

THE KNIGHTS REJOICING.

New York dispatch: Cardinal Gibbons favorable report to Pope Leo as to the aims and standing of the Knights of Labor, set forth in the cable dispatches from Rome, was received with much rejoicing by the Knights of Labor in this city. The position taken by Cardinal Gibbons, they say, will settle the whole matter. He is an especial favorite with the pope, and his advocacy of the treatment of any matter in which the United States is concerned will, they declare, be taken as it is given. This report of Cardinal Gibbons has no bearing whatever on the McGlynn case, nor will its endorsement by the pope carry with it anything more than the approval of the general plan of the order.

THE SENATE AND HOUSE.**What is Being Done in Both Branches of the National Congress.**

SENATE, Feb. 26.—The conference committee on the postoffice appropriation bill reported disagreement on the subsidy section and it was ordered that the senate ask for further consideration. The agricultural appropriation bill was taken up and passed with some amendments. Messages were presented from the president vetoing pension bills for Anna Wright and Sarah Hamilton. The conference committee on the house bill to restrict the ownership of real estate in territories to American citizens made a report, which was agreed to. Dawes presented the conference report on the Indian appropriation bill. Agreed to. The senate bill to reimburse the deposit of the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company was taken up, discussed, amended and passed.

HOUSE, Feb. 26.—Willis (Ky.) moved that the rules be suspended and the senate amendment to the river and harbor appropriation bill be non-concurred in. Agreed to. The house then went into committee of the whole on the naval appropriation bill. Several amendments were adopted, the bill reported to the house and passed. At the evening session the house went into committee of the whole on the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill. The reading was continued and completed at 10 o'clock, and then the committee rose. In the house Holman moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill. A long discussion followed, and at midnight the house adjourned without further action.

SENATE, Feb. 28.—The house labor arbitration bill was passed without amendment. The house bill to prevent employment of convict or alien labor upon public buildings, or on public works, or in the preparation of material for public buildings, or public works, was passed. The bill to provide for the adjustment of land grants heretofore made by congress and remaining unadjusted, was passed after the adoption of sundry amendments and a conference was ordered on it. Upon motion of Senator Miller the pleuro-pneumonia bill was up. Senator Van Wyck renewed his amendment, extending the application of the bill to the small pox and cholera and other contagious diseases among swine, adopted. The bill was passed; yeas 32, nays 19. Senator Edmunds, from the conference committee on the bill respecting the fisheries, made a long report as to the difficulties existing in the conference and which prevented an agreement.

HOUSE, Feb. 28.—The house, in committee of the whole, considered the legislative appropriation bill. On motion of Mr. Cox, of North Carolina, an amendment was adopted increasing from \$2,000 to \$4,000 the appropriation for traveling expenses of the civil service commission. P. M. O'Neill, of Missouri, called attention to the hard-working employees of the bureau of engraving and printing, and offered an amendment granting all such employees an annual leave of absence. Adopted. At 1:10 a. m., without having concluded consideration of one half of the bill, the committee rose and the house took a recess until 11 o'clock to-morrow.

SENATE, March 1.—The naval appropriation bill was read a second time and referred to the committee on appropriations. Fifty-seven pension bills were then passed in twenty-five minutes. The conference report on the river and harbor bill was presented by Senator McMillan and adopted. The bill, as it came from the house originally, appropriated, he said, \$7,468,000; as it passed the senate it appropriated \$10,620,000; as now reported from the conference committee it appropriated \$9,313,800. The conference report was agreed to without amendment and referred to the committee. The senate then resumed the consideration of the bill for the forfeiture of certain railroad land grants in Michigan, and the bill was passed without division. Other bills were taken from the calendar and passed as follows: Senate bill to authorize the construction of a bridge across the Missouri river at near Hanksville, D. T.; senate bill to quiet the title of settlers on Des Moines river lands in Iowa. The legislative appropriation bill was read the second time, Senator Edmunds not being present, and referred to the committee on appropriations.

HOUSE, March 1.—On motion of Mr. Townsend, of Illinois, the bill making appropriations for the payment of Mexican pensions was passed. It appropriates \$2,300,000 for the remainder of the current fiscal year and \$4,600,000 for the next fiscal year. The conference report on the Indian appropriation bill was submitted and agreed to. Mr. Burnes of Missouri moved to suspend the rules and pass the deficiency appropriation bill. Another hour was consumed in reading this measure. The motion to suspend the rules was agreed to and the bill was passed with the amendment appropriating \$2,000 for printing additional silver certificates and legal tender notes of the denominations of \$1 and \$2. Mr. Holman of Indiana moved to suspend the rules and put upon its passage the legislative appropriation bill. The legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill then passed under a suspension of the rules. In the evening session a large number of bills were passed authorizing the construction of bridges, among them the following: Across the Missouri river at Kansas City and at Omaha; across the Mississippi river at Keokuk. Adjourned.

SENATE, March 2.—The house amendment to the senate bill authorizing a bridge across the Missouri river between Omaha and Council Bluffs was, on motion of Senator Wilson of Iowa, concurred in. The senate proceeded to the consideration of the naval appropriation bill. A number of amendments were offered and adopted, after which the bill passed. Senator Hoar, from the conference committee on the Pacific railroad inquiry bill, made a report which was agreed to. The bill now goes to the president. On motion of Senator Mahone the senate bill for the erection of a national memorial bridge over the Potomac from Washington to Arlington was taken up and passed. It appropriates \$500,000 to commence the bridge, which is to be in honor of Lincoln and Grant. Senator Callon proposed amendment providing that the appointment of assessors of the district courts of the United States including judges of the supreme court of the District of Columbia, shall be \$5,000 per annum, and that no person related to any justice or judge of any of the United States courts within the degree of first cousin shall hereafter be appointed to assessors of the court of which such justice or judge is a member; was agreed to, and the bill was then passed, 44 to 6.

HOUSE, March 2.—The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Crisp, and the senate amendments to the house joint resolution for the investigation of the accounts of the Pacific railroads were non-concurred in. The senate amendments to the naval appropriation bill were not concurred in, and Messrs. Herbert, Sayers, and Thomas, of Illinois, were appointed conferees. On motion of Voorhees, of Washington territory, the bill amending the laws concerning the title and righting a portion of Idaho to Washington territory. The conferees on the Pacific railroad investigation resolution reached a complete agreement. The house conferees adopt the senate amendment, but the clause creating a commission is modified by striking out the requirement that the commission shall be subject to confirmation by the senate, and so arranging the phraseology that the president's power to appoint them during recess shall be beyond question. The house laid on the table the motion to reconsider the vote by which the house receded from its amendments to the senate's retaliatory bill.

SENATE, March 3.—At a few minutes before 11 o'clock the senate closed the legislative day of Wednesday by adjournment, and at 11 opened the last legislative day of the Forty-ninth congress. The resolution offered yesterday for the appointment of a select committee of five senators to examine into the business methods of the executive departments at Washington, the causes of delay in the transaction of business, and to the necessity for additional buildings, was taken up and conferred some debate agreed to. Mr. Allison, from the committee on appropriations, reported back the house bill appropriating \$6,900,000 for the payment of pensioners of the Mexican war. Passed. On motion of Mr. Allison, of Iowa, the veto of last evening of the bill to amend the act in reference to the jurisdiction of the United States courts was passed and reconsidered, and the veto agreeing to Mr. Callon's amendment fixing the salaries of judges at \$5,000 and prohibiting the appointment of relatives as court officials, was also reconsidered, and the bill was passed and a conference asked.

HOUSE, March 3.—Mr. Cox of North Carolina moved to suspend the rules and pass the senate bill repealing the tenure of office act. The motion was agreed to and the bill was passed—yeas 172, nays 69. Mr. Anderson of Iowa moved to suspend the rules and pass the senate bill granting a pension of \$2,000 a year to Mary S. Logan, widow of the late John A. Logan. The motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill was lost—yeas 145, nays 113—not the necessary two-thirds in the affirmative. On motion of the speaker, John Porter, of Ohio, moved over the president's veto—yeas 133, nays 64—the senate bill for the erection of a public building at Dayton, O. Mr. Grosvenor of Ohio called up the vetoed bill granting a pension to Sally Ann Bradley. The house refused to pass the bill over the veto—yeas, 122—not the constitutional two-thirds in the affirmative.

SENATE, March 4.—The senate confirmed the nominations of Capt. A. W. Greeley to be brigadier general and James M. Trotter to be recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia. The deficiency bill was passed, but failed for time to engross it. The senate bill appropriating \$30,000 for the senate investigations ordered this session, and the house bill for a loan of government articles to the industrial exhibition at Minneapolis, passed. Senators Sherman and Salisbury were appointed to join a like committee appointed by the house to inquire into the conduct of the president and inform him that the two houses had completed their business and were ready to adjourn. During the closing quarter hour of the senate the enrolled District of Columbia appropriation bill was signed by the president and sent to the president for signature. The conference report on the deficiency bill could not be reported in time and died. The usual resolution of thanks was tendered to the presiding officer and the president having signified that he had nothing further to communicate, the senate was declared adjourned.

HOUSE, March 4.—Mr. Nelson, of Minnesota, moved to suspend the rules to pass a bill granting to the Clark Fork and Cook City Railroad company the right of way through the Crow reservation in Montana. Agreed to and the bill passed. Mr. Blount announced that the conference report of the bill had reached an agreement by the recession of the postoffice appropriation of the conferees from the subsidy amendment. The report was agreed to, thus disposing of the bill finally. The river and harbor bill failed to receive the senator's signature. It reached him several days ago, but was pocketed. A message received from the president saying he had no further communications to make to congress, and the speaker, after a short speech thanking the members for their resolution, declared the house adjourned. It is said that the white house that there is no probability of a special session being called by the president for the purpose of acting on nominations or for any other purpose. The inter-state commerce commission and the successor of Secretary Manning will probably be appointed next week, or the week following.

THE ANNEXATION QUESTION.

It is Being Discussed by the People of Newfoundland.

New York dispatch: A Halifax dispatch to the World says: The publication of the address of the Newfoundland legislature to the imperial government has produced a sensation. If it is not a declaration of independence, it is the next thing to it. No such defiant document has been received by the imperial government from any colony since the American colonies.

The Newfoundlanders tell the imperial government that they own their fisheries and do not propose to pay the slightest heed to French or American interests or brook any interference from the imperial government. Newfoundland, in fact, stands on the right to make its own laws, control its own property and preserve its existence as a community, let the effect be what it may. The situation is so serious that both Premier Thornburn and Sir Ambrose Shea, leader of the opposition, have left the legislature to take care of itself and gone to London to represent the prevailing feeling in Newfoundland. Meanwhile while the press and people are universally discussing the benefit of annexation to the United States. Anything but total independence from the present state of affairs, and if annexation were submitted to a popular vote it would be carried by a three-fourths majority. Newfoundland finds itself between the devil and the deep sea. On one hand it is driven out of the European market by French vessels, who receive subsidies from the French government equal to 60 per cent, and they are compelled by the English government to supply the French rivals with bait, without which they could not catch a single fish. On the other hand they are at the mercy of Americans, for strange as it may seem, the treaty of 1818 between the United States and Great Britain has put Newfoundland by royal proclamation, is null and void as far as that colony is concerned, and every denial of commercial privileges to American vessels last year had not even the authority of that antiquated treaty for excuse. Hence the necessity of a bait bill which denied them in England.

A SUMMARY OF THINGS DONE.

What Was Done and What Left Undone by the Late Congress.

Washington dispatch: The congress which ended its existence at noon to-day has afforded a striking illustration of the constant increase in the volume of legislation demanding the attention of congress, which has been going on for the last three or more congresses. More bills were introduced in both houses, more committee reports made, more bills passed, more became laws, and more were vetoed, than ever before. Most of the measures were of comparative unimportance, such as the bills granting private pensions and special relief, authorizing the erection of bridges, granting a right of way, and the like; but many, not only of the bills and reports presented, but of the laws enacted, were of general interest and importance. The number of bills enacted into laws were old and familiar claimants for legislative favor. In this category belong the presidential succession bill, the electoral count bill, the interstate commerce bill, and the bill for the total number of laws enacted was, according to the record in the senate there were introduced 3,357 bills and 118 joint resolutions, on which 1,988 written reports were made, being upwards of 500 more bills and over 400 more reports than in the record-breaking forty-eighth congress. The total number of laws enacted was, approximately, 1,391, of which 1,053 originated in the house and 338 in the senate. Two hundred and sixty-four of these became laws by the expiration of the constitutional ten days' limitation. Fifty bills failed to become laws owing to the adjournment of congress, nine of them at the close of the first session. There were 132 bills vetoed by the president, or twenty-one more instances of the exercise of the presidential prerogative of veto than had occurred from the foundation of the government down to the beginning of this congress. Of the bills vetoed, nine were introduced in the house and thirty-nine in the senate. Only one private bill (that granting a pension to Joseph Romseier) and one public bill (that providing for the erection of a government building at Dayton, O.), succeeded in passing both houses after the president's veto, although many others obtained the requisite two-thirds vote in the senate only to fail in the house.

The draft roll of this congress was also an extraordinary one, comprising the unprecedented number of thirteen names in the house and senate. Only one election was decided by the house against a sitting member and congress was characterized by an absence of that acrimonious discussion which such contests usually awaken. The Rhode Island case of Page vs. Pierce, in which the house decided that neither party was entitled to a seat and a new election was ordered, was the only one of a seat being taken from a sitting member.

Of 1,053 house bills which became laws, 275 were of a more or less public nature; of the remaining 778 bills (granting pensions of relief to specially designated persons), 156 became laws without the approval of the president.

Of the total number of bills which passed the senate 320 became laws, including 115 of a public and 205 of a strictly private nature. The senate bills vetoed were thirty-nine in number, eleven being of a public and twenty-eight of a private character. The ninety-three house bills vetoed included eighty-seven private bills and six of a public nature. Bills establishing additional aid to navigation at the mouth of the Mississippi, and forbidding the coasting trade to the Wisconsin state line also failed in conference, while the bill to create a department of agriculture and labor, was killed by the inability of its friends to send it to the conference committee. About 150 bills and joint resolutions which passed the house failed of action in the senate, some of which, however, were defeated by adverse committee reports. About 750 bills passed by the senate failed of passage in the house. The Cameron-Hale twin bills appropriating \$25,000,000 for the increase of the navy were sent to the naval committee and died there, although a fast vessel, released from a vessel was inserted in the naval appropriation bill. The twin fortifications bills which passed the senate were allowed to sleep in the house appropriations committee room. The Dakota admission bill still slumbers on the house calendar. The bill to repeal the law that forbids the territory failed of action, as did the bill to grant Dearborn park to the city of Chicago. The following measures of national importance failed of action of an affirmative nature in either house: The Morrison and other tariff bills, which the house on a last vote refused to reconsider; various bills on the silver question; to establish a uniform bankruptcy law. The Hennepin canal bill, the Oklahoma bill, and the Dunn Free Ship bill were all reported from the house committees and all failed to get beyond the stage of general debate. Bills to repeal the insolvency law and to grant women suffrage were killed in the house by adverse committee reports and in the senate by adverse test votes. The resolution favoring open executive sessions was defeated in the senate. Owing to the failure of the deficiency bill, the recent attempt to repeal the insolvency law by system to cities and towns having not less than ten thousand inhabitants or a postal revenue of not less than \$10,000 becomes operative until the beginning of the next fiscal year when the regular appropriation act goes into effect.

CONFERENCE OF TRAFFIC MANAGERS.

New York dispatch: At the conference of traffic managers, freight agents and railroad vice presidents and managers, held here to-day, one classification committee's report was discussed and it was accepted by the conference as read. It is understood that the adjustment of the rates proposed in the report has given general satisfaction to railroad men. The committee appointed to consider the system of wholesale reduction of traveling rates on excursions and excursion parties will make its report this week. Some of the western men were in favor of applying the new law very strictly, but the eastern agents took a different view of the question and consider that the present system will not conflict with the new inter-state commerce law. It is expected that the conference will arrive at a definite understanding to-day.

The report of the committee on classification in profit freight forty-seven gauleys of piece type, thirty six wide, the classification being made under existing law, formerly nearly 100 classes. The revised rates go into effect April 1. The territory covered by the new regulations will be all that north of the Ohio river and east of the Mississippi. The east and west bound freights will be leveled.

Russia has just purchased several large steamships for her navy, and it is hinted, of transporting troops to Vladivostok.

THE STRIKE PROBLEM.

Report of the Committee Appointed to Inquire Into Railroad Troubles.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Chairman Curtis of the select committee created by the house of representatives to inquire into the cause and extent of the western railroad strikes, today submitted the report of that committee. By far the larger part is devoted to a history of the origin and progress of the Missouri Pacific strike and a recapitulation of the testimony taken by the committee.

In summing up the report, he says: With regard to the general question of the right of workmen to combine for determining with their employers the terms on which only they will work for them, provided the combination is perfectly voluntary and full liberty be left to all other workers to undertake the work, we think there is no ground in justice or sound policy for withholding such a right from the workmen. Workmen may reasonably claim to be allowed any advantage which they may derive from such combination, but special care should be taken that equal rights be secured to these workmen who desire to keep aloof from the combination and to be perfectly voluntary and full liberty of movement. There can be no doubt that the concentration of wealth and power and the expressions which have occurred as shown in the evidence taken have promoted the interest of the laborer as generally appeared. Whatever remedy will give protection to the capital invested in the railroads of the country and at the same time protect the employes from injustice and oppression, it will be found that the best way together, as a single instrument of our interstate commerce, be looked upon as the servants of the people of the United States and as such be regulated and protected by law.

Whatever may be the defense of the interstate commerce law, an enlightened commissioner, soon to be appointed, will recommend prompt legislation to give the protection which is needed to those who are interested in the railroad and property interests and management of the railroads. The majority of your committee can not believe that arbitration can be effective for the reason that there must be two parties to arbitration and either of them is generally represented by men who had power over certain laborers or persons employed on the road. Noticeably they were asked to work more hours than were contracted for; they were reduced in their time without pay; they were kept on the road at night, without provision being made whereby they could obtain sleep, to make repairs of bridges or on parts of the road which had been destroyed by accident, and were not permitted to travel at night for their own protection, and were not given transportation on the road back to their home. These grievances were to a great extent unhappy incidents of the dispute leading to the strike.

It is also shown that the Texas and Pacific company had what is known as a "black list," which contained the names of some of the persons. By no combination of capital or to no extent of incorporated power can the list of American citizens as unworthy of employment be justified. Having cited the express provision of the constitution authorizing congress to regulate commerce among the states, we need but refer to the statutes which protect the roads and regulating commerce upon the high seas and on our navigable rivers, in defining the duties, obligations of and penalties fixed therein, as proof that ample power to control over the matter is conferred upon congress, and as well as the rights and duties of the employer as of the employe, therein existed and has been and may be further exercised. This is a unanimous report, but it must be remembered that the Texas and Pacific company, of compromise, and therefore individual members of the committee reserve the right to differ from some of the conclusions.

CONFESSION ON THE WALLS.

Mrs. Druse Acknowledges Murder Before Her Life Was Shut Out.

HERKIMER (N. Y.) dispatch: The criminal for which Mrs. Druse suffered was the murder of her husband in December, 1884. After the services last evening Mrs. Druse remained until 11:30. Deputy Sheriff Marion, with Mr. and Mrs. Watterman, the death watch, induced her to lie down, and she had about an hour's quiet sleep. She awoke with a start, and upon rising began to write letters as calmly as she had any time during her incarceration. In one of these she thanked the sheriff for his kindness to her, and asked that her body might be given to her pastor for Christian burial. After writing she lay down again and fell into a doze. She was attacked with hysteria in violent form and it required considerable effort upon the part of the watchers to attend to her. During the night she ate one of the heartiest meals she had eaten since she was a prisoner. She had about two hours rest before 4 o'clock a. m., but did not sleep sound. One of her first visitors this morning was Supt. Irving Terry, of the Onondaga penitentiary, who brought her a parcel for her daughter Mary, who is a life prisoner. This visit had a most exciting effect upon Mrs. Druse. The Rev. Dr. Powell visited Mrs. Druse about 9 o'clock and did all in his power to calm her and prepare her for the awful moment. Every room leading into town was dotted with sleighs crowded with fur-coated men and not a few women. The crowd in the streets increased on the arrival of every train, and in spite of the extreme cold the men, women and children stood about the streets surrounding the jail. The exact number was witnessed by twenty-five persons, including the officials.

Yesterday morning Mrs. Druse made a confession to Dr. Powell, her spiritual adviser, in which she declared that Charles Gates had instigated her to commit the murder, and she had committed the crime with a revolver. She declared that after she fired the first shot Gates fired three succeeding shots from the window. She confessed to having cut up her husband's body and that Gates took the body away and buried it. She related that she killed Druse because he had treated her cruelly and brutally.

Mrs. Druse maintained her composure on the scaffold until the cap was drawn over her, when she began to moan, and finally screamed so loudly that she could be heard in the street and adjoining jail. The team was apprised and after she fell she made but one convulsive movement.

A CHANGE IN FREIGHT RATES.

Chicago dispatch: The general managers of the Western Freight association lines to-day partly agreed upon an advance in through rates between Council Bluffs and Chicago. Unless the managers reconsider their action the tariff rates after April 1 will be as follows: East bound wheat, Omaha to Chicago, 25 cents a hundred; corn, 22 cents; live stock per car, \$70. The old rate is \$45; hogs \$60; packing house products, 5 cents per 100 above Kansas City rates. On charges covering merchandise between Council Bluffs and Kansas City rates will about correspond. In the northwest an attempt will be made to advance all rates, except flour and grain, from 5 to 10 cents per 100, although at least one of the roads is opposed to any increase on the ground that it is called upon to haul its own business and protect others. Another session will be held to-morrow.

THE GERMAN SITUATION.

Bismarck's Victory a Thorough One in All Respects.

London dispatch: The sensitive barometer of the stock exchange has been showing of late a degree of steadiness which indicates the prevalence of faith in the great European bureau that the political atmosphere is not in immediate danger of disturbance by war. Prince Bismarck has carried his point in the German election, and has obtained in the new reichstag not only sufficient strength to insure the passage of the septennate bill, but also a good working majority for his general policy of government. He might not be able to push his monopolistic prospects to an extreme but he has obtained the mastery of parliament by the success of his appeal to the electors, and as long as he keeps within reasonable bounds he can count upon shaping legislation at his pleasure. According to the latest figures from Berlin 336 members are defeated, leaving sixty-one districts which supplementary electors will fill. The elected members comprise 195 supporters and 141 opponents of the septennate, a provisional majority of fifty-four for the army policy of the new government. In the sixty-one constituencies which have still to elect it is estimated that the result will be as follows: National liberals fourteen, conservatives six, free conservatives two, a total of twenty-two for the government; new German liberals twenty-four, social democrats eight, ultra-montanes seven, a total of thirty-nine for the opposition. If this estimate is borne out at the polls the next reichstag will contain 217 supporters and 180 opponents of the septennate, a majority of thirty-seven for the government on that issue. Of the 217 members classed as septennatists, only two are likely to break with the government on general issues. Thus it is computed that outside the army question, Prince Bismarck will have 215 adherents ranked in three parties; the national liberals and the two conservative divisions while the combined opposition will number 182 made up of a heterogeneous collection of all shades and stripes, political, economic and national. In the last reichstag the government could muster only 156 supporters against 241 opponents. If the supplementary elections sustain the estimate I have given the outcome of Prince Bismarck's appeal to the voters will be a conversion of a minority of the five into a majority of thirty-three, a relief of good fortune for the government. The national liberals, who form the main body of the supporter of the administration have, as their actual sentiment, a desire to perpetuate the institutions established after the wars of 1866 and 1870. Hence, though they do not give the champion of the conservative junkers, they are willing to go to a considerable length in sustaining him and form, on the whole, a trusty prop for his policy.

A PERFECT UNDERSTANDING.

Washington dispatch: "A perfect understanding exists between Daniel Manning and Mr. Cleveland," exclaimed a prominent democratic leader of New York to-day. Secretary Manning retires now with a good record, and before the end of the summer will be the most prominent candidate for the presidency, and endorsed by his closest friend, and Mr. Manning was pushed to the front. This was the understanding between Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Manning two years ago, and both men are shaping events to carry the plan to a successful consummation. At the close of his present term the president will sell his private property in Washington at an advance of \$40,000, and accept the presidency of a large New York life insurance company, at a salary nearly equal to his present compensation. None of Mr. Cleveland's acts since he assumed the presidential office have been directed towards securing votes in the future; none of his assertions have been made with a view of increasing his political popularity. Manning and Carlisle will be the strong democratic ticket for 1888.

The intimate friends of Speaker Carlisle are active in the strongest possible efforts to decline the offer of the secretaryship of the treasury, the chairmanship of the interstate commerce commission, or any other office under the administration. His friends state that Mr. Carlisle's name is pretty certain to be placed on the presidential ticket for 1888, and any change for that time would imperil his chance, for his nomination either for the first or second place in 1888 can scarcely be prevented.

EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS.

Washington dispatch: The prospect of an extra session of congress resulting from a failure to pass all needed and necessary appropriation bills is seriously discussed here to-night, and one is sure to come unless congress transacts more business within the remaining four legislative days of the session than it has been known to do for the last twenty years. Opinions of members of the appropriation committees of the two houses are most valuable in predicting a result one way or another, and leading and well-informed members of these committees differ about it. Mr. Allison, chairman of the senate appropriations committee, feels doubtful, while Mr. Beck, another member of that committee, thinks it extremely doubtful whether all the appropriation bills can be cleared up in time for adjournment at noon next Friday. Representative Lefevre, of the house appropriation committee, says things are in a bad muddle, and thinks the passage of all appropriation bills before the time fixed for adjournment looks doubtful. Mr. Randall, chairman of the house committee, and who, perhaps, knows better than any congressman the amount of work to be done before the day of adjournment, thinks there is ample time to pass all the appropriation bills. He has purposely delayed on appropriation bills in order to prevent during the last days of congress a rush of unnecessary and perhaps pernicious legislation. Frequently the last six days of the session has witnessed a scramble for the passage, under suspension of the rules, of all sorts of bills, good, bad and indifferent, and Mr. Randall, it is said, is determined this year to prevent a recurrence of such hasty legislation by keeping the appropriation bills in the way and using up the remaining time of the session with their consideration and passage.

A physician whose specialty is anal diseases has been studying the relation of anal fistula to consumption. It is an old idea that an anal fistula has a good effect in cases of consumption, but this physician says that an improvement in consumptive symptoms which follows the occurrence of a fistula is not permanent. He says: "As a general rule, these fistulae greatly aggravate the pulmonary affection by impairing the conditiional powers, especially attended by copious discharge of pus, and much irritation. The principal indication in such cases is to build up, not to deplete.—Dr. Foote's Health Month-ly."

The average daily delivery of letters in Paris is 490,000. On Dec. 31 it rises to about 1,000,000, and reaches 1,600,000 on New Year's day. After this it drops to 500,000 or 600,000, and reaches the usual level on Jan. 6 or 7.

Changes in the Eternal City.

The government is tearing down old landmarks, writes a Rome correspondent of *The Louisville Courier-Journal*,—yes, and the streets they are cutting are broad and healthy, and with sidewalks, and I say this last with all thankfulness; for on this side of the water you have to pay a fine if you get run over. Rows of new houses are going up in every direction, and Rome is clean—that is to say, as clean as Paris. But "ruining Rome!" is still the cry. Well, maybe, as a picture; but financially they are making Rome; and who can blame a people for trying to progress? An Indian village may be picturesque, and feathers, and blankets, and war paint what the traveling stranger may wish to see when he comes to America after reading Mr. Cooper; but it could scarcely be expected that New York or Boston should continue in this primitive state. And, indeed, as to ruining Rome one must designate which Rome is meant, and define what they mean by "ruin." For instance, Urban VIII. took away the gilt-bronze ceiling of the portico of the Pantheon to ornament St. Peter's; and Benedict XIV. took away all the marble from the outside. Paul III. plundered the Coliseum and the theater of Marcellus to build the Farnese palace. Alexander VII. had the triumphal march of Marcus Aurelius torn down in order to widen the Corso; the reliefs are in the capitol; the columns are in the church of St. Agnes. The palace of the Cancelleria, begun by one cardinal and finished by another, was built of blocks of travertine from the Coliseum; the granite pillars were from the theater of Pompey. Palazzo Venezia was built from the Coliseum for Paul II. The arch of Constantine was plundered by Clement VIII. The seven grand columns of the temple of Pallas Minerva were destroyed by Paul V., part of them being used to build the Fontana Paolina. The Barberini palace was built from the Coliseum by Urban VIII. These are only a few instances, yet I think they will serve to show that Rome was ruined before the present government touched it. "But that was only pagan Rome," they say. Pagan Rome? To a traveler from the most modern of all countries—a pilgrim from the latest born of all the nations—clean, brisk, bright, well-fed, well-balanced America—for so she seems, looking back to her from the midst of these blood-stained old countries, rusty with iniquity—to such a one Rome seems pagan still. On the Capitoline they worship now a painted wooden doll—the sacred Bambino. This idol is kept in the Church of Santa Maria in Araceli, on one side of the Campidoglio; the lean, old bronze wolf is kept in the hall of the Conservatori, on the other side the Campidoglio; where is the wide difference? They say, "We do not worship the Bambino," and yet to see that crowd fall down when that wooden doll is raised aloft—some kissed the floor, and the floor was very dirty—that surely seemed like worship. "But only the ignorant," they explain. Very true, only "the poor and the ignorant" worship. Standing in the grand Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore on Christmas day, one realizes this very vividly.

The Growth of Our Cities.

The New York World Almanac contains a statement of the present population of the principal cities of the Union, as estimated in each case by the Mayor or some other officer of the municipal government, being guided in many cases by recent censuses. New York, with 1,400,000, and Philadelphia, with 1,000,000, hold first and second places undisputed. Brooklyn, claiming 710,000, and Chicago, 705,000, stand next in order, and it is evident that the former will give way when the next Federal census is taken in 1890. Baltimore claims fifth place with 460,000, St. Louis next with 450,000, and Boston seventh with 405,000. In 1880 in these cities the order was reversed. Cincinnati and San Francisco each claim 300,000, the latter gaining on the former. New Orleans ranks next with 240,000, but Buffalo, claiming 225,000, has passed Cleveland and Pittsburgh, and at its rate of progress will soon overhau New Orleans. Washington, or the District of Columbia, is estimated at 210,000. Pittsburgh puts forward a claim of 200,550, beating Cleveland 559. Detroit is estimated at 175,000—a careful and conservative figure, and stands fifteenth in the scale, having passed Newark, Louisville and Jersey City since 1880. Other cities follow as follows: Milwaukee, 170,000; Newark, 160,000; Minneapolis, 160,000; Jersey City, 155,000; St. Paul, 140,000; Louisville, 140,000; Kansas City, 125,000; Providence, 120,000; Indianapolis, 105,000, and Albany, Allegheny and Rochester, each 100,000. In the matter of freedom from debt, Detroit stands first in the list.—*Detroit Free Press*.

Only Ten Berries to the Measure.

Ten strawberries of superb development constitute the average present measure. For his third of a quart the fortunate purchaser no longer pays \$5, the price at Christmas and during the early days of the new year. Good berries are obtained at half that cost, although for finer qualities 25 per cent more may frequently be paid. One of the recent orders for 250 berries amounted to \$125 or \$130.