

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

The Senate Suddenly Sits Down on the Holiday Recess Scheme.

The Democrats Bodily Desert Pendleton's Reform Bill.

Lively Political Speeches by Senators Conger, Williams and Others.

The California Railroad Tax Cases Argued in the Supreme Court.

Synopsis of the Speeches of Edmunds, Sanders, Hart and Brewster.

The Land Grant Railroad Lobby Too Numerous to Mention.

CAPITAL NOTES.

OUR OWN LAMBERTSON. WASHINGTON, December 21.—The president nominated Geo. M. Lambertson to be United States attorney for Nebraska.

MAIL RETURN. A telegram received to-day from the superintendent of the mail service says the storage car on train 19, New York and Chicago railway postoffice, with contents, burned about 2 o'clock this morning, six miles west of Schenectady. It contained mostly newspaper mail for the Toledo and Wabash connection, but part of the paper mail for Iowa, Wisconsin and Nebraska, three pouches of letters for Chicago, from New York City, two pouches of letters for San Francisco, and much of European mail for Chicago and San Francisco, which arrived by the Bohemia, City of Chester and the St. Laurent.

RAILROAD LAND GRANTS. Judge Holman, who leads the opposition in this house to the Pacific railroads, says that the next session of congress will declare all unearned land grants of those roads forfeited to the government. He says also that owing to the organized strength of the various roads here operating against legislation the present congress will not be able to accomplish that result.

THE SUGAR DUTY. The public land committee to-day adopted a substitute for Pabco's brush fence bill. Its provisions apply particularly to California lands.

THE SUGAR DUTY. The ways and means committee this afternoon approved the classification of the sugar schedule as made in the tariff commission's report, and also agreed to recommend the adoption of the polioacetate test, but reached no decision as to rates.

THE CALIFORNIA TAX CASES. There was a good attendance at the supreme court to-day, but at no time one-half as large as yesterday. Members of the bar made up most of those present, though there were eight seers dropping in during the day. Attorney General Hart resumed and finished his argument by one o'clock. He devoted most of his speech to the elaboration of two of the leading points of his brief, to-wit: that the power of the state in apportionment of its taxes is one which has hitherto been held to be unlimited by any provision of the federal constitution, and likewise the right of apportioning its taxes has been held to be within the exclusive jurisdiction of the state. Leaving this, he dwelt considerably on his concluding point, that under the constitution of California corporations are subject to absolute and unrestricted control of the legislature, and that control involves an unlimited exercise of the taxing power. Hart's argument was a thorough presentation of the principles of the case, devoid of sensation. It was a careful and strong offering of the state's side of the case, and, as such, deserved the commendation it received from all who heard it.

Senator Edmunds then began, speaking 40 minutes. He argued that the railroad had been denied the right to be heard before the board of equalization, explaining that to deny is not only to refuse when sought, but it is to omit to extend, to fail from any cause to do equal justice and secure equality of law. The court would do what the railroad asked for (give them a hearing without any invasion of states rights). He contended that in respect of the personality of a corporation under the constitution, the rights here drawn in question are as completely personal as if the corporation were a private partnership, for, in respect of such questions, a corporation is merely an association of private persons with their aggregate means for the accomplishment of just objects of public value. That could not be accomplished without such aggregation of capital and co-operation of individual enterprise.

The argument of Judge Sanderson differed from others in that he attacked more severely section 5064 of the political code of California, holding that it was unconstitutional, not having been passed by a majority of the members of the legislature, and therefore must be disregarded by court in disposing of the question before it. Next he insisted that it was clear the defendant was a person within the meaning of the federal constitution; that the revenue laws of California, so far as they discriminated against the amendment; that the franchise enjoyed by the road did not come from California but from congress, and that the tax was illegal. Judge Sanderson got two or three extensions of time from the court, receiving in this way fifteen minutes time that should have been occupied by Attorney-General Brewster in closing the case. Still, Brewster said the time he did get to such good purpose that no harm was done. He was entitled to thirty-seven

minutes, but occupied but twenty-five. In opening, he said Lord Coke had remarked that souls were only created by God; that corporations were created by the king, and therefore corporations had no soul. No such rights, he asserted, belonged to corporations as belonged to private parties, for corporations were creatures and servants of the state and could not by any torturing be regarded as human beings. The right of tax was the soul of legislative right. There was no ground for any lawyer to say that a state did not have a right to its own method of taxation, and to collect its own taxes for its maintenance. The law of the state gave these corporations notice of their indebtedness and liability to taxation. They had their day in court, and because they did not accept the notice they had no right to come here and try to get the court to give them another day. Railroad property was a class of property that owes its life to the favor of the state. It is evident, said Brewster, that this railroad has no other ground to rest its case upon except the amendment to the constitution; the surrender of all other and their appeal to that shows it, yet the court must hold that this does them no good in that it does not apply to their case. Dwelling further on the point that there was no federal franchise involved, Brewster concluded. As he was about finishing, a funny incident occurred, Conkling and Judge Sanderson sat immediately behind Brewster. One of them made a remark of some kind in regard to the point made by Brewster. The remark was loud enough for him to hear it. He turned, facing Conkling, and said to the court, the learned adversaries had taken a parting shot at him, but that it was in the back. Conkling, smiling, said, "Shake not your gory locks at me, thou canst not say I did it." Brewster said it was between them both. The court smiled, a very unusual thing.

Senator Cockrell made an argument to show that this bill, if passed, would not give the president or head of the department any more power to reform or purify the service than they had already under existing laws. The republican party had had full power for years to enforce these laws and to pass other laws if these were not sufficient, but they had not done it because they had had no real desire for reform. The efficacy of this bill would depend upon the executive, and he did not believe that under a republican administration it would accomplish anything in any way of reform. In a democratic administration it would, but a democratic administration would reform the service without any such law. Although he had no faith in the value of this as a reformatory measure, he would vote for it because the republicans wished to have it, and he was willing to give them one more opportunity to reform the great abuses for which they were responsible.

In speaking of the amendments, Senator Curtis said that the violation of General Curtis of violating the law against it.

Senator Hawley said he wished to do justice to honorable and brave men. General Curtis was treasurer of the state and in various other things he will and protested against assessments. He was only technically guilty. In spirit he was against these assessments and when he controlled them himself he told them not to pay assessments unless they desired to do so.

Senator Cockrell said he was glad that General Curtis did not levy assessments of his free will, but he was sorry the republican machine was so strong that an honest man could not withstand its pressure and that, therefore, General Curtis had to violate his own conviction of right and make these collections. He then went on to quote from the republican campaign text book of 1882, which was interrupted by Senator Hoar, who stated that the second Hubbard circular and the Campaign Hand Book were the act of one man (chairman of the congressional committee, it is true), binding no person but himself.

Senator Hawley—Let me add that especially in the matter of Chinese immigration and in various other things I repudiated the Hand Book.

Senator Cockrell was glad the senators had an opportunity to make their explanations. He did not desire to cast any reflections on any senator who was opposed to those raids. In the course of his remarks, Senator Cockrell quoted from a letter from David Davis to a gentleman in Washington, in which the gentleman said that the government, which had long been in the hands of the republican party, needed new blood.

Senator Conger inquired whether it was in good taste to quote the letter of the gentleman from Illinois in his absence?

Senator Vest said he was responsible for bringing that document having read it yesterday in the presence of the gentleman from Illinois.

Senator Conger said in that the senator showed good taste.

Senator Vest replied that he would not allow the senator from Michigan to determine that question for him. A senator who had said the language of his colleagues was worthy of shoe blacks, could not teach him good taste.

Senator Conger—I would never attempt that.

Senator Vest—I think not.

Senator Conger—If the gentleman has waited 24 hours to make that hit, I am glad he has the opportunity to-night.

The gavel of the presiding officer put a stop to the colloquy.

Senator Cockrell closed his speech with a prediction that the return of the democratic party to power was only a question of two years.

Senator Sherman reported from the committee the bill proposed by the tariff commission to either provide for the collection of duties on imports. The commission found that many articles were being appraised for import duty under the general provision relating to articles not specified, while their substantial equivalents in ma-

terial were on the free list. This is remedied in the present bill. Adjusted.

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS. WASHINGTON, December 21.—Mr. Kelley (Penn.) chairman of the ways and means committee, reported a resolution declaring it the sense of the house that in case the internal revenue laws be so amended as to abolish the tax on tobacco, snuff and cigars, other provision should be made for allowing rebate tax paid on stock on hand at the time such law goes into effect, provided such stock is stamped and in unbroken packages.

Mr. Kasson (Iowa), on behalf of the minority committee, reported a substitute resolution declaring that in the judgment of the house no further reduction of taxes on manufactured tobacco will be made than that provided for in the house bill to reduce internal revenue taxation, now in the senate.

Mr. Kelly gave notice that he would ask consideration of the resolution to-day tomorrow.

After introduction of a number of bills for reference the speaker laid before the house the report of the collector of customs of Sitka, Alaska, justifying the shelling of an Indian village by the revenue steamer Corwin.

The house shortly afterwards went into committee of the whole on the army appropriation bill, which appropriates \$24,681,700.

After explanation of the bill by Mr. Butterworth (Ohio), Mr. Hewitt (N. Y.) addressed himself to consideration of the provision that for army transformation the land grant roads which have received government aid by loan or guarantee of bonds shall be allowed compensation of not exceeding 50 per cent of the amount paid by private parties for the same service.

Mr. Hewitt said the provision attached to this bill was in substance the same as the one attached to the post-office appropriation bill by the amendment of the gentleman from New Jersey (Robeson). It was a curious and suggestive fact that the gentleman who represented the post-office appropriation bill opposed the amendment which was forced upon it, and that the gentleman who reported this bill to-day announced he was opposed to this provision.

Mr. Butterworth said he had expressed his unwillingness to give his assent to the doctrine that the government might arbitrarily fix compensation on a Pacific railway carrying government supplies.

General debate then closed, but without further action the committee rose, and after granting twenty-five members leave of absence the house adjourned.

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Three more deaths in consequence of the explosion in the Carriage factory at Mont Valerian. The remainder of the injured women are suffering fearful agony.

GENERAL STONE COMING HOME. CAIRO, December 21.—General Stone, late chief of staff of the Egyptian army, has resigned his commission and intends to return to America.

ROBBERED AND TURNED OUT. DUBLIN, December 21.—The secretary of the Tukes emigration fund, applying for aid to enable the distressed people to be repatriated, was robbed of his money and turned out of the house.

DIAMOND ROBBERY. MONTEBELLUNA, December 21.—The chief of police has received a notice from Scotland Yard of a great diamond robbery in London and offering a reward of \$2,500 for the capture of the thief.

SICK FRENCHMEN. PARIS, December 21.—It is thought desirable to remove Gambetta to Paris at the first opportunity, as the country house is damp. The archbishop of Bordeaux, reported dead, is only seriously ill.

EARTHLY AGUE. HAVANA, December 21.—Two slight shocks of earthquake at Santiago de Cuba were felt on the 11th inst. Another shock, very violent but short, occurred on the morning of the 12th.

WESTGATE THE LOON. DUBLIN, December 21.—All witnesses in connection with the Phoenix park murders, examined and instructed to attend to-morrow at Kilmallock hall to see if they could identify Westgate as one of the assassins.

GERMANY AND RUSSIA. BERLIN, December 21.—The Bourse has recovered its normal state, and confidence is again displayed. The result of the newspaper storm which has just passed is that it has enabled Europe to see the relations between Germany and Russia are much more cordial than previously supposed.

A Broken Bank. ROCHESTER, December 21.—William C Moore's private banking house at Victor, New York, has closed its doors. The suspension was caused by the failure of the City bank at Rochester. The liabilities are estimated at \$100,000. Moore made the assignment to Josiah Apton. The bank will hardly pay more than sixty cents on the dollar.

The Broken Bank. BOSTON, December 21.—A large and excited meeting of stockholders of the defunct Pacific bank was held to-day. A resolution was adopted urging suits to be brought against the directors of the bank and the United States attorney be requested to prosecute them criminally.

Oil Movements. PITTSBURGH, December 22.—Oil opened strong this morning at 82 1/2 and advanced to 83 1/2. Then it became weaker and declined to 82 1/2. Closed at noon at 82 1/2. The market was agitated by the excitement, and the trading was light.

The Spirit of Jesse Abroad. HARTFORD, December 21.—The Ford brothers were advertised to lecture here to-night, with an illustration of the manner of killing Jesse James. Just two dollars were taken at the door, and the lecture was postponed.

A Massacre in Brooklyn. NEW YORK, December 21.—Alexander Jefferson (negro) committed a double murder in Brooklyn to-night, and seriously injured two other persons. The facts are: At 176 Buffalo avenue resided Mrs. Emma Jackson, an aged colored woman, her daughter Annie, 24 years of age, Henry Hicks (colored) 41 years old, and Celestial

and Sons' type foundry for a new supply of type.

Special Dispatch to This Day. ST. LOUIS, December 21.—To-night a fire broke out in W. H. Hagerty & Sons auction house, 511 Washington avenue, running through to St. Charles street. It pretty well destroyed a stock of miscellaneous merchandise valued at \$40,000, insured \$30,000. The two upper floors of the building was occupied by Bill Walker & Co., dry goods where main store is on the corner of St. Charles and Fifth street, and about the Hagerty building. These floors had about \$75,000 worth of goods in them, most of which were destroyed. The upper part of the main store was also damaged about \$25,000, covered by insurance. The building adjoining on the west, was occupied by G. Mayer & Co., hats, caps, gloves etc., and by Frank & Frank, manufacturers and dealers in men's goods. Their loss cannot be ascertained to-night. Mayer & Co. were insured for \$40,000.

New York, December 21.—A fire broke out to-night in the book bindery of Robt. Butler, 116 and 118 east Fourteenth street, and did damage to the extent of \$50,000, partly insured. Although the fire was directly opposite Tony Pastor's theater, the audience was unawared of the fact.

Details of the Kingston Fire. Special Dispatch to This Day. NEW YORK, December 21.—Additional details are at hand this morning of the recent great fire at Kingston, Jamaica. It appears that had there been the simplest means at hand when the conflagration began to put out the fire it could not have spread farther than a few yards. For some time after the blaze was given but few bundles of shingles were in flames. The fire brigade arrived on the scene ten minutes after the alarm, but there was some difficulty in attaching the hose to the hydrant. Meanwhile the flames ascended and caught the tall building to the north of the savings bank. The water was now pretty well brought into play, but the sparks from this high house blew wildly about, and in a few minutes eight distinct houses in various parts of the town were ablaze and sending sparks to other houses, by which means the destroying element soon surrounded several districts, literally defying the efforts of the firemen. The people are homeless, and hundreds are sleeping in the open air. Central park and the race course, where the governor is endeavoring to get tents belonging to the military erected for their covering.

J. C. Kretzmar, United States consul at Graytown, in an account of the fire at Kingston, said everything is gone. The entire business part of Kingston was a mass of ruins and the suffering and want indescribable. The steamer Alvo was compelled to cut loose from the dock and stand out to sea. The Alvo's boats were sent ashore and upwards of 250 refugees were fed and cared for on board the steamer. The authorities of Kingston have ordered that shingle roof buildings shall no longer be erected. As to the origin of the conflagration, it seems that a number of boys were smoking in a lumber yard, when one of them, frightened by the approach of his father, threw his cigar in a pile of shavings and chips, and with his companions fled. The fire communicated to the lumber pile and in an instant was beyond control, and burning fiercely. Several days before the fire the residents were told the city was to be destroyed by fire, and their only safety lay in flight. Several persons perished in the flames.

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Three more deaths in consequence of the explosion in the Carriage factory at Mont Valerian. The remainder of the injured women are suffering fearful agony.

GENERAL STONE COMING HOME. CAIRO, December 21.—General Stone, late chief of staff of the Egyptian army, has resigned his commission and intends to return to America.

ROBBERED AND TURNED OUT. DUBLIN, December 21.—The secretary of the Tukes emigration fund, applying for aid to enable the distressed people to be repatriated, was robbed of his money and turned out of the house.

DIAMOND ROBBERY. MONTEBELLUNA, December 21.—The chief of police has received a notice from Scotland Yard of a great diamond robbery in London and offering a reward of \$2,500 for the capture of the thief.

SICK FRENCHMEN. PARIS, December 21.—It is thought desirable to remove Gambetta to Paris at the first opportunity, as the country house is damp. The archbishop of Bordeaux, reported dead, is only seriously ill.

EARTHLY AGUE. HAVANA, December 21.—Two slight shocks of earthquake at Santiago de Cuba were felt on the 11th inst. Another shock, very violent but short, occurred on the morning of the 12th.

WESTGATE THE LOON. DUBLIN, December 21.—All witnesses in connection with the Phoenix park murders, examined and instructed to attend to-morrow at Kilmallock hall to see if they could identify Westgate as one of the assassins.

GERMANY AND RUSSIA. BERLIN, December 21.—The Bourse has recovered its normal state, and confidence is again displayed. The result of the newspaper storm which has just passed is that it has enabled Europe to see the relations between Germany and Russia are much more cordial than previously supposed.

A Broken Bank. ROCHESTER, December 21.—William C Moore's private banking house at Victor, New York, has closed its doors. The suspension was caused by the failure of the City bank at Rochester. The liabilities are estimated at \$100,000. Moore made the assignment to Josiah Apton. The bank will hardly pay more than sixty cents on the dollar.

The Broken Bank. BOSTON, December 21.—A large and excited meeting of stockholders of the defunct Pacific bank was held to-day. A resolution was adopted urging suits to be brought against the directors of the bank and the United States attorney be requested to prosecute them criminally.

Oil Movements. PITTSBURGH, December 22.—Oil opened strong this morning at 82 1/2 and advanced to 83 1/2. Then it became weaker and declined to 82 1/2. Closed at noon at 82 1/2. The market was agitated by the excitement, and the trading was light.

The Spirit of Jesse Abroad. HARTFORD, December 21.—The Ford brothers were advertised to lecture here to-night, with an illustration of the manner of killing Jesse James. Just two dollars were taken at the door, and the lecture was postponed.

A Massacre in Brooklyn. NEW YORK, December 21.—Alexander Jefferson (negro) committed a double murder in Brooklyn to-night, and seriously injured two other persons. The facts are: At 176 Buffalo avenue resided Mrs. Emma Jackson, an aged colored woman, her daughter Annie, 24 years