

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Van Wyck Looking Sharp For Railroad Land Grant Swindlers.

The Virginia Senators Readjust the Senate Officers With the Republicans.

Civil Service and the Presidential Succession Come Under Discussion.

Appointments Made and Confirmed—Other Matters.

THE FORTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

SENATE. WASHINGTON, December 18.—The following bills were reported from committee and placed on the calendar:

By Mr. Harrison—Providing for civil government in Alaska.

By Mr. Hoar—Bill in regard to election of president and vice-president.

Mr. Van Wyck—A resolution calling on the secretary of the interior for copies of mortgages given by the Texas Pacific railway on lands granted by the act of March 3d, 1874; also to inform the senate of railroad corporations claiming lands not earned during the life time of the grant together with the number of acres claimed by each road.

Continuing the morning hour Mr. Sherman asked immediate consideration of the resolution offered yesterday for the senate to proceed to the election of officers: namely secretary of the senate, chief clerk, principal executive clerks, chaplain, and sergeant-at-arms. Agreed to.

The division was on strictly party lines, Messrs. Mahone and Riddleberger voting with the republicans.

Mr. Sherman moved that Anson G. McCook be chosen secretary of the senate.

Mr. Pendleton moved to amend by substituting the name of L. Q. Washington.

Lost, yeas 29, nays 32, and the main resolution was agreed to. Mr. McCook was then sworn in.

The remaining republican nominees were elected as follows: Chief clerk, Charles W. Johnson, of Minnesota; executive clerk, James R. Young, of Pennsylvania; chaplain, Rev. Elias DeWitt Huntley, District of Columbia; sergeant-at-arms, W. P. Canady, of North Carolina.

Mr. Saulsbury called attention to the record republicans are making the civil service act they so highly praised and for which they voted, and have now not only taken the offices to which good salaries are attached, but even the chaplaincy.

Mr. Beck objected to the course of the republicans in turning out Bright, a man conspicuous for his ability, and electing a man without experience. He said it was clear that the civil service act was considered by the republicans a mere humbug when it interfered with them. He asked what special fitness the new nominee had for the office.

Mr. Sherman replied that he was doing just what the gentleman from Kentucky (Beck) would under the circumstances do with a straight face and without apology, and he (Sherman) had no apology to offer. Canady is a man of standing, of high character, and well fitted for the duties of the office.

The senate went into executive session, and when the doors were reopened went into committee of the whole for the purpose of continuing the consideration of the new rules.

Mr. Cameron (Wisconsin) thought as several senators were absent, consideration of the new rules had better be postponed, and moved an adjournment. Lost, yeas 22, nays 27.

The question pending was the adoption of the first of the new rules relating to the election of president pro tem, and his right in case of absence to name a substitute who should perform the duties of the chair three days.

On motion of Mr. Garland a division of the rule was agreed to, so as to permit the first two clauses, which were not objected to, to be voted upon separately.

On the question of agreeing to the third clause which gives the vice-president the power of substitution, a debate arose.

Mr. Bayard stated that he had not been able to discharge his mind of grave objections which existed to this clause, owing to the complications which might ensue in case of the death of the president pro tem, and he thought it would be wise to postpone the consideration of this clause until it could be placed in such position that there will be absolutely no doubt and he could not see that the arguments advanced by those who favored the rule were at all satisfactory.

Mr. Jones (Florida) and Mr. Blair thought it dangerous to clothe the president pro tempore with such power. Mr. Maxey remarked that this proposed clause was a change of the rule that had been in force 60 years, and was practically a departure from the theory which the rule defended, for it was only meant to fit a temporary necessity, while under the construction as now held, if the same could be made these days, it could be extended to 30 days. He opposed the proposition.

Mr. Frye, who reported the clause, as chairman of the committee on rules, said he could not see how by any possibility the rule could touch the question of presidential succession, nor how it raised a constitutional question, there being no vice president of the United States, and the vice president pro tem. of the senate being necessarily the presiding officer for the next two years, the question is whether, in case of a day's sickness or a day or two of absence, the United States senate can transact business without being compelled to elect him from the place to which it has elected him. Under the rule, as it stands now, if the president of the senate is taken sick, the senate would be obliged, under the chairmanship of the committee on rules, to elect a president pro tem, and that president pro tem. would be clothed with all the powers which under the constitution attach to the office.

Mr. Bayard stated that the constitution provides that the presiding officer

of the senate shall be vice president and if the vice president is absent and cannot nominate his locum tenens the senate must elect one and if the vice president comes back the next day, the senator who temporarily presided goes out of office ipso facto. On one occasion the present pro tempore was in doubt whether the fact that Henry Wilson was in the gallery, and so within the walls, did not vacate the presidency pro tempore made for his absence the day before.

Mr. Frye pointed out that in the house of representatives the speaker has power to appoint a substitute for a period of ten days and never has been objected to. He called for a yeas and nays vote on the adoption of the clause objected to.

Mr. Ingalls offered the customary resolution that the president and house of representatives be notified of the election of a new secretary of the senate. Agreed to. Pending a vote on the rule the senate adjourned.

CAPITAL NOTES.

APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED.

WASHINGTON, December 18.—The senate in executive session to-day confirmed the following appointments: Lawrence Weldon of Illinois, judge of the court of claims; John R. Tanner of Illinois, United States marshal, southern district of Illinois; Nathaniel P. Barns of Massachusetts, United States marshal, Massachusetts; John W. Scott of Kansas, Indian agent of the Ponce, Pawnee and Osage agency; Colonel Samuel B. Harris, quartermaster general; John S. Tooker of Michigan, secretary, Montana.

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

The committee appointed by congress to investigate the railway mail service and recommend a more complete system of gauging rates of payment for carrying the mail on railroad routes has completed its report, which will be transmitted to congress by the postmaster general. Postal service was taken on 300 miles of new road from July 1 to December 15. This increase is mainly in south and southwestern sections.

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC.

The president has appointed John C. Wyman of New York, H. Watkins of New York, Frank H. Hubbell of the District of Columbia, commissioners to examine the completed portions of the Northern Pacific railway in Washington Territory.

UNANSWERED FRUITFULNESS.

Colonel L. O. Washington, who received the democratic vote in the senate to-day for secretary, is the well-known correspondent of The New Orleans Picayune. His nomination in the caucus, although unsolicited, was unanimous.

NOMINATIONS AND RULES CONSIDERED.

WASHINGTON, December 18.—At a meeting of the senate committee on finance the nomination of Walter Evans as commissioner of internal revenue was taken up. The charges against him and the reply thereto were considered. It was determined to report the nomination favorably to the senate. Sherman, Aldrich and Voorhees were present when the nomination was discussed.

The contract of P. S. Meath, of Memphis, for improvement of the Mississippi river Hard Times levee was annulled. The work will be completed by Hugh Carlisle, of Guntersville, Alabama.

The committee on rules of the house met this morning and determined to recommend that two committees be made out of the old education and labor committee to consider the two subjects separately, one to be called the committee on education, the other the committee on labor. It was also decided to recommend the creation of a committee on rivers and harbors.

The question of submitting the improvement of the Mississippi to the river and harbor committee was discussed, and the decision of the matter was left to the house. It was determined to recommend the retention of all the select committees of the last house, except such as related to personal subjects.

The census committee was dropped, also the committee on congressional library. Mr. Keifer was instructed to report a resolution, without recommending adoption, for the appointment of a committee on woman suffrage. The request of correspondents to be admitted to the house lobby was considered and unanimously agreed to.

THE LOUISIANA DEMOCRATS.

BATON ROUGE, La., December 18.—The democratic state convention of Louisiana met to-day and was called to order by the chairman of the state committee, and J. M. Howell was made temporary chairman. He expressed the hope that the resolutions of the convention would be harmonious and satisfactory. Two secretaries from each faction were appointed.

The convention reassembled at 7 p. m. The credentials committee asked until noon to-morrow to report. The convention adjourned until that hour. Indication is that Governor McEnery will be renominated on the first ballot.

Excitement at a Fire.

ST. LOUIS, December 18.—The Occidental hotel, a large lodging house, used mainly by night workers, on the corner of 4th street and Olive avenue, caught fire from a lamp explosion between four and five o'clock this evening, and was damaged \$5,000; insurance \$24,000. The flames spread so rapidly that three servants had to be taken out through windows and down ladders amid great excitement.

Closed Up Businesses.

ST. PAUL, December 17.—Bradstreet reports that H. & M. Raymond, wholesale grocers of Fargo, have closed up. A chattel mortgage amounting to \$50,000 has been foreclosed against them by the First National Bank of Fargo. Both are due in St. Paul, Chicago, New York, St. Louis, Cincinnati and Cleveland. The firm did a business of more than \$200,000 per annum.

Work and Wages.

PITTSBURGH, December 18.—The workmen of Genly, Bennett & Co.'s Clinton mill to-night accepted a ten per cent reduction of wages. The firm operates three mills and the reduction will extend to all. Fifteen hundred are affected.

Warning Powder.

TRON, N. Y., December 18.—Three hundred pounds of warning powder, which users were warning around a stove at Lyon Mountain, Clinton county, exploded. Considerable damage was done the company's building, and many miners narrowly escaped death.

THE TROUBLED POOLS.

Plunging Into Them Does Not Seem to Heal the Sick.

There is Raging Among the Trunk Lines Over the Percentages.

The Struggle to Gain Possession of a Link of the Erie System.

Several Meetings Which Failed of Fixing Things.

RAILROAD MATTERS.

THE IOWA POOL MEETING.

CHICAGO, December 18.—An adjourned meeting of the Iowa railway pool, called to adjust their differences and to determine whether the existence of the association should be further prolonged, was held at 11 o'clock this morning, with representatives of the Burlington and Northwestern only putting in an appearance. A letter was read from Mr. Cable, of the Rock Island stating his indisposition and inability to attend. The prospect seems assured that adjournment will be taken without action.

Mr. Cable of Rock Island, and Mr. Merrill of the Milwaukee & St. Paul were represented at the session by subordinates without power to act beyond that of acquiescing in an adjournment which was at once taken subject to the call of the pool committee, who was instructed to ascertain the earliest date all managers can be present. The failure to hold the session is ascribed to a delay on the part of the directors of the Union Pacific road to confirm the tripartite contract.

The official view is given that notwithstanding the failure of the Iowa pool managers to come together to-day, matters remain in statu quo pending the action of the Union Pacific directors. A meeting of the Colorado pool was held this afternoon, immediately following the adjournment of the Iowa pool. A committee of four was appointed to consider certain demands made by smelters and mine owners in Colorado. It was arranged that the committee should meet the committee representing the mining interests at Denver. Adjournment was taken subject to the call of the commissioner, who will issue a call for a meeting of the pool after a decision has been reached as to the future of the Iowa pool and upon which the existence of the Colorado pool largely hinges.

AN UNSATISFACTORY POOL.

NEW YORK, December 18.—Charles Francis Adams, Jr., Hugh Riddle and John C. Gaunt, trunk line arbitrators, heard appeals from the awards of the present pool in the London freight pool, made by Commissioner Fink with which it is alleged there is great dissatisfaction. A portion of the trunk lines were represented and submitted arguments for and against the modification of allotments. The Pennsylvania road is said to be the most dissatisfied with the present schedule of per cents. Commissioner Fink denied, however, in emphatic terms the report that the Pennsylvania road intended to withdraw from the association and said the association of roads was never more stable than at the present time.

DISPOSED TO BE UGLY.

WINNEPEG, December 18.—When the west-bound freight train reached Brandon yesterday the engine was run to the water tank, where several men, supposed to be strikers, mounted the cab, brutally pounded the engineer and fireman and escaped before the police reached the scene. The Canadian Pacific deadlock is practically ended, and the workshops will be opened to-morrow. The discharged engineers and firemen are disposed to act ugly and commit depredations, but are restrained largely by police protection.

A GREAT FIGHT.

CLEVELAND, O., December 18.—James McHenry's deposition continued to-day. Cross examined McHenry stated that he was ignorant of the deception practiced on him that he believed the sworn statements of the officers of the road until by litigation his eyes became opened. The earnings of the road (meaning the Atlantic & Great Western) for the year 1873 were \$200,000. Thus McHenry testified there was good management but to his surprise the road was claimed to be insolvent. The balance of the replies on cross examination were very voluminous, the answers tending to show that McHenry was in no way consulted by the present management, and through many delays and fruitless attempts failed to receive any recognition from the present board, although being in fact owner of most all the stock in the road according to his statements. The suit and deposition is attracting considerable attention as it is practically a contest for the ownership of a very important link in the great Erie system of railroads.

REDUCING RATES.

KANSAS CITY, December 18.—The freight rate to St. Paul and Minneapolis was made 17 cents on wheat and 15 on corn to-day, being a drop of 5 cents. This business is not pooled, but has an agreed rate. There is less than usual shipping at present, owing to the recent break in the wheat market here.

A BRUISED MEETING.

CHICAGO, December 18.—The directors of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern railroad met here to-day for the purpose of hearing reports and acting on proposals to extend the road from Spirit Lake northward, involving the absence of representatives of the Rock Island road, which holds a controlling interest in the Burlington Cedar Rapids & Northern road, nothing was done at the meeting.

Minors Horticulturists.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., December 18.—The twenty-eighth annual session of the State Horticultural society is being held in the opera house here. At the first session, this morning, 50 members were present, from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Ohio. O. B. Galusha, of Peoria, in the chair. Last year Galusha was defeated for secretary by Lemington Small, of Kankakee, at a meeting held there. Galusha claimed that he joined for the purpose of being elected, and that he was elected by a packed majority, who also joined merely to elect him. Galusha refused to turn over the papers to Small, and to-day the association sustained that refusal and Small will not be re-elected. Reports of committees show a heavy yield of fruit in northern Illinois, and that trees are in good condition.

At the evening session president Galusha read his annual address. He referred feelingly to Baldwin, of Jacksonville, and Treadwell, of St. Louis. The theme of the address was "Meteorological Difficulties Attendant upon Horticulture." He argued that congress should establish meteorological signal stations. State Entomologist Forbes read a paper on entomology, and Professor Merrill, of Champaign, on vegetable physiology. To-morrow the association meets in the free Congregational church.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE ST. LOUIS MATCH.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., December 18.—In the billiard match to-night between William H. Cotton and John F. Donovan, for \$500 a side, 800 points, 400 to-night and 400 to-morrow, the score stood, Cotton 334, Donovan 400. Betting was in favor of Cotton at the start. Donovan received the odds of a double discount.

THE FRENCH GAMES.

LYONS, December 18.—In the billiard contest to-day Daily scored 100 points, Garnier 53. The score for four nights are, Daily 2,400, Garnier 2,346.

The Alaska Mission School.

NEW YORK, December 18.—The secretary of the board of home missions of the Presbyterian church says, regarding the mission and girls school at Fort Wrangel, Alaska, there has been some differences as to the method of work and some unpleasantness and excitement in the school and town, which they deplore, but that the account sent out from San Francisco alleging there has been prostitution in the school and that one of the missionaries claimed to be the second Christ, is wholly untrue.

Henricks' Pleasure Trip.

INDIANAPOLIS, December 18.—The printed statement that Governor Hendricks has gone abroad for medical advice or treatment is denied by members of his family here, and the story is known to his friends to be untrue. He will not visit London and the party will not be in Paris more than two or three days. It is purely a pleasure trip for the party. Mr. Hendricks is in as robust health now as he has been any time within the past ten years.

Boiler Explosion.

PITTSBURGH, December 18.—Two boilers of P. D. Richards oil refinery, on the line of the Allegheny Valley railroad, exploded at noon with terrific force, injuring a number of workmen; two, named West and Fisher, are believed to be fatally hurt. Others are still lying in the boiler house, and the extent of their injuries are unknown. Later intelligence from the explosion states that six men were injured, two seriously, the boiler house demolished, and a portion of the boiler carried over 100 yards.

Kuklux Sentenced.

ATLANTA, Ga., December 18.—To-day Judge McCoy refused a new trial in the Banks county kuklux case of the five prisoners, Jasper Yarbrough, James Yarbrough, Emory, Lemons and Lovick Streetman. He stated in open court they were guilty but that E. H. Green and Delmus Yarbrough were innocent. The men pleading guilty were sentenced to two years imprisonment and to pay a fine of \$500 each. Neal Yarbrough is sick in jail and was not sentenced.

FROM FOREIGN LANDS.

Another Great Scare in England and Extreme Precautions Taken.

France Making Preparations to Let Loose the Dogs of War in Tonquin.

The Crown Prince of Germany Among the Romans and With the Pope.

Charged With Plotting Murder White at Mass.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

THE TONQUIN CREDIT.

PARIS, December 18.—In the chamber of deputies this afternoon the Tonquin credit was under discussion. Prime Minister Ferry said: "The government cannot be asked to publish its plans. It is necessary to place confidence in the ministry and allow it to conduct its operations with necessary secrecy, otherwise the house would have to choose another government." General Capoen, secretary of war, assured the chamber that the cabinet was united in its plans. Deputies Lockroy and Granot opposed the credit and made strong speeches against the government. The president of the chamber was compelled to call Granot to order, and the house closed the debate. The Bishop Forepell stated that although he disapproved of the manner in which the credit was conceived to be conducted, he would vote for the credit which would give confidence to the army and authority to the government. "Wherever," said the bishop, "the flag of France is brought to the front it should be followed." This sentiment received tremendous applause and the clauses of the bill were adopted and subsequently the bill was adopted. This is for 2,000,000 francs for the first six months of 1884.

General Millot will start for Tonquin Wednesday to take command of the French troops. The senate committee on the Tonquin credit presented a report unanimously which approves the credit, considers it impossible to abandon Tonquin, declaring a retreat would destroy French prestige in the east, compromise Cochin China, and dishonor France in the eyes of Europe. It is necessary, the committee says, to act with vigor, and rapidly. The debate on the credit will be held on Thursday.

Eight thousand officers have offered themselves for service in Tonquin. ANOTHER PENIAN SCARE. LONDON, December 18.—The police are closely watching the houses of leading Irish nationalists. Lord Mayor received anonymous letters threatening to blow up London bridge and Newgate. The detectives withdrawn from prison after O'Donnell's death have returned there. Extra police on and about the bridge watch the arches, examine all crafts passing and scrutinize all persons crossing. In consequence of threats to avenge O'Donnell armed policeman guard Hawarden castle, the residence of Gladstone. One hundred and fifty artillerymen have gone to Egypt. The queen has gone to Osborne, Isle of Wight. A farmer named Phillip McGavin was murdered in County Cavan, Ireland. The crime being the result of agrarian troubles. Several arrests.

LONDON, December 18.—Extensive precautions have been taken in consequence of information of the arrival of Fenian boats concerned in the storage of arms at Cork, well, for which offense Walsh was convicted. A special corps of police, many of whom speak the Irish language, have been placed wherever it is thought mischief is likely to occur. All persons in public buildings and docks are carefully watched.

A special corps of police have been detailed to guard the parliament buildings in Westminster abbey, government offices, national gallery, German embassy, mansion houses, stock exchange and bank of England. The luggage of all passengers landing from Atlantic steamers is carefully scrutinized.

ROME, December 18.—After privately dining at the Quirinal, the German crown prince, King Humbert, Duke of Costa and son, Grand Duke Baden, went to the capital last evening, where they were received by the mayor of Rome. The party then witnessed the illumination of the monuments in the forum with Bengal lights and afterwards proceeded to the museum where an official reception was held. The German prince had a long conversation with the Italian minister of foreign affairs. To-day the prince took lunch with the German ambassador to the royal court of Italy and afterwards conferred upon Von Kandler, German ambassador, the grand cordon of the order of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus.

The German crown prince received the grand dignitaries of Italy, president of the senate, and president of the chamber of deputies and diplomatic body to-day. He frequently expressed himself as being deeply impressed by the cordiality of his welcome. A state banquet was given in the prince's honor this evening, at which were present 124 persons, including members of the royal family. The prince will depart from Rome Thursday evening. The length of the prince's interview with the pope is much remarked upon.

BAKER GOES FOR THE PROPHET. CAIRO, December 18.—Baker Pasha started for Suakin. He will reach Suza to-night. He will have supreme command of Sudan. The khedive instructed him to endeavor to conciliate the tribes before resorting to force, the object of the expedition being to pacify the countries between Suakin and Berber. The khedive also advised him not to begin operations until reinforced by black recruits and not engage the enemy unless under the most favorable conditions.

Baker Pasha, on departing for Suakin, received an ovation owing to his popularity and the feeling that he has a hopeless task.

GOING TO MEET O'DONNELL.

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THE TRANSCROSSORS.

A Woman Who Wanted Her Husband's Life, Money and Brother.

A Young Villian's Thin Excuse For Murder, Violence and Robbery.

Convicts Introduced as Witnesses in the Emma Bond Case.

A Postmaster Settles His Shortage by Suicide.

CRIMINAL MATTERS.

CONVICT WITNESSES.

ST. LOUIS, December 18.—The Post-Diaper case of the grand jury, Ill., says: After two or three unimportant witnesses testified this morning in the Bond trial, Burrell, a convict from the Chester, Ill., penitentiary, serving term for burglary, was put on the stand and testified that he was in jail at Taylorville in the spring, and met acquainted there with Montgomery, Pettis and Clements, who were in a cell together. He heard conversations between them. Clements said he had let his toe nail grow long and had let it sticking out in June. Montgomery said: "You couldn't lose it sticking out in June." Some one read from a paper that Miss Bond's underclothes were torn. Clements said it was a 3-d lie, they were not torn, and Montgomery said: "Shut up, what do you know about it?" At this point Judge Thornton, of the defense, said to the attorney for the prosecution: "You may just as well rake hell for witnesses as to take them from the penitentiary. The introduction of a witness convicted of one of the highest crimes, to testify against men of good standing, is infamous. Such testimony is wholly incompetent."

After an hour and a half of argument the court overruled a motion to reject the evidence of Burrell and he was cross-examined without developing anything new. Charles Meyer, convicted of murder and in the penitentiary, testified that he was in Taylorville jail fourteen months and was there when defendants were brought in. After the officers left them they had a private conversation, a part of which I heard. Montgomery said, "we must all tell the same story. We all under and one another now." Montgomery laughed over the telling of a piece of cow horn to his toe nail. Clements said he had lost a toe paring. "Yes," said Montgomery, "I suppose you lost it sticking out in June." Clements read from a paper about Miss Bond's clothing being torn and Pettis said it was a lie.

A STARTLING REQUEST.

DENVER, December 18.—Last Saturday Mary Kofford called on Dr. Rose, a prominent dentist of Leadville and made the startling request that he furnish her with a poison that could not be detected by an autopsy and offered \$300 as compensation, reluctantly admitting that she wished to get rid of her husband, Hans Koffard, that her husband's brother, of whom she was enamored, and herself might together enjoy the insurance of \$5,000 which the husband carried. After making an appointment to meet both at his office last evening, the doctor arranged with the police and several interested insurance men to be present but concealed. At the interview the whole diabolical plan was made known and the parties immediately arrested and jailed. They are all Danish. The youngest brother is 60 years of age and the woman thirty-five.

GUILTY GORDON.

JERSEY CITY, N. J., December 18.—The jury in the case of Captain Gordon, charged with abducting Addie Bressan, rendered a verdict of guilty.

A FINAL SETTLEMENT.

ST. LOUIS, December 18.—W. J. Pearson, postmaster of Batesville, Ark., was found dead in his room in the Hotel Barnum last night. It was supposed he