THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FIFTEENTH YEAR. OMAHA, SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 19, 1885. NUMBER 154.

FROM THE NATION'S CAPITAL.

Representative Dorsey's Bill to Change Nebraska Land Districts.

SAM RANDALL'S FAILING FIGHT.

The Question of Silver Coinage Depending on the Composition of the Coinage Committee—Red Men Talk With Cleveland.

Nebraska Land Districts.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—[Special Telegram.]—Representative Dorsey of Nebraska is preparing a bill which he will introduce in the house at the earliest possible day, abolishing the Lincoln and Beatrice land districts in Nebraska and forming a new district from both of them. The bill will also create two new land districts in the state—one out of Sheridan, Sioux, Dawes and a portion of Cherry county, to be known as the Northwest land district; the other south of Cheyenne and to embrace some unorganized territory and a part of Keith county, to be known as the Cheyenne land district.

Mr. Dorsey is preparing the bill by the advice of Land Commissioner Sparks and Secretary of the Interior Lamar. It will make altogether ten land districts in Nebraska, an increase of one over the present organization. He is confident that the bill will be passed, as he has the strongest arguments at his command in favor of it.

LOST LAND WARRANTS.

A bill was introduced in the senate to-day by Mr. Allison of Iowa which directs the secretary of the interior to issue to George K. Otis of Iowa duplicates of three Porterfield land warrants, in pursuance of an act of congress approved April 11, 1860, numbered 16, 17, and 120, respectively, upon satisfactory proof of ownership and loss of the same, and execution of a bond with good and sufficient securities, in double the market value of the warrants so to be issued, to be approved by the secretary of the interior, conditioned to indemnify the United States against presentation by an innocent holder of the alleged lost warrants. The duplicates shall have all the legal force and effect as had the originals. The secretary of the interior may require further proof of loss of the land warrants than that on file in his department before issuing the duplicates. This bill passed the senate at the last session of congress.

A TALK WITH THE GREAT FATHER.

The nine gorgeously dressed Indians of the Sac and Fox tribe, of Iowa, were received by the president this morning. An interpreter was with them, but it was not absolutely necessary, as some of the red men can speak English very intelligently. They were in the president's private office for more than half an hour. They are here on business for the tribe, and at the same time have been taking in the sights. They take a lively interest in all that is going on around them. On account of their own gaudy habiliaments, paint, feathers and toggery generally, they are attracting much attention on the streets. Visitors at the white house eyed them intently, and the Indians made as imposing a procession when they filed out as nine braves possibly could.

THE AUTHORS' OPPORTUNITY.

The senate committee on patents, to which has been referred the international copyright bill, introduced by Senator Hawley, has directed its chairman, Senator Platt, to give public notice of its purpose to hear authors and others who are interested on the subject. No day has yet been fixed for the first hearing, but the committee expresses the hope that all who have views to express on the subject will be prepared to communicate them to the committee verbally or in writing soon after the holidays.

RANDALL'S FAILING FIGHT.

The failure of the Randall hosts in the house to secure retention of power for that leader means that the bankruptcy bill will at last have a chance to stand upon its own merits in the present session of congress. Randall made a very bitter fight against a change of the rules, but unfortunately for him when he had the whole house under his thumb he was not satisfied with the use of power but had to abuse it. There is very little sympathy expressed here for the deposed leader, and while some of those who fought the Morrison bill are willing to give him credit for his share in disposing of that measure, every man who had the good of the country at heart and the desire that congress should at least do something, is utterly disgusted with the arbitrary manner in which the Pennsylvania statesman ruled the country.

Said a southwestern congressman to-day, in speaking of this subject:

"Political economists in other countries look upon this government as a representative one. They have a mistaken notion that the popular will governs. These men know nothing of that little book published once a year which is compiled by Harry Smith, the journal clerk of the house, known as the constitution and manual. A careful perusal of that work would show that the chairman of the appropriations committee can be, if he chooses, the dictator of the United States, and in fact a glance at the proceedings of the last two sessions of congress would show that Mr. Randall has held this country in his hand, and has practically ruled it as thoroughly as the czar of Russia rules two-thirds of the continent of Europe. It is for this reason that we insist upon the change in the rules, and it was because the determination was strong that the rules should be changed, that the house declined to order a call of the states for the introduction of bills on last Monday."

THE QUESTION OF SILVER COINAGE.

The action of the house upon the proposition to suspend the coinage of the standard silver dollar depends almost altogether upon the composition of the committee on coinage, weights and measures. Your correspondent has the best authority for asserting that Speaker Carlisle favors the suspension of this coinage for a time at least. He has made up his mind that if an international bi-metallic standard is to be established, it can only be brought about by a change in the coinage laws of the United States. Very strong pressure is being brought to bear upon him to give the chairmanship of the committee on coinage to some less rabid silver man than Mr. Bland.

Whether the speaker will have the courage to take this radical step in the direction of better coinage is a question which has not yet been answered. Those who are in a position to know say, however, that the committee will consist of eight members known to favor suspension, and five who are disposed to keep up the present issue of $2,000,000 per month. The mere fact that a majority of the committee will be anti-silver men will not be sufficient to assure action upon any one of the bills which will in all probability be introduced. The power of the chair is almost absolute, and if Gen. Bland should again fill this position he will probably use his power as he did in the last congress, to defeat the will of the majority by refusing to call the committee together for the consideration of any bill.

Congressman Darwin R. James, who will probably be the New York member on the committee, is more hopeful to-day of action in congress than he has been for some time. Mr. James is firmly convinced that the interests of bimetallism can be best subserved by a temporary suspension of the coinage, and he think that if Mr. Carlisle will listen to the business men of the country, and place the control of the coinage committee in the hands of some one who will be likely to at least give all sides a fair trial, the Forty-ninth congress may after all do something with this important subject.

DEMOCRATS AND THE NAVY.

Many people have been startled and surprised by the sudden zeal for rebuilding our navy recently manifested by certain members of the administration and by other leading democrats here. That surprise is not strange when we consider the course pursued by the democrats when out of power. Now the turn is changed and all good democrats are howling a Hosanna to Whitney, who is going to build us a navy! Gradually the African under the fuel is being developed by passing events, and the public will soon understand the entire enigma.

It must be remembered that this is a New York administration, if it is anything at all. New York has a navy yard—the largest in the country and the best equipped. The others are mere repairing yards, except the Washington yard, which has been transformed into an ordnance and torpedo establishment. Whitney has crushed the only private navy yard that was prepared to build men-of-war and fully equip them. The work, therefore, must go to New York. Democrats of high standing are in this scheme. If the work is done in New York and under democratic auspices at least 50 per cent of the money will be stolen. That is the rule in regard to contracts with New York City democrats. Every contract let there under democratic auspices costs twice as much as it should. That has been the rule ever since Tweed's day, and is the rule now.

If this work is done in New York there will be millions stolen—enough to flood the country polls in 1888 and fill the pockets of all concerned besides. This is the game that is to be played on the people. The republicans in congress should not vote a dollar to rebuild the navy until they have some assurance that the money will be legitimately expended, and not used to stuff ballot boxes and fill the pockets of the horde of democrats, who have controlled the New York navy yard whenever their party was in power at Washington.

THE DEMOCRATIC FACTION FIGHTS.

The temper of the protective tariff democrats in the house during the past few days has been to demonstrate the determination to give battle to the free traders in their onslaught upon Mr. Randall, and it is quite evident that before the end of the session there will be some pretty hard hitting among the majority members. Mr. Randall and his following, amounting to about fifty votes, representing Pennsylvania, Alabama, Georgia, and other portions of the country south, are determined not to be throttled, and in that determination they have largely the sympathy of the republican members. Undoubtedly Mr. Randall has the support of the president in a good many of his ambitions—at least, he is not handicapped by the influence at the White House. This sympathy on the part of the president is not one of personal character by any means, but of principle. The president, if anything, on the tariff is conservative, and occupies a ground midway between the friends of Mr. Randall and those of Mr. Carlisle. There is not a spark of political feeling, and not a very large amount of personal sympathy between the two last named gentlemen, while their friends are arrayed solidly against each other. It is only a question whether the leaders of both factions in the democratic party have the courage to exert their sentiments and do openly what their private instincts incline them to do. One of Mr. Carlisle's friends, speaking of the subject to-day, said significantly:

"The democrats are in power. The principles espoused by Mr. Randall and his followers are not those of the majority. The minority must yield, therefore, to the masses. There is nothing more exasperating to the majority of the democrats than the work Mr. Randall is indulging in. He acts just like a man who considers his party too strong. He may change his mind after a while."

LOADED FOR THE SPRING.

Consideration of such staid measures as silver coinage, the tariff, steamship subsidies, rehabilitation of the navy, inter-state commerce, penny letter postage, postal telegraph, and the like, will not come fully before congress until the appropriation bills have been got out of the way. Of course, there will be considerable talk about these matters and other general subjects as early as February and March, but the downright "tongue-clubbing" will not begin until about May or June. Then the appropriations will be fairly out of the way and the coast will be clear for scenes of exciting debate. People who defer their visit to the capital, therefore, until the summer months, will have the benefit of both the charming weather of this climate and the interesting features of congress. There is such a mass of important subject matter to come before congress that the proceedings will be comparatively commonplace during the first two or three months.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

It is pretty evident at this hour that the Morrison rules will be adopted. Should this follow, Randall will offer a bill giving the president power to veto certain portions of the appropriation bill.

Senator Van Wyck was among President Cleveland's callers to-day.

A BILL OF INTEREST TO ARMY MEN.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—[Associated Press.]—Among the measures introduced in the senate to-day was the following:

By Frye—Providing that all future appointees as heads of departments of the United States army shall be officers selected from the army and nominated by the president and confirmed by the senate to be such heads of departments for terms of four years. It declares that this provision shall not apply to the head of any department until that office shall first become vacant. The president may in his discretion, however, at any time place upon the retired list any existing head of a department, and the retired list is enlarged for that purpose.

ASSUMING A PARTISAN HUE.

There are indications of a protracted debate in the senate on the resolution of Butler about south Dakota. The discussion has assumed a partisan character and a number of republican senators have entered upon the preparation of speeches.

Representative Morrison, speaking to-day of the movement in south Dakota, said: "The present congress will certainly not consent to a division of Dakota and the admission of one-half as a state. The admission of the entire territory to the union may be possible."

MINOR MATTERS.

To-day's Congressional Record contains twenty-five pages of nominations sent to the senate since the beginning of the present session. They number about 1,200 cases.

The house of representatives will to-morrow take up for consideration the presidential succession bill which passed the senate yesterday.

A Tax-Shirking Concern.

ELIZABETHPORT, N. J., Dec. 18.—The Singer sewing machine factory shut down this afternoon, and 2,500 employes were informed that operations were suspended until further notice, because of the tax levy by the city. Outside of the employes of the company, the action of the city is endorsed by the citizens. A public meeting of the employes has been called for to-morrow evening. The company owes $20,000 tax, and refuses to pay.

NEBRASKA AND IOWA NEWS.

The Important Events of Yesterday Occuring in the Sister States.

AN OFFERING FROM ARAPAHOE.

Workmen's Dispute in Iowa Probably Settled—Barb Wire Monopoly—Fire at Creighton—Sidney Petions for a Land Office.

Arapahoe Amenities.

ARAPAHOE, Neb., Dec. 18.—[Special.]—The veterans of Garrett Post, G. A. R., gave a banquet and ball to-night and great times were had. There were addresses and songs by individuals, and the entire post united in singing "Rally 'Round the Flag." Captain Murphy led the singing, and had a general supervision of affairs.

The Arapahoe packing company has commenced killing hogs at the rate of forty per day, and expect to increase their capacity to sixty. Good prices are paid, ranging from $2.10 to $3.25

Different parties are putting up large quantities of ice, and contracts are being made with other towns in the valley.

There is some talk of a railroad coming here from the northeast, and the people are going to use their best efforts to make it a sure thing. Another railroad through this section will fully develop one of the finest countries in the west, and anyone crossing the divide between the Platte and Republican rivers will always wish to return if he ever goes away.

The First National bank of Arapahoe has increased its capital from $50,000 to $75,000.

Mr. Holt, a temperance lecturer from Chicago, has been holding a series of meetings in the new Methodist church and with good success. Many of the young men have joined, and the ladies, as usual, have fallen into line and aid Mr. Holt in every way possible.

The A. O. U. W. Dispute Settled.

DES MOINES, Iowa, Dec. 18.—[Special Telegram.]—The long pending dispute between the two branches of the order of United Workmen came before the supreme court this morning and was probably definitely settled. The order in Iowa divided on the question of paying death losses outside of the state. The objecting Workmen organized a grand lodge known as the state grand lodge, while the other side retained allegiance to the supreme grand lodge. Each side claimed the name of Ancient Order of United Workmen and the franchises of the order in Iowa. Suit was brought by the supreme lodge affiliation to compel the state grand lodge to surrender the name and property, and cease exercising the functions of the order. This was heard before Judge Utt at Waterloo, who decided in favor of the state. The defense appealed to the supreme court, where Judge Utt's decision was set aside and judgment rendered in favor of the state grand lodge. The counsel for the supreme lodge then filed a motion for a rehearing, which the court refused, holding, as heretofore, that the Workmen is an insurance organization, and not a fraternity; that the supreme lodge is a citizen of the state of Kentucky and must make the necessary deposit with the state auditor if it does business in Iowa, and that the state lodge is entitled to the name of Workmen in the state.

The Barb Wire Monopoly.

DES MOINES, Iowa, Dec. 18—[Special Telegram.]—The final decree of Judge Brewer in the United States circuit court at Leavenworth, Kansas, in the case of Washburn & Moen against the Grinnell Barb Wire company, was received here to-day. The decree fixes the amount of indebtedness of the defendants at $4,126.65, and orders a perpetual injunction against them. The defendants are given sixty days in which to perfect an appeal to the United States supreme court, and the amount of the appeal bond is fixed at $50,000. They are also to account on the tenth day of each month for the royalty on all the wire manufactured by them during the preceding month at the rate of 30 cents for each one hundred pounds, and are not permitted to increase the number of their barbing machines.

Iowa Supreme Court Decisions.

DES MOINES, Iowa, Dec. 18.—[Special Telegram.]—The supreme court to-day rendered the following decisions:

R. W. Raymond vs County of Clay, appellant, Clay circuit. Affirmed.

City of Marion vs B. Ganley, et al, appellants, Linn circuit. Affirmed.

E. J. Keish vs Incorporated town of Dyersville, appellant, Dubuque city. Reversed.

Jane P. Myers vs John Kert and John Rickennier, appellants, Buchanan circuit. Affirmed.

C. C. Bailey vs George L. Torbet, guardian, appellant, Dubuque circuit. Reversed.

State of Iowa on relation of R. Patrick, road supervisor, vs Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railway company, appellant, Mills circuit. Affirmed.

Martha P. Johnson vs Herman Foster, appellant, Linn circuit court. Reversed.

Marshaltown City bank, appellant, vs Annie A. Wright, et al, Marshall district. Affirmed.

In the matter of Rosa J. Donnelly, Cedar circuit court. Affirmed.

Sidney Wants a Land Office.

SIDNEY, Neb., Dec. 18.—[Special Telegram.]—A petition, signed by nearly all the residents of Cheyenne county, has been forwarded to Congressman Dorsey, asking for the establishment of a land office here. The petition has been endorsed by Leavitt Burnham, land commissioner of the Union Pacific and Register Neville, of North Platte. The office is a necessity as the settlement of government lands is assuming immense proportions here.

Aurora's Railroad Prospects.

AURORA, Neb., Dec. 18.—[Special Telegram.]—A surveying party of the Burlington & Missouri River railway arrived here last night, and this morning started to run a line between here and Hastings. Nothing of importance can be learned from them. It is also reported that the Union Pacific will continue their line from Stromsburg to Aurora in the spring.

Knights of Labor Purchase.

BURLINGTON, Iowa, Dec. 18.—[Special Telegram.]—The Knights of Labor to-day purchased Justice, a morning daily published in the interest of workingmen. The purchase was made at constable sale. The knights will hereafter conduct the paper.

Beer Vats Ablaze.

CREIGHTON, Neb., Dec. 18.—[Special Telegram.]—The brewery, situated one-half mile east of town, has just burned down. The cause of the fire is unknown. There are hints of incendiarism, but they are undoubtedly wrong. Loss, $2,000; insurance $1,300.

The Second of its Kind.

COLUMBUS, Neb., Dec. 18.—[Special Telegram.]—Jaeggie & Schupback's new iron-clad roller flouring mills, of 150 barrels per diem capacity, commenced running to-day. This is the second roller flouring mill now operating in this city. Both have orders for several weeks ahead.

Weather for To-Day.

MISSOURI VALLEY—Fair weather; variable winds, preceeded by northwesterly winds in the southern portion, slightly colder, lower barometer.

THE POLE'S DEPARTURE.

Chicago's Net Work of Wires Going Underground Rapidly.

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—[Special Telegram.]—The unsightly poles and wires which have disfigured our streets for so long are gradually disappearing. There are, as nearly as can be estimated, about 15,000 wires in Chicago used by the telegraph, telephone and electric light companies, besides countless private lines. According to reports received from the various companies last December, there were shown to be about about 1,100 miles of wire underground. Since then work has been actively going on, and during the present year about three times that amount have been put out of sight. At present the wires belonging to the city and the Postal and Bankers, Merchants, Telegraph besides those of a number of electric light companies, are underground, and the poles from which they hung are being cut down. The Western Union are placing their wires in pipes as rapidly as possible.

Electrician Barrett says the underground idea is spreading throughout the country, and the insulator factories were in consequence pushed to their utmost capacity to supply the immense demands, some of them being at least six months behind in orders. In his opinion the companies were doing all in their power to live up to the ordinance, and that by May all the wires in the business portion of the city would be underground, though it will take probably ten years to place all the wires throughout the city there.

A PLUCKY WOMAN.

She Successfully Sullivanizes an Assaulting Tramp.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 18.—[Special Telegram.]—The wife of James Sallers, living near Rising Sun, Md., is as brave as she is handsome. A short time ago her husband employed a tramp to work on a farm. Last night, in the absence of Sallers, the tramp hid himself behind a door with a club and when Mrs. Sallers entered he attempted to strike her on the head. She was too quick for him. She grappled with the tramp and a desperate struggle ensued. She got the club away from him. He several times threw her violently on the floor and tore all her clothes to rags. He then ran up stairs and then threatened to get her husband's gun and shoot her. She ran after him, and there was another struggle at the head of the stairs. Finally the plucky woman overpowered him, dragged him down stairs, shoved him out of the house and barred the door. He threatened to return later and burn the house. As soon as the man was out of sight Mrs. Sallers went to a neighbor's house some distance off. She was nearly exhausted, and badly cut and bruised about her arms and breast. Armed men watched the house and scoured the woods for the man all night, but did not succeed in finding him. If caught he will certainly be lynched.

A COW BOY JOURNALIST.

A Nebraska Youth Collared in Chicago With a Great Big Gun.

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—[Special Telegram.]—Michael Daly was before Justice White this morning, charged with disorderly conduct. A bartender said that Daly was in a saloon last night and had 50 cents worth of drinks and refused to pay more than 30 cents for them. When he was remonstrated with he produced a revolver and said he was a reporter from Ohio, and afterwards claimed to be a detective. This morning he told the justice that he came from Woodbridge, Neb., with some cattle; that his father had a paper there and that he sometimes got items for him. As regards the revolver he was only changing it from one pocket to another. He had bought the revolver to protect his father in Nebraska and was going to leave it at his hotel. The justice fined him $10 for the disorderly act and $10 for carrying the revolver

BOOK MAKERS BURSTED.

A Heavy St. Louis Concern in the Hands of the Sheriff.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 18.—The St. Louis Stationery and Book company confessed judgment to-day in favor of Hugh R. Hildreth for $45,700. Hildreth is ex-president and a heavy stockholder in the concern. His claim is for loans and salary. An order of sale was issued and the sheriff took possession of the company's store, Nos. 405, 407 and 409 North Fourth street. Later in the afternoon Ezra H. Lindley and the Mechanics' bank commenced attachment suits, the former for $12,500 and the latter for $10,500, against the company and Hildreth, which were executed by levying on the real estate and on the store. The liabilities of the company are stated to be $150,000 and the assets $200,000. Hildreth says the above action was taken in consequence of false reports having been circulated against the company in the east, and demands being made on them by various eastern houses for immediate payment of obligations, although the firm claim they have not a dollar of paper maturing this year.

A Victim of Cocoaine.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—[Special Telegram.]—Wm. Morrison, a wealthy man for many years connected with the drug trade of this city, was a prisoner in the police court yesterday charged with attempting to commit suicide on a Boston steamer. Morrison became an enthusiastic advocate of cocoaine during Gen. Grant's illness, and in order to better study its effects he became a constant consumer of the drug until now he is crazy. He wandered away from his home in this city ten days ago and since then has taken $300 worth of cocoaine. He is a total wreck and will be sent to an asylum for inebriates.

Chinamen Becoming Citizens.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 18.—Chronicle's El Paso, Texas, special: The Chinese located in El Paso are taking out naturalization papers and intend to become permanent citizens. Eight were made citizens to-day. It is thought the whole local colony, numbering over 200, will secure papers. The leading Chinese in the city state the movement will become general, and their countrymen in all cities and towns in the southwest will speedily renounce their allegiance to China and become Americans.

A Speculator Paralyzed.

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—G. P. Adams, widely known as "Gyp" Adams, a prominent operator on 'Change, and reputed to be quite wealthy, had a stroke of apoplexy while standing near the wheat pit on the floor of the exchange this morning and cannot live. LATER—It now appears that Mr. Adams was suffering from a stroke of paralysis, but it is believed he will recover.

Ruled Against the Heirs.

ST. PAUL, Dec. 18.—Judge Nelson, of the federal court, to-day refused to recede from his ruling against the DeMeyer heirs of Montreal against Dennis Ryan and P. H. Kelley, of St. Paul, for the possession of the $400,000 tract of land in controversy near the city. The DeMeyer heirs' only resource now is an appeal to the supreme court of the United States, which will require heavy bonds for costs.

Sparks Can't be Snuffed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18—Western senators are receiving a great number of letters urging them to oppose the confirmation of Land Commissioner Sparks because of his recent rulings. Sparks was confirmed by the senate as commissioner of the general land office on the 25th of last March.

Adjourned Without Results.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 18.—The Transcontinental association met this morning and immediately adjourned, to meet in New York the second Tuesday of February.

THE DAWN OF A BETTER DAY.

The Irish Home Rule Plan Creates Tremendous Enthusiasm in Dublin.

ORANGEMEN PREDICT CIVIL WAR.

A Price from the Prince—Threatening Plunderers Demand English Pounds from the Heir to the Throne.

Irish Home Rule.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—[Special Telegram.]—Parnell has won. This morning's news removes the last doubt that Gladstone will concede home rule of a sweeping kind. Of course the details of the eventual compromise are unknown, but it is believed that beyond stipulating free trade and exacting guarantees for protection for the loyal minority in Ireland everything will be yielded to Parnell. As Gladstone's programme is outlined it contains a proviso that Ireland shall continue to send members to Westminster, but it is likely that he will give way on this point, as the Irish do not wish imperial representation. There will be a Dublin parliament, supreme in Irish affairs, over the police, taxation, courts and all internal matters. This much seems certain, but how it will be brought about is doubtful. There is no question of Gladstone's ability to carry the great bulk of the liberals for the measure, as the liberal papers are rapidly vaulting to the home rule side, but whether it will be done while the liberals are in opposition, or after their return to power, is not seen. It must be remembered, too, that Lord Salisbury has it in his power to dissolve parliament before the thing is done, and it is quite likely that he will do this, going to the country on a strenuous anti-Irish cry. There was immense excitement in London last night over the news. A dispatch from Dublin says the public is intensely enthusiastic.

DUBLIN, Dec. 18.—The Daily Express, a consistent upholder of loyalists, devotes a leading article this morning to picturing the consequences which would result from home rule in Ireland if the demand of the Parnellites were granted, and any such scheme of home rule is attempted as Gladstone has been contemplating. The Express declares that civil war would not be unlikely to follow. There would be such clashing of class interests, such rivalry between friends of the old regime and the partisans of the new order that civil strife could hardly be avoided and in case such extremities were prevented it is perfectly certain that there would still be endless friction between the imperial government and Ireland.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The excitement throughout Great Britain on the subject of home rule for Ireland continues without abatement. Newspapers of all shades of opinion and politics are urging Mr. Gladstone to speak definitely in regard to his plans. The late premier, in reference to a telegram sent today asking him for information with reference to the Irish home rule scheme which, it is reported, he has had under consideration for some time, replied as follows: "From my public declaration at Edinburgh respecting the government of Ireland, you will easily see that I have no further communication to make." In the speech referred to, Gladstone, November 17, said, in effect, in reply to Parnell's suggestion to give local self-government to Ireland, that when he learns through a constitutional channel what the wishes of Ireland are, he will give the matter attentive consideration, but that he cannot gain this knowledge until the new parliament meets.

George J. Goschen, a prominent member of the whig branch of the liberal party, was asked to-day for his opinion on the reported scheme of home rule for Ireland, and replied by telegraph that he maintained his hitherto expressed convictions against Irish home rule and that he could not comment on any scheme of that nature until such scheme had been fully declared.

The Marquis of Hartington, who was secretary of war in Gladstone's cabinet, declares that notwithstanding intimations to the contrary, he has not approved the scheme.

DUBLIN, Dec. 18.—The city of Armagh, in the province of Ulster, was to-day the point of an immense loyal demonstration. The meeting adopted resolutions expressing a belief that resort to home rule principles would be certain sooner or later to eventuate in civil war, and exhorting the loyalist party to go to the utmost length in resisting the efforts of home rule advocates. The resolutions commended the loyalists in Ireland to the sympathy of the protestants throughout the British kingdom. More than one of the speakers boasted, with a degree of earnestness that aroused repeated cheers from the listeners, that the loyalist party in Ireland was ready to meet whatever issue might be presented. "The Ulster Orangemen are ready to come to the front," one of the speakers, amid great applause, said, "and when their services are wanted 60,000 men can readily be put into the field in active defense of loyalty to the government."

A Royal Sensation in London.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—London has had a genuine sensation to-day. Early this morning a young man and his wife, John and Sarah Magee, were arrested at Kensington on the charge of having attempted to procure money from the Prince of Wales by writing threatening letters. They were taken into court, formal charges were preferred against them, and they were remanded to await examination. It appears that the prisoners had written two letters, but as they were not read in court, it is impossible to give their exact language or to state, except in general terms, what they contained. It is known, however, that the latter made a demand for £750, and intimated in unmistakable terms that unless this amount was forthcoming the prince's life would be in jeopardy. The prince, it is said, paid only passing attention to the first letter, which the Magee's sent, but when the second came, reiterating the demand and threats, his royal highness turned the letters over to the police and left them to do whatever they thought best.

The police at once quietly set about planning the capture of the blackmailers. They sent a message as though coming from the prince of Wales to the address given in the letters, directing the authors of the latter to appear at a specified time and place. Assurance was given that somebody would meet them at the appointed hour prepared to hand over a package containing the money they had demanded. The Magee's at once fell into the trap which had been set for them. They appeared at the spot designated this morning and were presented with a package of farthings. As they started to leave with their supposed treasure the police threw off their disguise and arrested them. The woman thereupon made a voluntary confession of the whole plot. At any rate the police say that the confession was voluntary.

The woman, however, has once declared that she was forced by the police against her will to confess something. It is thought that she fears the confession made by her in the first moments of her consternation after her arrest may be bad for her on her trial, and that she is therefore trying to weaken its effect by asserting that it was forced from her by the police.

A reporter called upon an equerry of the Prince of Wales this afternoon to learn any facts obtainable about the affair. The equerry knew something of the contents of the letters. These, he declared, represented that Magee was an emissary of a secret society, and that he had been ordered to kill the Prince of Wales, but the letters further intimated that Magee did not wish to obey the mandate. There was no help for it, however, unless he could get money enough to go to America. He wanted £750. Therefore if this amount reached him he would at once bid a lasting good bye to secret societies and conspiracies and start across the Atlantic. It is believed that disclosures of an important nature may be made when the case comes before the court for a thorough investigation.

Servian Troops Withdrawn.

LONDON, Dec 18.—A report has been received that the Servian troops have been withdrawn from the Widdin district.

FORTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Mr. Mitchell, from the committee on pensions, reported favorably the bill granting a pension to the widow of General Grant.

Mr. Hampton introduced a bill making it unlawful for senators or representatives to recommend or solicit appointments to office.

Mr. Hawley inquired of the chair if the bill was retroactive in its operations. [Laughter.]

The chair replied that in his opinion it was not. [Renewed laughter.]

Mr. Butler called up his resolution of inquiry relating to the alleged organization of the territory of Dakota into a state.

Mr. Vest said that the senate, by its report, stood committed to the fact that there was no such thing in existence as the state of Dakota. This paper heretofore presented by Mr. Harrison and read from the desk have borne the words, "State of Dakota." The body of gentlemen coming here representing Dakota, style themselves the executive committee of the state of Dakota, the chairman being Mr. Hugh Campbell, who was not unknown to fame since Mr. Hayes' administration, for zealous and not over scrupulous political assistance to that administration. That person, as Mr. Vest saw by the newspapers, was to receive an ovation for having received the recognition of the United States senate for "The Statehood of the State of Dakota."

Mr. Plumb thought Mr. Vest was giving Mr. Campbell a good deal of gratuitous advertising.

Mr. Vest said Mr. Campbell was welcome to it. He (Vest), as a lawyer, regarded this Dakota organization as revolutionary. He had no doubt that the intent of the men concerned was to organize a state government in case this congress should adjourn without recognizing their so-called state.

In reply to a remark by Mr. Vest as to the conditions under which territories might be admitted to the Union, Mr. Harrison said there was no such thing as breaking into or breaking out of this Union.

Mr. Vest said, we were not talking of "breaking out; we have settled that."

Mr. Harrison—"Then there could have been no point to the senator's remark."

Mr. Vest—"I am not leaving this matter to the senator."

Mr. Vest argued the question from a legal standpoint, and cited authorities to show that the recent action of Dakota was revolutionary, and he offered an independent resolution to the effect that the memorial from the persons calling themselves a "state executive committee of Dakota" be considered as coming from private individuals of Dakota.

The resolution was laid over and ordered printed.

Mr. Logan thought it unfair for the senators to reward the action of Dakota as revolutionary until they should set up a state, and undertake to perform the functions of a state.

Mr. Butler said he had misapprehended what constituted a state if the election of senators and judges was not asserting statehood.

Mr. Logan answered that this was done so as to take effect when they should be admitted, as had been done before.

Mr. Butler could remember but one such instance.

Mr. Logan said he could not undertake to correct the senator's recollection of history.

The cases of Michigan, Minnesota and Kansas were cited by the republicans, Mr. Plumb saying the latter presented exactly a similar case to Dakota.

Mr. Vest said he had not especially looked up the case of Kansas, although Missouri had some interest in that admission, and "for which," said he, "a large portion of our personal property escaped into that state."

Mr. Plumb—"Yes; some that was black."

Mr. Vest—"No sir; some other, but let that pass."

Mr. Vest would not accuse the republicans of desiring to lead three electoral votes.

Mr. Logan suggested, sotto voce, that the reason urged for trying to get a state into the union might be applied to the attempt to keep a state out.

After further debate the Dakota bill went over until to-morrow.

The senate then proceeded to consideration of the joint rules. After a short debate, resulting in some amendments of detail, the rules were finally agreed to.

A resolution, offered by Cockrell, was agreed to, calling on the secretary of the treasury for information as to what claims were before the treasury department for unpaid moieties under the act of 1864.

Mr. Cameron was relieved from service on the committee on transportation routes to the seaboard, Mr. McMillan from service on the committee on mines and mining, and Mr. Chase from service on the committee on claims. The chair appointed Mr. Mitchell of Oregon to the vacancies indicated.

Mr. Beck offered a resolution that the committee on finance be instructed to ascertain whether the laws requiring all custom duties to be applied to the payment of the interest and principal of the public debt have been obeyed, and if they have not to report by bill or otherwise such measure as will secure their enforcement. At Mr. Beck's request the resolution was allowed to lie over for the present.

Adjourned until Monday.

House.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The consideration of the report of the committee on rules was resumed, pending the amendment, being that offered by Mr. Springer of Illinois to abolish the various committees on expenditures in the different departments, and to concentrate their duties to one committee consisting of fifteen members. In advocating the amendment, Mr. Springer stated that during the past ten years the clerks of these committees had been paid $250,000, while so far as he could remember but two of them had made reports—the committee on expenditures in the war department in the Forty-fourth congress, and the committee on expenditures in the department of justice in the Forty-eighth congress.

Mr. Morrison thought that much good had resulted from the work done by these two committees. During the late campaign he had heard it proclaimed everywhere a democrat spoke that the democratic party wanted to see the books; now that it had the opportunity he hoped it would not close its eyes.

"I hope you won't," remarked Mr. Brown of Indiana. "You will have some books of your own in a few years."

After further debate the amendment was rejected.

Mr. Hammond of Georgia, offered as an amendment that no appropriation should be reported in any appropriation bill for any expenditure not previously authorized by law, unless in continuation of the appropriation for such public works and objects as are already in progress. Mr. Hammond said his object was to discover whether the house would retain the power to keep riders on the appropriation bills.

The amendment was rejected without division.

Mr. Cannon moved to strike out the paragraph which limited appropriations over which the appropriation committee had jurisdiction. The motion was lost.

On motion of Mr. Cobb of Indiana, an amendment was adopted granting the committee on public lands leave to report at any time on bills for the forfeiture of land grants, to prevent speculation in public lands and for reservation of public lands for the benefit of actual and bona fide settlers.

Mr. Adams of Illinois then offered an amendment virtually prohibiting riders. It was substantially the same as the one which, before the last vote on distributing the appropriation bills, had been offered by Mr. Hammond, and which had been rejected by the house. The amendment was now adopted and the remainder of the report was agreed to without objection.

Then the report was adopted in toto. So the rules of the Forty-eighth congress, as amended by the report of the committee on rules, are reenacted as the rules of the Forty-ninth congress.

Mr. Morrison of Illinois then called up the resolution for a holiday recess, after having amended it so that the recess shall begin on Monday next and end on January 5.

Mr. Beach of New York opposed the idea, which he considered a childish one, of taking a holiday recess. At this time it was attended with danger and he appealed to the democratic house to go as far as the republican senate had done in taking some action on the presidential succession bill.

The resolution then passed.

On motion of Mr. Watson of Indiana, the senate bill granting a pension to the widow of General Grant, was taken up and passed. Mr. Price of Wisconsin, alone voting in the negative.

Adjourned.

THIRTY MEN WATER BOUND.

An Appalling Calamity in a Pennsylvania Coal Mine.

IN DANGER OF SUFFOCATION.

Impossible to Determine What Their Fate Will Be—Rescuing Forces Hard at Work to Afford Relief to the Unfortunates.

Imprisoned in a Coal Mine.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Dec. 18.—The water in the Susquehanna river at Nanticoke broke through the workings of No. 1 slope of the Susquehanna coal company this morning and at noon there was about six feet of water in the slope. An alarm was sent through the workings when the danger became apparent, and all the men except seven Hungarians, who were believed to have been drowned, hurried to the mouth of the slope and were rescued.

WILKESBARRE, Dec. 18.—The disaster at Nanticoke is more serious than was at first supposed. The theory that the water broke through the bed of the river has been dispelled by the fact that the place whence the water came is over 4,000 feet from the Susquehanna. It flowed from a pool on the surface, followed the rock to a fault in the seam, ran into the gangway and slopes, and thence to the lower working of No. 1 shaft. When the water was discovered rushing into the slope there were nearly 1,000 men and boys at work on the various openings, but at the particular spot where it first appeared there were not over thirty persons. It is reported that there are about thirty men in the place, shut in by the water and rubbish that has accumulated in the west gangway in the second lift of Ross' seam.

It is impossible to say what their fate will be. A rescuing party is following the fall of the chambers in that part of the gangway, with hopes of reaching them sometime during the night. The officials say there is no danger of the men suffocating, as they will get plenty of air from the faces of the chambers that are not clogged.

Pumps were put into operation to-night. They have a capacity of removing 2,000 gallons of water per minute, and it is expected the mine will be clear by Monday next. Old miners are of the opinion that the imprisoned men can be rescued alive.

The names of the entombed are as follows: Oliver Frank and William Kivler (brothers), William Clifford, William Donohoe, William Ecke, Isaac Sharpes, Daniel Lowrey, John Smith, John Hawkes, John Lahor, August Vitual, August Hargraves, John Shinsky, Abram Lewis and Edward Matthews.

At 10 o'clock this evening the company were making every possible effort to reach the imprisoned men. Additional pumps are being rapidly put up. Another force of men have been sent down the air shaft, who will endeavor to cut through to the spot where the imprisoned men are supposed to be. This work will be kept up night and day until the fate of the men is known.

LATER—Information received here at 11:30 from Nanticoke says the water has subsided and a large force of men are at work removing the quicksand that blocks the gangway. The rescuing party are now within forty feet of the men, and there are strong hopes of reaching them by morning. The damage to the mine will be extensive, and it will be some weeks before work is resumed.

THE FULL TEXT.

Hampton's Bill Against Congressional Recommendation to Office.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The following is the full text of the bill introduced by Senator Hampton to-day to make it unlawful for senators and representatives to recommend or solicit appointments to office:

Whereas, Additional legislation is necessary to carry out the intention of the tenth section of the act of congress of the 16th of January, 1883, entitled, "An act to regulate and improve the civil service of the United States;" and

Whereas, The recommending of or soliciting appointments to office by senators and representatives