

THE CONTEST ENDED.

A DECISION IN THE NEBRASKA GOVERNORIAL MATTER.

The State Supreme Court Rules that Boyd is Not a Citizen and that John B. Thayer is the Qualified Governor of Nebraska—The Opinion Handed Down by Judge Norval—Appointments by the New Executive—The Case to Go to the Highest Court.

The Nebraska Boyd-Thayer Contest Decided.

LINCOLN, Neb., May 6.—The great Boyd-Thayer contest ended at 4:30 yesterday afternoon by the supreme court declaring that Thayer is governor and by ousting Boyd. The opinion was handed down by Judge Norval, a brother of Dick Norval, attorney for Governor Thayer. The opinion was concurred in by Chief Justice Cobb, Justice Maxwell, however, handed down a dissenting opinion couched in the most emphatic language, in which he declared that under the enabling act Boyd became a citizen of Nebraska and was one when he was nominated for governor and when he qualified for that position.

Judge Maxwell's opinion comprises nearly a thousand pages. The following is the syllabus of the opinion handed down by Judge Norval:

State ex rel. Thayer vs. Boyd quo warranto. Judgment of ouster. The supreme court has jurisdiction to entertain proceedings by information in the nature of quo warranto instituted for the purpose of determining the rights of persons claiming the office of governor. Under the provisions of section 2, article 5, of the constitution, no person is eligible to the office of governor who has not been a citizen of the United States and of this state for at least two years next preceding the election at which such officer is to be chosen. Where a plurality of votes are cast for a person for a public office who is ineligible the election is void. Under the fourth section of the act of congress, entitled "An act to establish a uniform rule of naturalization," approved April 14, 1802, the child of an alien under twenty-one years of age, although born in a foreign country, becomes a citizen by the naturalization of his parent if dwelling within the United States at the time the parent is admitted to citizenship, but it does not have the effect if he is over twenty-one years old at the time the parent is naturalized. The order of a court admitting an alien to citizenship is a judicial act in the nature of a judgment and can be proved only by the record. The fact that an alien has for many years voted at elections held in this state and filed important public offices does not establish that he is a citizen of the United States. Where an alien is naturalized under the naturalization laws his citizenship dates from the time the order of the court is made admitting him to citizenship. The alien inhabitants of the territory of Nebraska at the time of its admission as a state did not become citizens of the United States by virtue of the acts of congress admitting the state into the union. The words "citizens of the United States" as used in section 2 of article 5 of the constitution is construed to mean a person who is an American citizen by birth, or a person of foreign birth who has been duly naturalized under the provisions of the uniform rule of naturalization established by congress. Under section 1 of article 5 of the constitution a person elected to the office of governor is entitled to discharge the duties and receive the emoluments of the office for the term of two years from the first Thursday after the first Tuesday in January following his election and until a successor is duly elected and qualified. Where the person receiving the highest number of votes for the office of governor is ineligible under the constitution he is elected the governor holds over. The duties of the chief executive office of the state devolve upon the lieutenant governor in certain contingencies, among which are the failure of the governor-elect to qualify and the disability of the governor. It cannot be said that there has been a failure to qualify where no person has been constitutionally elected to the office. The words "other disabilities of the governor," appearing in section 16, article 5, of the constitution, have no reference to the ineligibility of the person to be elected but covers any disability of the governor not specifically enumerated in the section, and occurring after the commencement of his term of office. Held, that when the non-election of a person to a public office is ascertained by the proceedings in quo warranto the person entitled to hold over must then qualify.

The opinion had no sooner been handed down than Thayer immediately filed his bond with the secretary of state. As the matter is a federal question it is reported that Governor Boyd will appeal the case to the supreme court of the United States.

About an hour after the opinion was handed down a writ of ouster was served on Governor Boyd by a deputy sheriff. The governor was ordered to turn the office over to Thayer, and he did so, but remained first to see that all his private papers were packed. Thayer took possession of the executive office and was immediately surrounded by a number of ex-officials who owed their discharge to Governor Boyd. A large crowd gathered in the state house after the opinion of the supreme court was known and the greatest excitement prevailed in the city.

THAYER MAKES APPOINTMENTS.

Governor Thayer made the following appointments: A. V. Coie, adjutant

general; Rev. P. W. Howe, captain of the penitentiary; D. C. Crawford, janitor of the capitol building; Dan Hopkins, warden of the penitentiary; Dr. Fred G. Test, superintendent of the asylum for the incurable insane at Hastings; J. W. Liveringhouse, steward of the asylum for the incurable insane at Hastings; H. F. Doans, clerk in the office of commissioner of labor; Dr. George W. Wilkinson, superintendent of the insane asylum at Norfolk; J. K. Nichol, steward of the insane asylum at Norfolk; J. B. Parmelee, principal of the institute for the blind at Nebraska City; Captain W. C. Henry, commandant of the soldiers' home at Grand Island.

What Boyd Thinks.

LINCOLN, May 6.—Governor Boyd was seen last evening at the Hotel Lincoln. He was in his usual good spirits and said that he was glad that the supreme court had finally come to some decision. The governor said:

"I don't regret so much about being ousted from the position of governor as I do that a majority of the court has declared that I am not a citizen of the United States. I believe with Judge Maxwell, in my opinion the ablest judge on the bench, that I am a citizen of the United States, and of course it goes without saying that I always intended to be such. A man who has lived in this country since he was a child and been a resident and a citizen of this state for thirty-five years, and who helped to frame the constitutional provision now invoked to oust him from office, and who was a member of the first legislature that accepted the provisions of the enabling act under which the state was admitted into the union, and who has done perhaps as much as any other man in building up and developing the resources of the state, is certainly entitled to citizenship. To say the least it is a mere technical construction of the law by a majority of a partisan court that deprives him of that citizenship. My greatest pride has always been that I could say that I was an American citizen and I do not propose to let this matter rest here, but if the law will so permit I will carry this case to the supreme court of the United States for the purpose of having a declaration of what constitutes citizenship of the United States by the highest tribunal in the land. I believe that court will give a different construction to the law than that given by a majority of the supreme court of Nebraska. At least I have been so advised by able counsel as there is in this country. I shall do this, not for the purpose of regaining the office of governor, for that office I do not care, but, as before stated, I wish to establish my citizenship. I regret that the decision of today was not rendered long ago. It would have saved me from many an unjust and undesired criticism. The people as well as the newspapers that have accused me of making a corrupt bargain with the supreme court it seems to me should now have the firmness to give me the credit of having acted honestly and conscientiously in the discharge of my official duties."

Governor Thayer was seen, but he was too excited and busy almost to talk. He declares, however, that according to the laws of the state he is the only person who can hold the office of governor. He believes the decision of the supreme court to be the only right and just one, as Boyd, being an alien by his own confession, has no right to the office. That under such circumstances the letter of the statutes must be followed, to wit, the old governor holds over.

The Timber Culture Laws.

WASHINGTON, May 11.—Land Commissioner Carter has given out this circular letter concerning the application of the recent act of congress regarding the timber culture laws and modifying the other land laws of the country:

Registers and Receivers, United States District Land Offices, Gentlemen: Your attention is called to an act of congress entitled "An act to repeal timber culture laws and for other purposes," approved March 3, 1891, a copy of which is hereto attached.

It will be observed that by the first section of the law provides for the entry of public lands for timber culture purposes, are repealed so far as regards future entries, but continued with certain prescribed modifications, as regards the adjustment of existing claims, initiated prior to such repealing act. Hence, no further entries of this class will be allowed unless the right to make such entry had accrued or was accruing at the date of said act. In dealing with existing entries the provisions of the first section of the repealing act will be observed. It will be seen that by the fifth proviso of that section the right is extended to persons having certain qualifications to commute their entries in certain cases at the rate of \$1.25 per acre. For this purpose it will be necessary—

1. That the person shall have in good faith complied with the provisions of the timber culture laws for four years.

2. That he shall be an actual bona fide resident of the state or territory in which said land is located.

Final proof for the commutation of timber culture entries under this provision shall be made as other final timber culture proof is made (See Forms 4-385 and 4-386), and shall satisfactorily exhibit the facts necessary to entitle the applicant to make purchase thereunder. Returns will be made as in commuted homestead entries under existing practice, but the proper annotations on the returns to indicate the character of the transaction as a commutation of timber culture entry under said act. For final proof in timber culture entries, the registers and receivers shall be allowed the same fees and compensation as are

allowed under previously existing laws in homestead entries.

The second section amends the desert land law of March 3, 1887 (19 Stat., 377), by adding thereto five sections, numbered from four to eight inclusive, modifying its provisions in the manner following, viz:

1. The party making entry thereunder is required at the time of filing the declaration to file also a map of the land which shall exhibit a plan showing the mode of contemplated irrigation, and which plan shall be sufficient to irrigate and reclaim said land and prepare it to raise ordinary agricultural crops, and shall also show the source of the water to be used for irrigation and reclamation. Provision is made that persons may associate together for purposes defined.

2. Entries made shall expend, for purposes stated at least \$3 per acre—\$1 per acre during each year, such proof to consist of the affidavits of two or more witnesses, showing that the full sum of \$1 per acre had been expended during such year, and the manner in which expended, and at the expiration of the third year a map or plan showing the character and extent of improvements.

3. A failure to file the required proof during any year, shall cause the land to revert to the United States, the money paid to be forfeited, and the entry to be canceled.

4. The limit for making proof is changed from three years to four years from date of filing the declaration. This proof must, in all cases, show the citizenship of the party offering it, and the cultivation of one-eighth of the land in addition to the reclamation to the extent and cost, and in the manner hereinbefore noted.

5. The party may make his final entry and receive his patent at any time prior to the expiration of four years, on making the required proof of reclamation of expenditure to the aggregate extent of \$3 per acre and of the cultivation of one-eighth of the land.

6. Entries made prior to the date of said act may, however, be perfected under the old law, or, at the option of the claimant, may be perfected under the law as amended, as far as applicable.

7. Assignments are recognized, but the amount of land that may be held by assignment or otherwise, prior to issue of patent, is restricted to 320 acres by the seventh section, which section it is provided, however, shall not apply to entries made prior to the act. Assignees must properly prove their assignments by filing in the local office an affidavit and certified copy of the instrument under which they claim, and must make affidavit of the amount of land held.

8. By the eighth section of the provisions of the original act and the amendments are extended to Colorado.

9. By the same section the right to make desert land entry is restricted to resident citizens of the state or territory in which the land sought is located, whose citizenship and residence must be duly shown.

The third section of the new act amends section 2288, revised statutes, so as to extend its provisions to settlers under other settlement laws in addition to the pre-emption and homestead laws, and so to admit of transfers for right of way for canals or ditches for irrigation or drainage, as well as for church, cemetery or school purposes, or the right of way of railroads, as in the old statute.

The fourth section of the new act repeals all the laws allowing pre-emption of the public lands by individuals, but provides for perfecting claims previously initiated according to the provisions of the laws under which they were initiated; therefore, no filings or entries will be allowed thereunder, except when necessary to perfect claims of inception prior to the approval of the repealing act, and claims to Indian lands covered by its tenth section.

The fifth section thereof amends section 2289, revised statutes, so as to prevent any person who is the proprietor of more than 160 acres of land in any state or territory from acquiring any right under the homestead law, and also section 2290, revised statutes, so as to require a different affidavit from that now required to be made by applicants, as preliminary to homestead entries.

The most remarkable sale of pure bred Hereford cattle ever held in this country takes place at Lincoln, Nebraska, on Thursday and Friday, May 21st and 22d. The herd consists of over 250 head, all registered. These cattle have until recently been owned by the Harlem Cattle Co., and it will be known they bought only the best, regardless of price. Their six stock bulls are as well known in England, as in this country and one of them is a prize winner at the Royal (England). The sale is made to wind up a long litigation and every animal will be sold regardless of price. From the number to be sold it is reasonable to suppose prices will rule low. Terms are one year with ten per cent interest or five per cent off or cash. As many farmers as can should attend this sale, as it offers an extraordinary opportunity to secure blooded stock at a moderate price. Catalogues can be secured by writing W. J. McGillin, Lincoln, Nebraska.

The woman's national industrial league of America, of which Charlotte Smith is president, has adopted resolutions in which the refusal of the emperor of China to receive ex-Senator Blair as United States minister is spoken of as "the highest compliment that could be bestowed on a citizen of the United States."

As an outgrowth of the naturalization frauds of 1890 the United States circuit court at St. Louis has declared null and void the naturalization papers of seventy persons on the charge that they were fraudulently obtained. There are fifty more cases pending.

A STEAMSHIP NABBED

THE ETATA SEIZED ON ORDERS FROM WASHINGTON.

Subsequently the Vessel Makes Its Escape from the Custody of the Marshal—Cruisers in Pursuit and to be Captured if Possible—Deputy Spaulding's Adventure on the Etata—The Care with Which He Was Surrounded by Determined Men and How and Where He Was Put Ashore.

Seized by the Government.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., May 9.—The steamship Etata, which put into this port a few days ago, it was said for the purpose of obtaining provisions for the warships now in possession of the revolutionary party of Chili, has been seized by the United States marshal. It is also intimated that the vessel's arrival here had some connection with the arrival of the schooners Robert and Minnie of Fort Catalina islands, loaded with arms and ammunition.

The seizure of the steamship Etata was the outcome of free interchange of dispatches between the officials here and the department at Washington. Captain Mauzeum of the steamer was placed under arrest by Marshal Gard. The marshal also dispatched two tug boats to seize two suspicious craft lying outside of the harbor. One of these is supposed to be the schooner Robert and Minnie which was heretofore reported lying off the Catalina islands, loaded with arms and ammunition. The other is a war vessel which has been cruising around outside awaiting an opportunity to take on board the supplies of the insurgent Chilean fleet that might be obtained by the steamer Etata.

A party sent out to investigate the strange actions of the vessel and to get within speaking distance, if possible, returned and reported that they were unable to get within hailing distance of the vessel, because she drew off.

SEIZED ON MR. BLAINE'S ORDER.

Secretary of State Blaine sent orders from Washington to seize both vessels if they could be captured within the three mile limit. It is believed by the officials here that as soon as the Etata had received her supplies she intended to meet the schooner Robert and Minnie, take on board the arms and ammunition on board of that craft, put to sea and at the first favorable opportunity transfer the supplies and materials of war to the insurgent cruiser.

The captain of the Etata was allowed to return to his vessel, which is now in charge of a deputy United States marshal.

Spaulding's Adventures on the Ettata.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., May 9.—The Chronicle's special from San Diego gives Deputy Marshal Spaulding's story of his adventures on the Ettata. He said Wednesday afternoon at 5:55 a boat came from the shore, bringing the first mate, surgeon and two passengers. The latter had a conversation with the captain. Five minutes later I was surprised to find the Ettata making for the ocean under a full head of steam. I was invited into the captain's cabin and he and the passengers exhibiting revolvers told Spaulding they had contraband goods on board. This is life or death with me, said the captain. He then called two of the crew and they stood guard near the door armed with revolvers and rifles. He and the passengers went out telling me that if I left the cabin or attempted to give a sign or jump overboard they would not be responsible for what happened. About this time four steel canoes were lifted out the hold, fastened in position on the upper deck and loaded. A few minutes later the captain came back and informed me I was to be put off in a boat from a pilot boat at Ballast point. I was then led on deck followed by armed men. On reaching the bridge, I saw on the deck below 100 Chileans, all armed to the teeth and in uniform. When I asked the pilot if he was going to guide the ship out the captain spoke up quickly, saying, "No," and exhibiting a revolver, added, "This is going to guide it." After I was lowered into the small boat the Ettata passed out of the bay headed north.

While I was prisoner my captors were very careful to say nothing that would reveal their plans except that the captain gave me his name and address and said he would go directly to Valparaiso.

Two deserters from the Ettata were found in San Diego today. They state positively that the war ship Esmeralda accompanied the Ettata as far north as Cape St. Lucas and is awaiting her return in order to get provisions and coal. It is also said Captain Mauzeum is only employed to navigate the ship, and the real commander is a native Chilean.

A resident of this city claims to have seen a corvette flying the Chilean flag pass north yesterday. The United States steamer Omaha saw nothing of the vessels.

Chance for a Naval Fight.

NEW YORK, May 9.—Of the fugitive Etata a Washington special says: "The first business of the administration is to capture the vessel. This afternoon instructions were sent to Admiral McCann, now at Valparaiso, to put to sea with the Baltimore and Pensacola in order to intercept the insurgent vessel. Similar instructions were sent to Admiral Brown. The last report from him was that he had left Callao, Peru, last Friday with the San Francisco, his exact whereabouts along the coast is unknown. Orders have also been sent to the Charleston now at San Francisco to start in pursuit as soon as possible. She will hardly be able to leave before

tomorrow, as she was not coaled up for a very long voyage.

With these four cruisers on her track the Etata is likely to be overhauled in a few days and brought back to San Diego, when the government will have a knotty problem to wrestle with. Just what can be done with the vessel and the extent to which she has violated international law are questions that the officials decline to express an opinion upon. The Chilean minister also maintains a studied silence. As the Etata had been seized by the United States at San Diego she was technically a prisoner until discharged and liable to recapture on the high seas by a United States man-of-war or to confiscation if she ever enters a United States port. The right of the United States to capture the Etata on the high seas or in United States or Chilean waters is undoubted. The vessel flies the flag of Chili and is subject to the only recognized authority in that country, the government of which President Balmaceda is the head. The insurgents have no international status. They are not even recognized as belligerents. The Etata having entered a port of the United States fell under suspicion of being there to secure arms and ammunition, and the Chilean minister at Washington asked for her retention and consequently a United States marshal was put on board and her captain put under arrest. He was allowed to return to his ship and then he put to sea. Any nation can capture her. If she made any resistance she would be a pirate. If the United States demanded her surrender from the country to which the steamer had gone that government would surrender her.

The Charleston is a sixteen knot steamer. The Etata is probably not more than a sixteen knot ship. She will have at least forty-eight hours start of the Charleston in time and probably about five hundred miles in distance before tomorrow. But the Etata must be short of coal and she will probably put into some Mexican or Central American port for a supply. This will delay her and the Charleston may overtake her.

Italians Swarming to America.

WASHINGTON, May 6.—General Nettleton, assistant secretary of the treasury, who recently went to New York to see what was being done to enforce immigration laws, says he learned that the most reputable steamship companies are honestly endeavoring to limit the influx of foreign paupers. Several of the companies have scattered circulars throughout Europe explaining the features of the new law and some of them have put a brief summary of the law on the back of tickets sold to steerage passengers. But while reputable companies are doing this, disreputable ones are profiting by the increased demand from immigrants rejected by reputable companies. In one case General Nettleton found that a tramp steamer had brought over three times as many immigrants as its accommodations warranted. This was the case of the "Britannia," owned by French parties, but leased to Italians for wholesale immigration purposes to America. The greatest number of passengers which the "Britannia" could have carried under our inspection laws was 240, but as a matter of fact her last load numbered 1,028 Italians. They were wedged in like cattle on cars. The total equipment of life preservers was 300 and the three rafts and one drag might have saved 200 more in case of accident. This left over 500 steerage immigrants wholly unprovided for by life preservers, raft or other means of safety in case of wreck. The treasury department has no means of protecting itself from such tramp steamers as our inspection laws governing the number of passengers to be carried apply only to vessels which clear from our ports, not those which land here. Italy appears to do the most thriving business and the "Britannia" is only one of many instances. The recent diplomatic spat with Rudini has not checked Italian immigration in the least.

Colored Men Want Equal Rights.

CINCINNATI, May 7.—The American Citizens Equal Rights association, composed of colored men adopted a series of resolutions affecting their purpose of securing the free exercise of every right given them by the constitution. They called the attention of the administration that colored men were appointed to office mainly in the south, where the only political service colored men can render is to send delegates to national conventions, and are denied to those in the northern states, whose votes are necessary to the success of its party. The officers elected were: President, James M. Townsend, Indiana; vice presidents, N. P. Wentworth, Massachusetts; M. Lanston, Virginia; secretary, F. G. Barbodoes, Washington City; treasurer, Walter S. Thomas, Ohio. The convention then adjourned sine die.

An Unusual Cold Snap.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—The signal office special bulletin says the cold weather prevailing over the country for the past three or four days has been of unusual severity, extent and duration, and has been accompanied in some sections by lower temperatures than ever previously recorded by the signal service. The temperature will probably rise slowly from this morning over the whole country, and severe frosts are not likely to again occur this season.

The California Athletic club decided to match Abe Willis, the Australian bantam weight, and George Dixon, the colored champion for a fight. The purse will be \$5,000, and the fight takes place in June.

The anarchists arrested in Rome have confessed that Landi paid them to create disorder on May day.

To Pension Clerks.

WASHINGTON, May 11.—The Sunday Herald says: "A movement is on foot in the various departments of the government located in this city to establish what might be termed a comparative pension scheme for the benefit of those clerks who through advanced age or physical disability incurred by their service for the government become unable to attend to their duties. By a fund established through a small monthly deduction made from the salary of each clerk, those sick or aged would receive a pension during the time of their disability or for life when regularly retired by the action of an authorized board. It is suggested that a percentage of about 2 per cent a month be deducted from the salary of each government clerk and deposited in the United States treasury, to be held there in their trust as a fund to pension the regularly retired and to pay a stated amount to those who are temporarily disabled. The number of clerks of an advanced age who are retained in the departments simply because of their faithful service for many years is very large. They have outlived their actual usefulness and are allowed to remain for the reason that if dismissed they would be in actual want. With the pension these could be retired with the result that the number of promotions all along the line would be very large."

Kansas Wheat Pests.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 11.—Chancellor Snow of the state university of Kansas has sent to Secretary Mohler of the state board of agriculture a letter concerning his conclusions regarding the present wheat pest in Kansas. The letter was made public today. The chancellor says: "The present spring has been particularly unfavorable for the health of chinch bugs, but still in twenty counties in the southeastern part of the state, included between meridians 95 degrees and 99 degrees, and between the thirty-eighth parallel and the southern boundary of the state, the chinch bug is out in full force. In other counties of the state the pest is not so numerous, but still it exists in fully one-half of the counties. The bugs now in the wheat fields are a remnant of last fall's brood which hibernated. The females have been laying their eggs and the young will soon be hatched. The eggs are very susceptible to the influence of climatic conditions and if we should have heavy rains between now and May 20 the crop of young bugs will be much enfeebled."

Continuing the report says: "Active measures must be resorted to to keep the pests down. Much hope is placed in the outcome of the workings of the 'new remedy,' namely, the attempt to spread artificially a contagious disease, among the bugs. The experiments of the early spring in the laboratory indicate the activity of the contagion, and if the co-operation of the farmers, by sending in large numbers of live, healthy bugs, may be relied on, the station will be prepared to scatter infected bugs all over the state. Several reports showing the Hessian fly have been received, among others from Sumner, La Bette, Butler, George, McPherson, Marion and Douglas counties, showing a general distribution, but I think that no serious apprehension need be felt for the safety of the wheat crop because of the fly. The report from Russell county concerning the presence of a small green bug in the wheat fields and the subsequent investigation by Secretary Mohler and myself has been fully exploited in the newspapers. There is no new information about the bug or its alleged damage to the wheat to offer. I do not believe it will prove consequential in crop injury."

Nebraska Crop Bulletin.

Crete, Neb., May 11.—The United States signal service has issued the following weekly weather crop bulletin for Nebraska:

The week past has been cold and cloudy. No injury from frost has been reported, although a light frost occurred in a few localities and a hard freeze in the extreme northwestern part of the state on the 3d; where, however, the vegetation was not sufficiently advanced to be injured.

Light showers were general throughout the state the first part of the week, but the rainfall has been below the average, except in the southeastern part of the state, where it has been slightly in excess. Although crops are not suffering for moisture, light rains would be beneficial in all parts of the state.

The week has not been one of rapid growth, but small grain is everywhere reported in excellent condition. Corn planting has progressed slowly, many preferring to wait until the ground is warmer before planting, but in a few localities the corn is reported as nearly half planted.

Fruit blooms are unusually numerous, and the promise is for a large crop.

Methodist General Conference.

CINCINNATI, O., May 11.—The committee of seven in charge of the arrangements for the place of the next general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church to be held in May, 1892, met here Saturday. There were present Mr. Amos Shinkle, chairman, of Covington, Ky.; Rev. J. J. Palmer of New York, C. R. Wagoner of Boston, Seneca M. Taylor of St. Louis, F. A. Chamberlain of Minneapolis, J. B. Hobbs of Chicago and J. B. Maxfield of Omaha, Neb.

The arrangements made in Omaha were reported to the committee. The requirement of \$25,000 has been exceeded by receiving \$31,000. Boyd's opera house has been engaged for the conference session and ample arrangements for the entertainment of delegates, of whom there may be 500.

The reports were satisfactory and gave no reason for changing the place of meeting.