also asking that the duty be removed from barbed wire, and urging improvement of the Missouri river.

By Mr. Slater—Petition of the chamber of commerce of Oregon, praying that the land granted the Oregon Central railroad, by act of May 4, 1870, be forfeited and thrown open for settlement.

The following bills were introduced: By Mr. Cameron of Wisconsin—To restore to the market certain lands of the United States in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and authorize their sale subject to reforestation.

These are lands withdrawn from sale in 1880 and 1881 with the idea that they would be required for use in the construction and maintenance of dams, reservoirs, etc., proposed to be created in the improvement of the Mississippi river. They are by the bill subject to private entry and sale at \$1.25 per acre.

By Mr. Grooms—To provide for the construction in Maryland and Delaware of a free ship canal, as a means of military and naval defence, and for commercial purposes, the canal to connect the waters of the Chesapeake and Delaware bays, to be 100 feet wide at the bottom, 26 feet below mean low water, and 17 1/2 feet wide at low water, level with the locks, 600 feet by 60 in chamber, and sufficiently deep to allow the passage of vessels drawing 23 feet. The secretary of war is authorized to make necessary surveys, negotiate with owners of property along the line, and to purchase the necessary terms cannot be reached then to condemn the land. One million dollars is appropriated for purposes of the bill.

The following joint resolutions were offered: By Mr. Butler—To provide for an amendment to the fifteenth amendment of the constitution, so that it shall read "no State shall deny to any citizen the right of suffrage, or to any citizen on account of nativity, race, color or previous condition of servitude." By Mr. Lapham—Proposing an amendment to the constitution, giving women the right of suffrage; also proposing an amendment to the constitution giving the president the right to veto separate items of appropriation bills while approving the remainder, items objected to, however, may become law by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the house.

By Mr. Morgan—Proposing an amendment to the constitution by which the president shall have the power to disapprove any item of appropriation for rivers and harbors, while approving other items.

By Mr. Hill—Calling on the secretary of the interior to locate the senate deposits of papers, on file in the interior department, relating to the transfer of the land grant of the New Orleans, Baton Rouge & Vicksburg Railroad company to the New Orleans Pacific Railroad company, (this is known as the "Blackbone railroad grant"). The resolution was laid over until next week.

A RESOLUTION.—By Mr. Call, to be referred to the committee on foreign relations when appointed, requests the president to demand of the Spanish government repayment to citizens of the United States, of money paid by them on shipment of cattle from the United States to Cuba.

CAPITAL NOISES.

A NEW SCHEME.—WASHINGTON, December 6.—John C. New has called a meeting of the republican and democratic congressional delegates from Indiana, in his rooms in the treasury building on Saturday, to take measures to secure a meeting of both the republican and democratic national conventions in Indianapolis.

YOUNG MEMBERS TO THE POINT.—An old member of the house said this morning that the new men were seeking positions on the ways and means committee and judiciary committee, in fact, they wanted to be connected with all the important committees. It is generally conceded among democratic members that Morrison will be given the chairmanship of the ways and means committee and Randall of the appropriations.

Democratic members do not unanimously favor Morrison's election to the ways and means chairmanship, the ground of opposition being, as expressed by protectionists, that his appointment, closely following Carlisle's election to the speakership, would precipitate all issues: NO HITS FOR KERM.—The secretary of the interior has rejected the application of the mayor of the city council of Leadville to enter certain lands for town site purposes, on the ground that the greater portion is already patented as placer claims or is reserved for hospital and military purposes. Such portion of the lands, however, as has not already been disposed of and can be segregated, will be held subject to entry by the city.

THE INDIAN LAND BILL.—The bill introduced by Senator Lovell to amend the homestead laws provides that section 2,301, revised statutes, be amended to read: "Nothing in this chapter shall be so construed as to prevent any person who applied himself to the homestead law from receiving a patent thereon at any time after two years from date of entry, and before the expiration of five years, and obtaining a patent therefor, as in other cases on

THE OLD WORLD.

Still Picking to the Standard of the False But Victorious Prophet.

Great Loss and Suffering by Fires in Brussels and Constantinople.

More Talk About Peace Between France and China—Various Matters of Note.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

THE TALK IS FOR PEACE.

PARIS, December 6.—The La Liberte says that England is taking energetic steps to bring about a treaty between France and China, and adds that it has authorized information which leads to the belief that peaceful negotiations have made great progress in the last few days. It is probable, La Liberte states, that the event which the government expects as likely to exercise the chamber of deputies is not so much a feat of arms in Tonquin as China's adhesion to the basis of the treaty which has been suggested by England.

The Telegraph says the Marquis of Tseng has sent a note to Prime Minister Ferry, asking a suspension of war preparations in Tonquin to prevent a conflict which might compromise the negotiations.

La France states that Admiral Peyron has telegraphed the prefects of the maritime departments that, since a fresh dispatch of troops for Tonquin is not expected, it will not be necessary to continue any steps begun with ship owners for the employment of transports. These statements are not confirmed.

GOOD CLOTHES AT LAST.

LONDON, December 6.—The press association says the woman who accompanied O'Donnell to the Cape of Good Hope, sailed to-day on the steamer Germania from Liverpool for New York with a well dressed man, who was said to be a great fortune.

ROME, Dec. 6.—Signor Nicoletta, former minister of the interior, grossly insulted Signor Lovita, secretary of the minister of the interior, declaring he would like to spit in his face. Several deputies interposed and separated the men. Signor Lovita subsequently sent a challenge to Signor Nicoletta to fight a duel. The latter has accepted the challenge and appointed his seconds. The trouble arose from the fact that certain natives of Calabria, who had written a pamphlet insulting Signor Nicoletta, obtained employment under the government. Signor Nicoletta's action is generally censured, especially because it hitherto has been regarded as probable that he would again become minister.

A DISASTROUS FIRE.

BRUSSELS, December 6.—A fire, which broke out in the legislative chamber to-day, was not got under control till 10 o'clock to-night. The chamber of deputies, with outlying buildings, is a mass of ruins. The offices of the department of foreign affairs and the department of education sustained only slight damage. Several firemen were injured. It is reported that some grenadiers were killed by falling walls. The senate chamber proper escaped the flames. It is believed the fire originated in the cupola of the chamber of deputies, where there was a summer used for lighting the hall.

The flames, fanned by draft from the ventilating shaft, spread rapidly and were greatly helped by a strong northeast wind. The deputies were in session at the time the fire broke out. The famous library, containing many rare books and important documents, was also destroyed. The archives of the foreign department were saved.

THE BLAZE IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 6.—Six hundred houses, the Greek church and four synagogues were destroyed by the fire here. A storm prevailed at the time which added greatly to the sufferings of the homeless people.

THE BOYS GO OUT.

LONDON, December 6.—The boys in several colonies of South and West Yorkshire have struck for an increase in wages, throwing nearly 5,000 men into enforced idleness.

SARAH'S BROKEN ENGAGEMENT.

PARIS, Dec. 6.—The tribunal commerce has sentenced Sarah Bernhardt and husband jointly to pay 125,000 francs to the gentleman who stood part security to the manager of the Gaiety theatre, London, Sarah Bernhardt having broken her contract.

UTTERLY ANNIHILATED.—LONDON, December 6.—A Khartoum dispatch says that a dervish entered a bazaar there Wednesday evening and proclaimed the annihilation of Hicks Pasha's army near El Obeid. The dervish swore on the Koran that not one Egyptian soldier was left alive. In Khartoum 5,000 dervishes armed themselves, five hundred having beenington riles, and declared for El Mahdi. The mudar asks for instructions. A Cairo correspondent says the foregoing is the most serious news received since the news of the destruction of Hicks Pasha's army. Senaar is the granary of Khartoum. The proceedings at Senaar may be repeated at Khartoum or even at Assouan.

THE CLYDE SHIP BUILDERS.—Glasgow, December 6.—The crisis in the ship building trade on the Clyde is growing more intense. Three large firms, including Denny, have notified their employees that wages will be reduced in January, and several other firms will follow the example.

A COMMERCIAL TREATY.—LONDON, Dec. 6.—The foreign office announces that England and Spain will renew negotiations for a commercial treaty between the two countries.

THE SENQUIN CRISIS.—PARIS, Dec. 6.—The government has decided to commence the discussion of the Tonquin credits to-morrow (Friday) instead of Monday. The budget committee has approved the project for a cable from Sargon to Tonquin.

CHINA'S BACK UP.—HONG KONG, Dec. 6.—The government refuses to withdraw or modify its claim regarding Tonquin. It prefers war to surrender of the province to France. Large bodies of troops are continually

ON A NEW BASIS.

Frye's Proposed Regulation of Representation in the National Republican Convention.

The Effect of the Scheme on the Several States and Territories.

"Look and Tell Us: Who is Winning, Who is Losing, by this Plan of Frye of Maine?"

WASHINGTON, December 6.—To remedy a very grave injustice in the present representation of the republican national convention, which gives states and districts all over the country the same voice regardless of republican votes, when in some districts in the south even the form of nominating republican candidates for congress is not pursued, Senator Frye of Maine, a member of the republican national committee, will propose at the next meeting of the committee, on December 12th, a new basis of representation, as follows: Each state shall be entitled to four delegates as now, each district to one instead of two as now, to one additional delegate for each 10,000 votes cast within its limits in 1880 for the republican candidates for presidential electors, and to one additional delegate for a majority fraction of 10,000 votes. The vote for presidential electors is taken as the best indication of the real strength of the party, any district being less liable to be affected by local causes. The effect of this proposition, if adopted, upon the states and convention is shown by the annexed table compiled by application of the presidential vote to the districts as then existing. The application of the same rule to the present districts under the late apportionment could not just now be made, owing to the lack of necessary and accurate information, but will not materially change the relative strength of the several states, and will only increase the real membership of the convention about 80.

THE COTTON EXPOSITION.

NEW ORLEANS, La., December 6.—The board of managers of the world, industrial and cotton centennial exposition adopted the design proposed by G. M. Jorgensen, architect, of Meridian, Miss, for the main building. It will be 1500 feet long, and 900 wide, 1,000,398 square feet of floor space, including music hall in the centre, with a seating capacity of 12,000 persons. The design also provides for main offices, telegraph office, newspaper department, fire department, police hospital, waiting rooms and life saving apparatus. Ten plans were offered and three premiums awarded. The building will be the largest exposition building ever erected, except one in London, in 1862.

Desperate Attempt at Suicide.

CINCINNATI, O., December 6.—A. C. Ayers, local ticket agent of the Cincinnati Northern railroad, arrested last night for embezzlement, made a most desperate attempt this morning in the central station house to commit suicide. He cut his wrists with broken glass; a sharpened lead pencil was thrust deeply into his neck; then he used a pocket knife in an effort to cut his throat. He did this at 2 o'clock and then lay in the utmost agony hoping for death. He is a young man of good family and good education. He is unable to give a reason for his act.

A Disputed Ditch Settled.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, December 6.—Near Cincinnati, Ind., last evening, John J. Johnston was shot by Coleman Hawkins and dangerously wounded. After shooting Hawkins he returned home and shot himself, dying instantly. Both were wealthy farmers. Trouble arose from a dispute about a ditch between the farms.

The Dangers of Tenements.

NEW YORK, December 6.—During a fire in a tenement in the rear of 65th St., Bridget Murtha and a man named Sheehan, old people, were painfully overcome by smoke and may die. Two men leaped from the third story window.

Barium's New Hauling.

NEW YORK, December 6.—Barium, Bailey & Hutchins have received word from their agent in Rangoon, India, that he had completed the purchase of a genuine white elephant, recently captured in Siam and the property of a nobleman of that country. The price to be paid is \$200,000 in gold, and \$50,000 have been paid.

A Texas Rain Storm.

DALLAS, Tex., December 6.—The rain last night partially flooded the city building, which is rendered unsafe. The damage amounts to \$5,000. The damage to sewers and various stores is over \$10,000. The Herald's basement was flooded, damaging considerable material.

"There's Millions in It."

DALLAS, Tex., December 6.—The Mill Iron company consolidates with the Continental company the first Tuesday of January. The combination represents \$5,000,000 worth of cattle.

Thirty-Eight Lives Lost.

GLoucester, Mass., Dec. 6.—The fishing schooner Sultan and fourteen men, the Ruth Grover and twelve men, and the Maud F. Leighton and twelve men, are lost.

The Governor's Mission.

CHICAGO, Dec. 6.—The Inter Ocean's Lincoln, Neb., special says: Governor Daws left for Washington to-day to attend the meeting of the national republican committee to fix a place for holding the next national convention.

Closed For a Cut.

TRENTON, N. J., December 6.—The Trenton Iron company closed the rolling mill last night. Two hundred and fifty hands thrown out of employment. It is expected work will be resumed Monday at reduced wages.

A Mob Roadside.

DARDANELLE, Ark., December 6.—Four miles from Danville to-day the mail route was stopped by armed robbers, who took the letter pouch and disappeared in the woods.

A Mother's Desperation.

BATHING, December 6.—Mrs. Laura Ball, who killed her two children Friday last, and cut her throat, died this morning. She often expressed a wish to die and refused nourishment.

The Theft of "Supers."

CHICAGO, Ill., December 6.—Three "supers" employed at the grand opera house have been arrested, suspected of various thefts reported by members of

THE NEWHALL VICTIM'S MONUMENT.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 6.—The committee on erection of a monument to the victims of the Newhall holocaust of Jan. 16th last have reached a decision to build a shaft in Forest Home cemetery in spite of the request of the Catholic committee that half the fund be given for a monument in Cavalry cemetery. The reasons assigned are that the subscription lists all stated that subscriptions would be for the Forest Home, and the committee consider the fund a trust in their hands. They offer, however, to allow any Catholic subscriber to withdraw the money given in the next twenty days. In some quarters the feeling is bitter, but the majority of citizens hold feelings of the most kindly. The shaft will cost \$3,000, and will be put up in the spring.

A Fog Signal.

TORONTO, December 6.—There nothing in the so-called dynamite explosion last night. Some boys played a fog signal on the street railway track. The car passed over and it exploded with great violence. The shock threw the car from the rails and disabled it. Three or four passengers were badly shaken. No serious damage done to any one.

CROP STATISTICS.

The Besetting Sin of Agricultural Reporters.

To the Editor of The Bee.—I seldom trouble your pages, but as I take up various papers I see statistics given of the crops in this state and also from various counties. I wish to ask what is the use of statistics on crops? It is to give the people a correct knowledge of such, or is it to so enlarge the actual crop that grain speculators can cut down the price of what grain is actually worth to a less price, so they can rob the producer to put in their own pockets? I see by the report of State Secretary Wheeler, gathered from the secretaries of counties, that the average yield of corn in Nebraska this year is 41 bushels. The county in which I live had planted last spring 45,000 acres of corn. This, at that rate, gives our county 1,845,000 bushels of corn. Have we got it? During the season we have had three storms that have destroyed wheat, oats and corn, at least 50 per cent on the territory of those storms, which amounts to several thousand acres. I have conversed much with farmers on this point. Some say the crop will be near what it did last year, "25 bushels." Some that "it will not average as much." Others that "it will go more." I believe it will all, it will average 25 to 30 bushels. There are pieces that will go to 80 bushels. I saw in a Chicago paper a report from this county that the wheat crop would average 20 bushels. In the neighborhood where I live the wheat crop is about 30 bushels. I have threshed but one piece of 9 acres that averaged 20 1/2. I believe a fair average of the wheat is 12 1/2 bushels. Does it benefit the farmer to over-estimate the crop? In no case, but it is a damage every time. What rules should be adopted in averaging crops? Says Commissioner Loring, "in estimating the yield per acre, remember all acreage which has been cultivated even though it returns no more than the seed corn is to be considered. The estimating too high a yield per acre is the besetting sin of agricultural reporters. The corn crop of the state was put at 60 bushels last year. Corn this year is much of it, soft in the best pieces I have seen or heard of in this county. The quality of corn will not go over 85 per cent of last year's crop. The average yield is rather better, except in the storm tracks. I believe reporting of crops requires much more study and knowledge than is generally given to it, and how the time will come when it will be better understood, so the world will be the better benefited thereby. SIMON. ACRORA, Neb., Dec. 1, 1883.

CORN AND POLITICS.

ROUGH WEATHER FOR THE REPUBLICANS.—Corn husking is well under way and it is turning out very poor. There is not a quarter of a crop of sound corn in the county. I should have written to THE BEE sooner, but I got so terribly broken up on the day of election by the political cyclone which swept over our county like a political besom of destruction, which landed so many of the boys amid the rained wastes around the head of Salt Creek. The republican boat has made some splendid races and weathered some fearful gales, but the great amount of corruption which she has been loaded with for some years, has so rotted her timbers that the cyclone and torpedo which George W. Brown and his friends exploded right under her stern, loaded with concentrated political dynamite, was too much for her. She is now out of the water, and her crew lost. Candidates for the different county offices, and Reese and Tiffany only were saved by the skin of their teeth, although Loran Clark was running her under double reefed top sails, and her hatches battened down. How different it was three years ago! Then she was calm and we could sail her in an untroubled sea with every sail set without changing the rudder, like a ship in the trades on the bosom of the broad Pacific. Our candidate for treasurer, Colonel Harris, was beaten by Sam Bolman by 534 votes, and James S. Armstrong got away with our man's scalp for county judge by 78, and J. C. Green laid out two men for sheriff by 110 votes. Dr. D. H. Lewis cleaned out our man, Dr. Brown, for coroner by 237 votes, and J. C. Lewis buried our man for commissioner under a snow bank of 296 votes. H. F. Snider polished our man for surveyor by 68 votes, and Reese only got 62 majority, and he ought to have got over 600. Tiffany only got 146, and he ought to have got over 800. Our candidate for clerk was recognized in the wreck amid the maelstrom by his red beard struggling for dear life, and was only saved by one vote. And now the antics are going to content his right to live, Poor Peters, that red beard has often bled before his comrades in the front ranks of the war, where the battle was the hottest, like the white plume of Navarre. We thought the anti movement was dead, but this is the second time it has fooled us by rising up like the bird of fable, each time stronger and stronger. We ought to have won, as we had both county papers on our side, besides nearly all the prominent men; also nearly all the money, and money will buy whiskey. And we had the principal portion of the ignoramus on our side, which means the right voters. Oh! what must we prominent men do? We must have an issue to attract the voters from the pestiferous anti monopoly movement or we will lose our passage sure. Waving the bloody shirt is played out except among the Rip Van Winkles. One of the boys.

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SNOW AND WIND.

Denver Has an Unparalleled Experience in the Storm Line.

Havoc Wrought With Electric Wires of All Kinds.

A DISASTROUS STORM.

DENVER HEAVILY VISITED.—DENVER, December 6.—A snow and wind storm visited this section last night which in disastrous effects is without a parallel in the history of Colorado. Snow commenced falling at noon and continued all night. The weather was warm and attached itself to telegraph wires until they were two inches in diameter. At four o'clock this morning the wind blew almost a gale and in about half an hour later 300 poles, 18 inches in diameter were blown down carrying a mass of wires. Fifteenth, eighteenth and Lawrence streets and a dozen others were blocked. All trains were delayed until this evening. Outside communication was completely cut off. The telephone companies will probably lose \$15,000. The damage to railroad, telegraph, electric light and district messenger communications heavy. Strangely no loss of life is reported and no serious accidents. The storm was entirely local.

Congress and Caucus.

WASHINGTON, December 6.—In the house Mr. McCord took the oath of office. Adjourned until Monday. The democratic senators held a caucus this morning. Pendleton presiding, to arrange the party's members of the committee. Some feeling was displayed in respect to the habit of older members securing a majority of the important places on the committees to the exclusion of the younger members. The following committee was appointed to arrange the minority membership to the best interests of all and report their action at the next caucus: Harris, Cockrell, Garland, Butler, George, Morgan and Call. The executive order consolidating internal revenue districts was revoked as applied to Wisconsin districts.

In the senate, Mr. Manderson presented the resolutions of the Nebraska legislature, asking that land grant roads be compelled to take out patents so that the lands may be taxed, also to remove the duty on barbed wire, and for the improvement of the Missouri river.

There is much opposition among old members of the house against the efforts of new members to gobble up positions on important committees. Mr. Morrison will get the chairmanship of the ways and means and Mr. Rand will get the chairmanship of the appropriations committee.

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NEW YORK, December 6.—The national temperance society has adopted resolutions asking congress to amend the constitution of the United States, so as to prohibit the liquor traffic entirely.

THE NEWHALL VICTIM'S MONUMENT.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 6.—The committee on erection of a monument to the victims of the Newhall holocaust of Jan. 16th last have reached a decision to build a shaft in Forest Home cemetery in spite of the request of the Catholic committee that half the fund be given for a monument in Cavalry cemetery. The reasons assigned are that the subscription lists all stated that subscriptions would be for the Forest Home, and the committee consider the fund a trust in their hands. They offer, however, to allow any Catholic subscriber to withdraw the money given in the next twenty days. In some quarters the feeling is bitter, but the majority of citizens hold feelings of the most kindly. The shaft will cost \$3,000, and will be put up in the spring.

A Fog Signal.

TORONTO, December 6.—There nothing in the so-called dynamite explosion last night. Some boys played a fog signal on the street railway track. The car passed over and it exploded with great violence. The shock threw the car from the rails and disabled it. Three or four passengers were badly shaken. No serious damage done to any one.

CROP STATISTICS.

The Besetting Sin of Agricultural Reporters.