# THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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## TERRIBLE RIVER DISASTER.

Sixty Lives Lost by the Burning of a Steamer on the Mississippi.

THE J. M. WHITE'S FATAL TRIP.

**Horrors of the Situation Increased by a Frightful Explosion Carrying Death and Destruction In Its Wake.**

**River Disaster.**

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 14.—It is currently rumored here that the elegant steamer, J. M. White, running between Vicksburg and New Orleans, burned at an early hour this morning near Baton Rouge, La., and that fifty lives were lost.

THE NEWS CONFIRMED.

MEMPHIS, Dec. 14., 10:15 a. m.—The loss of the steamer J. M. White has been confirmed. She burned to the water's edge at 11 o'clock last night, while lying at the bank near Bayou Sara, and about sixty lives were lost, consisting largely of women and children. Nearly all the crew were saved. Among the passengers reported lost is the superintendent of the Videtia railroad, at Natchez, who, together with his wife and children, perished in the disaster. The books of the boat were lost. The meagre details were received here over the wires of the Louisville, New Orleans & Texas railway. The J. M. White was the finest steamer on the Mississippi river. She had a cargo of cotton aboard, estimated at not less than 2,000 bales. The surviving passengers and crew were conveyed to New Orleans this morning.

FURTHER DETAILS.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 14.—The steamer J. M. White, from Vicksburg, Miss., to New Orleans, burned at 10 last night at Blue Store, Point Coupee, thirty miles above Baton Rouge. She had quite a number of passengers aboard, 2,000 bales of cotton and 6,000 sacks of seed. Several lives are reported lost, but the captain telegraphed that only one life—the porter of the boat—is known to be lost. The boat and cargo are a total loss. The steamer, which cost $225,000, was considered by many the finest and fastest boat ever run on the Mississippi river. The boat was valued at $100,000, the cargo at $90,000. The insurance on the boat is $20,000. The cargo was undoubtedly covered by insurance.

Thomas Barry, second engineer of the J. M. White, was on duty when the fire broke out in the cotton midship. For a time he thought he had the fire under control, but it finally gained such headway that nothing could be done with it. Barry stated that the fire then spread so rapidly that the boat was wrapped in flames in a short time. He thinks there were ten or twelve lives lost, including a colored firemen and two colored chambermaids. Barry also reports the loss of the captain, Bird Floyd, and the superintendent of the Videlia railroad, with his wife and daughter, who were passengers. Barry knows nothing as to the number of passengers aboard, but thinks there were not many. Evidence accumulating shows there were many lives lost. Some people place the number at fifty.

A THRILLING ACCOUNT.

The States has the following account of the loss of the J. M. White, gathered from the officers and crew: The boat had landed to take on a pile of cotton seed, and there were between thirty-five and forty roustabouts engaged in this work when, precisely at 10:15 o'clock, everybody was startled by the loud ringing of the bell by the watchman, Tom Miller. Immediately after the cry of "fire" was taken up by twenty voices, in an instant the direst confusion reigned. Men darted to and fro and the work of arousing the sleeping passengers was begun. The fire was discovered by Thomas Barry, second engineer, who, with his partner, Steven Janney, was on watch at the time. Barry gave the alarm and his voice rang through the deck room of the vessel. Watchman Miller took in the situation at once and rang the huge bell located on the second deck. Miller stood at his post ringing the bell until he was forced to retreat by the encroaching flames. The noise of the clanging bell aroused William McGreevy, chief engineer, who was asleep in the texas. He sprang out of bed and groped his way through the smoke to wake up his partner, John Pallasier, second assistant engineer, who was asleep in the forward part of the texas. About midway he met Pallasier, who had also been aroused by the bell and was on his way to hunt McGreevy. The two men then looked as best they could through the stifling smoke for the others who slept in the texas, but not seeing anyone, and believing that all but themselves had left, they crawled out on the hurricane deck and were compelled to climb down on one of the stanchions to the right side of the boat, from whence they got on shore. In the meantime two streams of water were brought to play on the fire, but the heavy black volume of smoke drove the engines back. They fought the flames step by step, but were at last forced to drop the hose to save themselves. The fire burned with frightful rapidity, and in less time than it takes to tell it the entire left side of the boat was a mass of flames. The fire soon caught the railing of the cabin deck, and before any assistance was to be had the boat looked as if she were encircled by a stream of fire. The crackling of the flames and shrieks of the passengers and crew caused the most intense excitement.

When the alarm was first sounded Alex McVay, head clerk, was sitting at the stove in his cabin. The first peal of the bell caused him to rush outside, and seeing the flames leap high in air, he ran back to the cabin and endeavored to get the books and money. The fire gained rapidly on him and he was compelled to leave the office, but not before he had secured the sum of money from the safe. McVay then turned his attention to saving the cabin passengers, of whom there were about fifteen or eighteen, including eight ladies. He first awoke the second clerk, John Callahan, who ran out of the room in his undershirt and trousers. Callahan and McVay went to each room and awoke the inmates. The terrified passengers quickly got out, nearly all of them in their night garments.

Among them was a gentleman, name unknown, but recognized as the superintendent of the Vidalia Southern railroad. He had his wife and two children, girls of nine and twelve years, with him. He called them around him and bade them to follow him. By this time the flames had reached the cabin, through which the thick smoke was rolling. The panic-stricken passengers quickly made for the entrance, some for the stern and others to the front. The gentleman referred to was among those that went to the stern. Upon reaching the deck he grasped his two children, one at a time, and threw them into the river. Before he and his wife could follow the flames had reached them and they were burned to death.

The two pilots on watch, John Stout and Bob Smith, were in the pilot house and were compelled to jump into the river, where they were picked up. They had a narrow escape from death. The fire burned so quickly that it was impossible to see who was saved and who was lost. The deck was crowded with roustabouts and deck passengers, thirty of the latter having got on the vessel at New Texas landing, just above where the boat was burned. Nearly all of these were lost.

While the passengers and crew were escaping from the boat, a steam pipe blew up and was hurled 300 feet in the air. The force of the explosion caused over twenty bales of burning cotton to be hurled high in the air, where they revolved several times and then fell into the river. Immediately after the explosion shrieks were heard coming from the stern of the vessel. For an instant two colored women were seen standing on the gallery just back of the wheel house, and in an instant they were hidden from view by the smoke and flames.

The first part of the boat to give way was the wheel house. It fell into the water, and a draft being created the flames swept through the centre of the boat. Those who escaped were taken from the scene by the steamboat Stella Wild, which plies between Bayou Sara and Natchez. As the Wild was backing out three kegs of gunpowder that were in the hold exploded, and cotton and burning timbers were hurled in all directions. This virtually put the fire out, and what was once a palatial steamer was now a blackened wreck. When the Wild reached the river a loud cry for help came from the middle of the stream. A boat was lowered and was quickly pulled in the direction of the cry. Through the darkness the crew saw the figure of a man grasping a bale of cotton, but before they could reach him the bale turned over and when it was righted the man was gone.

Colonel S. L. James was taken to his home, No. 217 Prytania street, on his arrival, where he is in a critical condition. He stated that the sight was horrifying, and could not be told. He positively declared that there must have been sixty persons lost, because out of sixty-five in the cabin he could only see himself and four others, among whom was H. C. Brown, state engineer; E. Denery, a barber; Fred Grey, porter, and J. Collins, deck watchman. Denery said he would never forget the sight he beheld at St. Morris plantation, when the White was enveloped in flames. He was sure one child had been rescued and brought into St. Morris plantation. To his knowledge, of the boat's employes, there were two cabin boys, two chambermaids, one fireman and one stevedore lost, besides Ed Jackson, Amos Moss, Louis Walker, Piney Walker and another colored woman named Lucy. "I do believe," continued Denery, "that the boat burnt up in about fifteen minutes after the alarm was given."

STATEMENTS OF EYE-WITNESSES.

Captain Henry C. Brown, state engineer, who was a passenger on the White, estimates the loss of life at about thirty-six. He gives the names of the following persons who were saved, but were all slightly injured, and were left at the house of Mr. Burgois: John Stahl, pilot; Hortens Smith, Mrs. Smith, of Racine, Wis., and a gentleman and his wife from Chicago, names unkown. There were about thirty cabin passengers and a number of negro cabin passengers in the "bureau." The number of deck passengers is unknown. Brown said: "Walsh Lloyd, formerly a clerk on the Will S. Hays, ran through the cabin calling up the passengers and nobly lost his life trying to save others. Captain Muse, commander of the White, had been ill all day and was in bed when the fire broke out. The chief mate was in charge of the steamer. I had about ten feet start of the fire, and although I ran rapidly forward, when I reached the bank the fire was within twenty-five feet of me. I had on my underclothes. I did not see a soul in the cabin as I ran through. The cabin was in full blaze at the time and flames were rapidly eating their way to the hurricane deck."

Pilots Stout and Smith say that from the number of persons they say around them in the river fully forty must have perished.

A PARTIAL LIST OF THE MISSING.

The following is a list, as far as ascertained, of the white persons missing: S. H. Spofford, wife and daughter, of Vidalia; Captain G. W. Floyd, a well known steamboat man; Mrs. Murray, of Natchez; Miss Agnes McCobb, of West Felicion, and two other lady passengers, names unknown. Three men and one woman were walking on the hurricane deck when it fell in and all disappeared in the flames.

The following is a list of the colored persons lost: Levi Robinson, captain of the watch; two unknown negro women; Dick Randolph, fireman; Oscar Lander, pastry cook; Lewis Martin, second cook; Albert Brown, cabin boy; John Parker, cabin boy; Perry Williams, cabin boy; Amos Morse, porter; Edward Jackson, cabin boy; Penny Walker, chambermaid; Martha Washington, chambermaid; Duncan Fourth, cook; two negro preachers, names unknown; a negro woman from Port Hickey and her son, aged sixteen; Volsin Bell, laborer, and two negro women, each with an infant.

Two white men, William Daley, of Nebraska, and Mr. Oberchain, of Kentucky, are believed to be lost.

Mrs. Wade, of West Felicion, had an almost miraculous escape. She speaks in glowing terms of the heroic and gallant conduct of Captain Floyds, who sacrificed his life in trying to save the lady passengers.

All of the officers of the White were saved. Among those who escaped were J. F. Carew and wife, of Ottawa, Ills.

## A PERTURBED POOL

**Passenger Rates From Chicago and St. Louis to Omaha a Trifle Shaky.**

CHICAGO, Nov. 14.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The obstacles in the way of the formation of a pool on western passenger traffic are almost as serious as those which have thus far prevented the formation of the Northwestern passenger pool. At the last meeting of the Western passenger association, after the troublesome question of allotment of percentages had been adjusted, the Wabash prevented the consummation of the agreement by making a demand that it be permitted to make the same rate per mile between St. Louis and Omaha as was made between Chicago and Omaha, claiming that the roads from Peoria were allowed to make the same rate and consequently it could see no reason why St. Louis should not have the same privilege. The other roads declined to entertain the proposition, and, as General Manager Talmage, of the Wabash, was not present, the matter was referred to him. It is now learned that Talmage has notified the chairman of that meeting that his company intended to stand by the position taken at the last meeting and unless the Wabash was permitted to make the same rates per mile between St. Louis and Omaha it would decline to become a party to the new pooling agreement. As the existing temporary agreement expires December 15, and there being no prospect of the immediate adoption of the proposed pool, it has been decided to extend the temporary agreement until January 1, 1887, so as to prevent a general demoralization of rates.

**The McQuade Trial.**

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—John A. Hennesy, of the Mail and Express, told District Attorney Martine a story which may bring the present trial of ex-Alderman McQuade to a sudden end and cause the discharge of the jurors. Hennesy says he has the evidence of two men who would be able to prove that Juror Jacob Rosenberg was a close friend of John Keenan, and an associate of indicted ex-Aldermen Thomas Shields and Patrick Farley. The men are J. W. Vickersham, a tailor for some time in the employ of Rosenberg, and Vickersham's partner, L. J. Nesbitt. Wickersham says that Keenan and Rosenberg are great friends and Rosenberg has said many times that the alderman did right to take the Broadway boodle and if on the jury he would not convict any man for taking money for his vote. When examined as to his qualification for a juror, Rosenberg said he did not know Keenan or any of the men implicated. Martine said after hearing the statement that if it was corroborated he would take immediate steps to prevent a miscarriage. The justice would try Rosenberg for perjury and probe to the bottom the method by which Rosenberg got on the jury panel and finally on the jury.

In the trial this afternoon the state rested its case. The recorder renewed his decision as to the affidavit charging Juror Rosenberg with being intimate with the boodle aldermen till a future time. Motion to instruct the jury to acquit was overruled. The remainder of the session till recess was taken up by General Tracy in the opening address on behalf of the defendants.

**The Douglas County Commissioners.**

CHICAGO, Dec. 13.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The county commissioners from Douglas county, Neb., have been in this city several days inspecting public institutions. They yesterday inspected the Cook County hospital and the Richard Reese home and this morning are visiting the poor farm at Jefferson. From Chicago the party will proceed to Detroit, where they will also visit hospitals. The commissioners express their determination to obtain all the information possible concerning the construction, workings and management of the hospitals in the principal cities.

**Patti Will Go to Mexico.**

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Schoeffel, Abbey's agent, said to a Times reporter: "Patti will go to Mexico and sing. There is no feeling whatever against her amongst the general public. The tickets of the swindler were almost all bought up by ticket speculators. It really was a case of biters bit, and nobody in Mexico has much sympathy with them."

## THE NEW LOCKSLEY HALL.

Tennyson's Latest Poetical Volume Brings the Author No Honor.

A FEW SPECIMEN LINES GIVEN.

**The Effusion Received in England With Unfavorable Comment—Horrible Murder Tale From France—Other Foreign News.**

**The Poet Laureate's Latest.**

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LONDON, Dec. 14.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—Tennyson's new volume will prove a woful disappointment to his admirers. This lyric is doubtless the best in the volume:

"O, happy lark, that warbiest high
Above thy lowly nest;
O, brook, that brawlest merrily
By the fields that once were blest;
O, tower, aspiring to the sky;
O, graves, in daisies drest;
O, love and life, how weary am I,
And how I long for rest."

Cannot many American newspaper poets do better than that?

THE NEW LOCKSLEY HALL.

The principal poem, however, is a continuation or conclusion of "Locksley Hall." The new Locksley Hall is dedicated to "My Wife." It is an address to a grandson, who is supposed to have met with a fate analogous to that of the unhappy lover who was rejected by the "shallow hearted" Amy in the first part. This grandson has also suffered rejection and is inclined to curse the wealthier suitor for whom he has been jilted. Lord Tennyson, however, assures him he is throwing away his indignation, and compares the youth's love for Judith with his old passion for Amy:

Amy loved me; Amy failed me;
Amy was a timid child.
But your Judith, but your worldling,
She had never driven me wild.
She that holds the diamond necklace
Dearer than the golden ring;
She that finds a winter sunset
Fairer than the morn of spring.

In order to soothe the outraged sensibilities of his grandson, the poet proceeds to tell the history of his own life, Amy's and her husband's since, "Locksley Hall" was penned. It is a history which might make a cynic laugh and a lover weep, for the fair cousin whom he had loved and failed to win died within a year of her marriage to the clown. Her husband, instead of treating Amy on a level with his dogs and horses, sorrowed truly for her for the rest of his life. The whole moral of the poem is contained in this stanza:

Forward let the stormy moment fly
And mingle with the past.
I that loathed, have come to love him,
Love will conquer at the last.

Madness, jealously, folly, wickedness, human hate—the truth that many things will seem different after sixty years have flown—seem the lessons which the latest Tennysonian monologue is designed to inculcate.

With this poem is published "The Promise of May," a rustic drama brought out at the Globe theatre in November, 1882; "The Fleet," an appeal for the maintenance of the navy, and an ode sung at the opening of the Colonial and Indian exhibition. The tone of the poem, when touching on political subjects, will not suit the liberals, who made the author a peer. It smacks of toryism as the first smacked of the head waiter's pint of port at the old Fleet Street tavern.

UNFAVORABLE PRESS COMMENT.

All the papers notice Tennyson's volume, the Times being the only one expressing an opinion. Referring to an isolated poem it says: "It hardly adds much to the laureate's reputation. We are afraid we must say the same of 'Locksley Hall Sixty Years After,' and, indeed, of the whole volume."

## WORSE THAN THE BENDERS.

**Tale of a Most Outrageous Crime in France.**

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PRIVAS-EN-ARDECHE (near Valence), Dec. 14.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—One of the most diabolical cases of murder ever tried in Europe is now before the court of assizes in Ardeche. A fiend by the name of Jean Faure and his wife are accused of having murdered, boned and boiled their brother, Claude Faure, and, mixing the remains with cabbage, of having given the reeking hell broth to the farm pigs, who greedily devoured it. Jean and his wife lived in a large farm house with Claude, who was sixty years of age, sober, thrifty and industrious, while Jean was reckless and extravagant. Jean had married against his brother's wish a young girl named Rosine Blancher, whose grandfather, in 1839, had kept an inn at Hegrebelle, and in 1833 had been tried and guillotined for the murder of twenty-five travelers that at different times had stopped at this inn but never reappeared. Among these twenty-five victims was a certain Enjolras whose name made such an impression upon Victor Hugo that he embodied him in his famous novel, "Les Miserables."

HIS MURDEROUS METHOD.

Rosine's grandfather's favorite method was to watch until the guests were sound asleep and then toss them with a pitchfork into a previously prepared caldron of boiling water. To-day Rosine and her husband stand accused before the court of Ardeche of murdering and boiling her brother-in-law and taking possession of 100,000 francs that the latter had saved from sales of cattle and the revenue for his share of the farm.

THE HUSBAND CONFESSES.

Jean this morning made a complete confession in court, causing a profound sensation. He declared, in a faltering voice: "Yes; I killed my brother Claude. My wife and I gave him rat poison in his soup, but this only made him ill and aroused his suspicion. I then smashed his head to pieces with a crow bar.

"My wife, who was present, said:

"'Let us do for him as my grandfather did with his guests.'

"We then took a saw and sawed of his head, legs and arms, heated up a caldron of water, threw in Claude's body and boiled him two hours. Rosine, then, with a pair of tongs, picked the bones out of the caldron, put in cabbages, and made a pot-au-feu which she gave to the pigs. She took the bones up on the hill and buried them. The same evening she cooked soup for the children in the same caldron."

A DESPERATE WOMAN.

Jean is a ferocious looking man, but trembles with fear before his wife, who is a thin, sallow, black-eyed woman, with long black hair and glittering white teeth. Rosine, after Jean had made his confession, fainted away, muttering: "No, no; it is not true."

She had, at the previous trial, tried to commit suicide by plunging over the banisters of the prison steps, falling on the stone floor, but did not succeed. She had to be carried to-day from the court room by two stout gendarms.

AN ACCOMPLICE SUICIDES.

Roinre's brother, who was an accomplice in the horrible crime, was found yesterday in his cell, dead, having committed suicide by hanging himself with his shirt, which was torn into strips like cord. In a corner of his cell was found a written confession of the details of the crime, tallying exactly with that which Jean made to-day in full court. The affair causes a tremendous sensation and thousands of people are flocking into the quiet little town of Privas from miles and miles.

**A Celebrated Case Settled.**

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BRUSSELS, Dec. 14.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—The court of assizes of Antwerp has just finished an eight days' hearing of the notorious will forgery reported four months ago, when it appeared for the first time. The case was against Delannoy, clerk to a justice of the peace; DeGand, a barrister and notorious liberal politician, and the woman Eandeline, Delannoy's paramour. They were accused of having broken seals and forged wills in order to appropriate important letters. They were respectively sentenced to fifteen, six and five years' hard labor, but the judgment was quashed by the supreme court on technical grounds. Now the Antwerp court has remanded the sentence against Delannoy, but to the general surprise has acquitted DeGand and the woman Eandeline.

**The French Difficulty.**

PARIS, Dec. 14.—Chamber of deputies today by a vote of 508 to 12 passed the provisional budget for two months asked for by the new government. In the course of the debate on the budget M. Clemenceau contended that the majority favored the separation of church and state. He said the late cabinet was overthrown because it had remained stationary. The declarations of the new ministry were not satisfactory. The cabinet would find it impossible to obtain a majority without the co-operation of the extreme left, which section only asked for reforms which were demanded by the entire republican party and the carrying out of which would bring about the union of all republicans and extremists. [Applauseld]. M. Goblet, replying, eulogized M. De Freycinet, who, he said, was defeated on a side issue and not by a vote of the republican majority. [Cheers]. The chamber, by a vote of 339 to 211, rejected a motion to immediately begin the debate upon the bill providing for a surtax on cereals.

**The Dillon Case.**

DUBLIN, Dec. 14.—John Dillon appeared for himself to-day in the action brought by the government against him for agitating in favor of the plan of campaign. In his address to the court Dillon contended that the language he used in the speech selected as the basis of the prosecution was justifiable, and that the crown was straining the law against him.

In reply to Dillon, Judge Lawson declared that Dillon's plan of campaign was clearly illegal and ordered him to find security in $1,000 and two sureties of $1,000 each within twelve days or go to prison for six months.

**Willing to Accept the Throne.**

VIENNA, Dec. 14.—Prince Ferdinand, of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, after a long talk with Count Kalnoky, received the Bulgarian deputation to-day. The prince told the deputation to-day that he was willing to accept the Bulgarian throne if the sobranje elected him and the powers confirmed his election. It is reported that negotiations on the subject have been opened at St. Petersburg, and that the deputation is awaiting the czar's reply.

**An Illegal Conspiracy.**

LONDON, Dec. 14.—The Standard's Dublin correspondent says that owing to the decision in the Dillon case the government will issue a proclamation declaring the "plan of campaign" an illegal conspiracy.

**Stanley's New Expedition.**

LONDON, Dec. 14.—Henry M. Stanley's expedition for the relief of Emin Bey will start in February. The Egyptian government contributes £10,000 toward the expenses, and a private gentleman has guaranteed the projectors against monetary loss.

**An Order to Irish Clergy.**

ROME, Dec. 14.—The pope had a conference to-day with Cardinal Simeoni, and prepared instructions to the Irish bishops charging them to keep the clergy scrupulously within the limits of duty in regard to the anti-rent movement.

**French Affairs.**

PARIS, Dec. 14.—The provisional estimates to which the cabinet yesterday decided to limit the government's application, and which the chamber of deputies, it is generally thought, will readily vote, are for two months only, and not for two departments of the government as at first reported.

**Belfast Rioters Sentenced.**

BELFAST, Dec. 14.—The judge to-day sentenced four of the men arrested for wrecking houses along the Shankhill road during the riots last June, to four months' imprisonment each. The prisoners had all pleaded guilty.

**Ordered to Await Instructions.**

VIENNA, Dec. 14.—The Bulgarian government has ordered the deputation of Bulgarians to await in Vienna written instructions before starting for Berlin. The deputation has abandoned the idea of going to St. Petersburg.

**An Unofficial Reception.**

BERLIN, Dec. 14.—The Bulgarian deputation will be received here unofficially, not as representing the Bulgarian government.

**A Trip For Vengeance.**

BERLIN, Dec. 14.—The German ironclad Moewe has sailed for Zanzibar to punish the murderer of Explorer Juehlke.

**Boston's Election.**

BOSTON, Dec. 14.—The weather is clear to-day and a large republican vote is expected to be polled. At noon the democratic vote was as large as the republicans, but the heaviest part of the democratic vote was polled in the afternoon. The labor men are hard at work in every precinct, and the indications are that they will poll a surprisingly large vote, but it is not thought it will be large enough to defeat O'Brien. Extra efforts are being made by the temperance people and many well-dressed ladies are distributing ballots at the polls. The license vote will be much closer than last year.

The city vote for mayor, with two precincts missing, gives O'Brien, democrat, 22,883; Hart, republican, 18,174; McNeill, labor, 3,572.

Complete returns give the following vote for mayor: O'Brien, 23,387; Hart, 18,719; McNeill, 3,564. The license vote was: Yes, 26,251; no, 16,786; majority for license of 3,437 against 9,969 last year.

**Cincinnati Coopers on a Strike.**

CINCINNATI, Dec. 14.—The 1,100 coopers of this city and Riverside stopped work to-day because the proprietors refused to sign the scale of prices prepared by the workmen. The scale among other things demands that a days work shall not exceed ten hours, including lunch time, with an hour off Saturdays without loss of pay.

**A Missing Boy Found.**

READING, Pa., Dec. 14.—Tom A. Arnold, received a dispatch from East Strousburg, Northampton county, to-day stating that his son Willie, who disappeared several weeks ago, had been found there alive and well.

**Business Failures.**

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—The firm of E. M. & W. Ward, shirtmakers, made an assignment to-day for the benefit of creditors to Joseph A. Ward, with preferences amounting to $34,000.

## DABNEY BEING INVESTIGATED

The Charge That He Was a Guard at Andersonville Locked Into.

OPEN SESSION CONSIDERATION.

**A Seeming Fear on the Part of Senators to Go on Record on the Question—Patents Issued—Capital News.**

**Developments About Dabney.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—An investigation is being made by the pension office of the charge that Dr. Dabney, a special examiner, was a guard at Andersonville prison. Dabney recently published a card, in which he said that at the close of the war he was only fifteen years old, that he was not a guard at Andersonville and was not in the confederate service. Those who claim that Dabney was a prison guard say his denial is no denial at all, but an equivocation; that fully 25 per cent of the guards at rebel prisons were either boys under fourteen years of age or decrepit old men; that the guards at Andersonville were not in the confederate service, but in the service of the state of Georgia, and that if Dabney was not a prison guard he held some other position at the prison. Dabney is very vague about his early history and it may take some time to get at the facts, and till the facts are developed Dabney's denial should be held in abeyance, as it is not taken as conclusive by the pension office officials themselves. Dabney has made a statement to the commissioner of pensions of a similar character to that referred to above, but it is said this statement is as vague and no more satisfactory than the first one, and was made for the purpose of "covering" the oath he made when he was appointed under the civil service rules. A pension office official says he heard Dabney boast of having been a prison guard when fourteen years old, and this is where the report originated. Dabney's whereabouts during the war will be looked into and his statements are not considered satisfactory.

OPEN SESSION CONSIDERATION.

A good deal of impatience is being shown by the friends of the proposition to consider in open sessions of the senate nominations made by the president on account of the seeming fear entertained by a number of senators to be placed on record on this subject. It has been openly intimated that there is a combination of senators who are opposed to this measure working against the final consideration of it. It is a little strange that a number of the most courageous and blunt senators on the floor of the chamber are opposing open sessions for consideration of executive nominations. They oppose it on the ground that open sessions will not admit of that free and full debate upon the character of nominations which is necessary to secure impartial judment. Undoubtedly the open session resolution introduced by Mr. Platt a year ago has grown in favor, but there is such a strong combination against its consideration and such seeming laxity on the part of those in charge of it that it will either be postponed to another session or come up in such a manner that it will be defeated. One of the strongest advocates for open sessions is Senator Logan, and it is stated that should the Platt resolution fail of consideration or be defeated it is considered he will reintroduce a resolution on the subject and fight for its consideration until it gets through. He does not believe in the assassination of characters behind the closed doors of the senate and publication of their proceedings in the newspapers in a garbled and unfair light. Neither does Senator Platt.

INFLUENTIAL LOBBYISTS IN CONGRESS.

Already much activity is observable among the railroads against the inter-state commerce bill. A number of railroad attorneys, who have not been about Washington for some time, have reappeared and are infusing animation into the lobby. It is said to be the tactics of the railroads to postpone consideration of the inter-state commerce bill reported by the conference committee until the appropriation bills can be gotten up, and thus send it over to the next congress, when all the work will have to be done over again and the labors of the conference committee will have been for naught. Agents of some of the leading brokers in New York, operating in this city, report that their employers have "covered" on their "long" stocks and are prepared to meet the effect of the passage of this bill; yet at the same time they doubt any final action upon it at this session. Inasmuch as the measure is now in the shape of a conference report, and therefore a privileged matter, little excuse can be rendered for failure to consider it at this session.

SILVER AND NATIONAL BANKS.

The house committee on banking and currency have begun consultation with treasury officials upon the subject of silver and national bank securities as suggested by the president in his message to congress. Mr. Wilkins, of Ohio, says it is the purpose of the committee to report to the house a bill embodying as many of the recommendations of the president on financial matters as possible, and to push it to a final passage. The western and southern members are up in arms against the suppression of the silver dollar, and since debates upon the subject in the past have shown such a variety of opinions and volume of speeches, it is altogether improbable that anything can be done upon the subject before the 4th of March. It has been intimated to a number of times that if the president should see fit to call an extra session of congress it will be more especially upon this subject, as he feels that the silver and national banks deserve immediate legislation.

LAND GRANT FORFEITURE WARFARE.

Of all the warfares made against railroad land grants the one being waged against the Brule River & Ontanagon seems to excite most comment. The tactics employed by the people favoring the forfeiture of grants to forfeit land are novel. Photographs have been taken and are being exhibited of scenery along this road, especially showing the condition of the track and grades and bridges. It is for the purpose of demonstrating that although the track was laid it was not intended to be practicable and that trains cannot be run upon it. Miles of the track are shown to have no ballast and no grade while the cross ties are propped up with chunks of wood and are "skewed" in every possible direction. It is openly charged that the construction of this road was not carried out in good faith and that the design of the projectors was fraud.

LAWLER'S LITTLE REMINISCENCE.

Representative Frank Lawler, of Chicago, although a democrat, is a rabid protectionist. He was explaining to some friends a day or two ago the efforts which have been made by Messrs. Morrison and Springer, of his state, who are well-known tariff reformers, to force him from the endorsement of the tariff bill now on the calendar of the house. He says that they came to him alternately during the last days of the last session and warned him that he would be defeated if he did not help them to get consideration of the measure. "Mr. Morrison came to me one day," said Frank, "and said that I was surely not his friend or I would help him to get votes for the consideration of his bill. I told him that I could not possibly see how my position on his public measure indicated my personal friendship or animosity toward him. He seemed to feel pretty badly about it, and presently sent Mr. Springer to me. Mr. Springer was positive that the agricultural districts were in favor of consideration and passage of the Morrison bill and warned me that if I did not help them that I would be defeated for re-election. It made me a little mad and I told Mr. Springer that I would watch with a great deal of interest the vote cast in the rural counties of their district, the approaching election. I would see if their constituents endorsed their action. Then told them that I would not only not help them to get up their bill but that I was opposed to it and I would vote against it. Both of these men were a good deal vexed at me. Well, Mr. Morrison was defeated for re-election by a large majority and I noticed that the heaviest votes polled against him were by the farmers. Mr. Springer came within an ace of defeat for re-election and I pointed out to him where his strength waned and that it was among the farmers whom he had declared to be going crazy for the passage of the Morrison bill. I was re-elected by a majority of sixteen and ran just 20,000 ahead of my ticket. The tactics employed by Mr. Morrison have been those of intimidation and they are so well known in his district that I believe that fact alone has injured him almost as much as his position on the tariff."

THE MORRISON TARIFF BILL.

Mr. Morrison notified the house to-day that on Saturday next he would move to take up his tariff bill. By that time the sundry civil bill is expected to be out of the way, and as there is no other appropriation bill ready there will be no antagonism from the committee on appropriations. Indeed, there is no disposition on the part of Mr. Randall and his committee to make captious opposition to the chairman of ways and means, so that when Morrison offers his motion the issue will be squarely joined and the house given a fair opportunity of deciding whether it desires to consider the tariff. The feeling is general that Morrison's motion will prevail, but it is not believed that anything practical will result from it. The revenue reformers, while regarding the passage of Morrison's bill as improbable, indulge the hope that some measure will be evolved from the discussion which will be acceptable to a majority of the house, and which will reduce the present excessive revenues of the government. How long the debate will be continued, should the tariff be taken up, cannot now be determined. A fair opportunity will be furnished Mr. Morrison to bring the house to a vote, but should the discussion drag over several days, with no prospects of a termination, the appropriation and other committees having in charge measures that must receive attention are likely to brush the tariff aside. This may be done at any time by a majority vote. The fact that a majority may vote with Mr. Morrison on Saturday next cannot be held as having special significance, as far as any action is concerned in the bill. It will show that the house is disposed to give the ways and means committee a hearing, but will furnish no intimation of the feeling of the house upon the bill. It is understood that a number of those who last year voted against consideration will vote with Morrison on Saturday, but these gentlemen are among the most earnest opponents of attempting to revise the tariff at this session, and after a few days of discussion will oppose further consumption of time in considering the question. A majority can terminate the consideration at any time by simply refusing to sustain the motion to take up the bill, which must be made on each day it is proposed to resume that order of business.

NO SYMPATHY FOR JONES.

Among senators there are but few expressions of sympathy for Senator Jones, of Florida, who has so long neglected his duties by remaining in Detroit. His recent unfortunate sleigh ride has revived the subject of his mysterious absence from the senate, and various reasons are assigned for his peculiar behavior. A senator who was formerly one of his most trusted friends, in conversation with your correspondent yesterday remarked that "he was afraid that Jones was losing his reasoning powers." Floridians assert quite confidently that he cannot under any circumstances hope for a re-election, because during all the time he has been in Detroit he has never made an attempt to explain his curious conduct. They say that he was once extremely popular in the state and might have secured a re-election without much difficulty, but now he is barred out of the race and could not secure an appointment as a fourth-class postmaster. His place on the commerce, naval affairs and territories committees have been filled by other senators, and he is treated by his former associates as though he was no longer a member of the senate. His desk in the second row, near the middle aisle, is daily occupied by a brother senator, and should he suddenly appear on the scene he would probably have some trouble in convincing the present occupant of his right to resume it.

AN ECONOMICAL CONGRESSMAN.

There is a representative in congress from one of the southern states who manages to live comfortably in Washington at an outlay of not more than $1,500 per annum. He has no family, neither drinks nor uses tobacco in any form, and yet he apparently enjoys life in his own way and is a general favorite with his congressional associates. He has neat but not extravagant apartments in an eminently respectable section of the city and dresses in good taste. Many of his companions are very anxious to learn his method of saving so much of his salary, but he refrains from giving them any advice on the subject, but tells them good-naturedly that it is the result of his remarkable self-control. He is not in any sense a miser, but he is about the best specimen of a model moral congressman in existence to-day.

A SURPLUS OF WOULD-BE LABOR LEADERS.

There will be four aspirants for the leadership of the labor party in the house of representatives in the Fiftieth congress. Four Irishmen—John J. O'Neill of Missouri, present chairman of the committee on labor; Martin Foran, second man on the committee, and O'Neill's hated rival; Frank Lawler of Illinois, also a member of the same committee, and Tim Campbell of New York. These gentlemen are already at work upon their respective booms and at present it is difficult to say who will gain the coveted prize. The various candidates feel quite confident that the labor party will hold the balance of power in the next house and they anticipate making a very lively session in the interest of the working men. O'Neill would probably receive Tim Campbell's support if the latter discovered he could not win, and Lawler would also probably prefer O'Neill to Foran. Foran is quietly but determinedly at work and he may have a surprise in store for his competitors.

MINISTER MANNING MUST GO.

There is very little probability that the name of T. C. Manning, appointed minister to Mexico last October, will be sent to the senate. It is stated that advices have been received at the state department to confirm the reports of Manning's conduct in Mexico and to lead the president to conclude that he is not the kind of a man wanted to represent this country in our southern sister republic.

THE COMPROMISE BILL.

Senator Cullom does not think there is any doubt of the compromise interstate commerce bill passing both houses. He says there is no occasion for the railroads getting excited, for the commission proposed has very liberal powers and is not intended to injure the stockholders of railroads, but to protect them.

AN UNCONFIRMED RUMOR.

Yesterday evening a report was circulated that President Cleveland had had a stroke of paralysis during the afternoon, but when he appeared at the theater last night the truth of the report was dispelled. To-day, however, it was reported that the president had really had a slight paralytic stroke and that he attended the theater through fear that if he remained within doors the rumors might create a great deal of uneasiness and cause him much trouble. Nothing at the white house can be learned to-night about it, and the statement is generally discredited.

PATENTS ISSUED.

The following patents were issued for Nebraskans and Iowans to-day: Newton J. Douglas, Waucoma, Ia., gate; Morris E. Lewis and C. A. Dodge, Orange City, Ia., rail joint; Charles C. Mayes, deceased, (John H. Mayes, administrator), East Davenport, Ia., potato planter; Charles O. McBride, Muscatine, Ia., nut lock; Joseph McMullen, Casey, Ia., tile-laying machine; Albert R. Merrill and D. Lenox, Marshalltown, Ia., can watering machine; Henry C. Payne, Webster City, Ia., wash boiler; Franzo B. Peters, Lincoln, Neb., fire escape; Charles Philbrick, Grundy Center, Ia., heating stove; Gideon A. Russell, Lyons, Ia., heating furnace; James B. Sigatoos, Fremont, Neb., horse hay rake; Jesse Stubbs, assignor of one-seventh to G. A. Stone, Henry county, Iowa, gasoline or oil heating stove.

SMALL CAPITAL NEWS.

James T. Priestly, of Des Moines, is at the Ebbitt.

Representative-elect McShane is at Willard's.

The following army leaves have been granted: First Lieutenant Hamilton Rowan, Second artillery, Fort Leavenworth, fifteen days, and Lieutenant John T. Hampson, Second artillery, Little Rock, Ark., one month from December 17.

R. Shawvan, of Denison, Ia., and M. Walker, of Atlantic, Ia., were to-day admitted to practice before the interior department.

Wm. B. Bargor, of Lucas, Ia., was to-day appointed an agent of the interior department.

POSTAL CHANGES.

The following Iowa postmasters were appointed to-day: Wm. J. McCarthy, Beaman, Grundy county, vice F. M. Wheeler, removed; J. T. Rawlings, Preparation, Monona county, vice Jas. Graham, resigned; J. M. Herrick, Wapello, Lou