THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

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WAR'S DREAD ALARM

The Great Question of Peace or Strife Discussed in Germany.

HOW FRANCE AND RUSSIA STAND

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All Talk of Strife.

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BERLIN, Dec. 18.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—The coincidence between General Von Moltke's significant speech and the sudden change in the attitude of the entire Russian press toward Germany is remarkable. The chorus of Muscovite threats were at once transformed into effusive protestations of admiration. This volte face is felt here to be too precipitate to be sincere, and suggests Canning's lively squib, "A sudden thought strikes me—let us swear eternal friendship." Strangely enough, though, a war with France is what is uppermost in men's minds here. The animosity against that country is far less than against Russia. Though Germany crossed the Alsatian frontier to-morrow she would regard the invasion as undertaken in self defense. War with France would be begun with a heavy heart; war with Russia would just now be hailed with enthusiasm. The German nobility to-day pronounces the word "Selavthum" with the same contemptuous sneer with which the marquis in the days of Louis Quinze uttered the word "Canaille," and during the discussions in the German parliament made a stronger impression than the statements of the German staff that if war should break out to-morrow Germany would oppose only 2,000,000 of men to the 5,000,000 of Russians and Frenchmen. At any rate we seem to be within measurable distance of the time when Europe will, as was plainly intimated in the reichstag the other day, be compelled to reduce her armaments or begin the long threatened war. The cost of keeping up their standing armies is rapidly ruining most of the continental powers. Even France, the richest of them all, can hardly bear the strain, and the endurance of Germany has been tried almost to the uttermost.

A FINANCIAL DUEL.

Within the past few weeks the conviction has grown strong here that in a financial duel with France (and this constant increase of the military forces of the two countries is practically a financial duel, Germany must be worsted. Von Moltke was conscious of this when he made his sensational appeal to the reichstag. It is generally believed here that rather than quietly wait while the German army is being outnumbered, he would advise taking the bull by the horns and force matters quickly to a crisis.

CALAMITOUS FOR GERMANY.

War in the near future would be considered a calamity by the Germans. It would ruin their commerce for a decade and cost incalculable blood and money. But, even so, it might be a lesser evil now than later when Bismarck, Von Moltke and the kaiser will have vanished. They see that France is doggedly bent on getting back her lost provinces. They themselves are equally determined not to restore them. Nobody knows what has been settled by Bismarck and Von Moltke, but out-of-doors it is believed that before many months, perhaps weeks, France will be summoned to explain her armaments. If her reply is satisfactory there will be no war; if unsatisfactory, the struggle so long staved off may begin.

PUSHING PREPARATIONS.

Meanwhile the armaments are being pushed on with great activity, and Germany will have 800,000 repeating rifles ready by the 1st of March.

The feeling in the German military class is tersely expressed in the closing paragraph of Colonel Von Koetschartz' book: "A fresh war is necessary, and the sooner the better."

INTERVIEWING OFFICIALS.

From the kaiser down the Germans are full of the army bill. Will the reichstag ratify Thursday's vote? or will it, on cool reflection, conclude that such a course would be unpatriotic? I have questioned a good many deputies, officers and journalists on this subject and send you their answers. I first questioned several members of the center and Dutch freissinige parties, on whose acceptance or rejection of the measure its fate depends. Herr Stiller, member for Lubeck, means to vote for the bill on patriotic grounds, though he does not believe there is any urgent need for it.

"The fate of the measure is uncertain," he said. "It is thought that possibly a part of our freissinige group will vote for it. I don't believe the government fears war. If it did, all the army corps would be strengthened. The government has the powers required to meet an emergency. I can only explain the kaiser's eagerness to see the bill pass by the fact that he trusts the chancellor, and the chancellor is a man, who, when he will say a thing, will have it carried through at once. The war rumors caused great excitement here, especially last week; but matters seem quieting down. We could easily fight France or Russia singly. A combination of the two powers might be dangerous. This excitement is very bad for trade, but the government cares only for politics and military questions."

Another deputy, whose name I suppress, spoke more strongly:

AN AXIOMATIC OPINION.

"No, I don't think war is in sight. All this clanking of swords is a mere manoeuvre to pass the bill. As for the much-talked-of confidential communications to the reichstag committee they had nothing confidential in them at all. They only give us information about the military organization of France and Russia, which we had already. I think the bill will pass, but if I had my way it would be rejected."

OPINION OF AN EDITOR.

"I don't take an alarmist view of the situation," said Dr. Arthur Levyssohn, editor of the much read and independent Berliner Tagblatt. "I don't believe in the imminence of war between Germany and France, or Russia, nor do I think that Bismarck believes in it. On the contrary I think Bismarck hopes to avert a war by the moral effect which would be produced if the reichstag unanimously, or almost unanimously, voted the army bill and thus indirectly showed itself ready to make all sacrifices for the salvation of the fatherland. Bismarck cannot really anticipate war, for he knows that the proposed increase of the army would be insufficient to make any appreciable effect upon France or Russia. As you know, he only asks for 41,000 men. Of these only 14,000 would be called under arms in April. But the question is complex. It has a domestic and a foreign aspect; the latter interests every one, the former interests only Bismarck and his possible—I don't say probable—successors. Bismarck seems to live in apprehension that if the emperor disappeared his successor might choose his advisors from a section of the progressionist party. In submitting the army bill to the reichstag he had a strategetical object. He wished to compel the progressists to render themselves, as the French say, 'impossible,' by forcing them to put themselves in contradiction with their own programme, one point of which is that the military budget should be voted for three years only—that is, for the extreme duration of each reichstag. The progressists number altogether sixty-nine or seventy members and Bismarck supposes they will split on this question. Part, he thinks, will decide that it is necessary to place patriotism before party and vote for the bill; part, he assumes, will, on the other hand, say: 'No; we represent the industrial and commercial interests of the country and we cannot consent to a measure which would add such a grievous tax of blood and gold to our already overburdened industries and commerce.'

"But what of the ultramontaine center? You will have noticed in the discussion of the army bill by the reichstag committee that Herr Windthorst has carefully adopted an attitude of reserve. I have no right to speak in behalf of the center, but know enough of Windthorst's tactics generally to say that he adopted this attitude with the secret intention of at the last moment allowing his party, so often denounced as anti-national, to assume the part of saviours of the fatherland by voting for the bill and so earning the right to the gratitude of the government. Altogether I incline to believe that the bill will be voted. As to the foreign side of the question, I think that negotiations between France and Russia had really gone to some length and that the go-between was M. Deroulede. Deroulede is usually regarded here, and perhaps in France, as a sauteur. My experience of France, however, tells me that most of her great disturbances have been brought about by reputed sauteurs. Deroulede was warmly received at Moscow and St. Petersburg by personages belonging to the entourage of the czar. He went to Denmark, and soon after we heard of sudden Danish naval preparations. He is in accord with Boulanger, and Boulanger is likely to be unassailed, whatever changes may be made in the French cabinet. It was in reply to the Franco-Russian movement that Bismarck introduced the army bill, yet I don't believe France would be so foolish as to provoke Germany at present. One immediate result of the introduction of the bill is that Russia has begun to recoil. The sudden overthrow of DeFreycinet, however, also doubtless had some effect at St. Petersburg, and helped to cool the Russian desire for a French alliance. It showed them how little such unstable allies could be depended on. I don't think we may fear a war in 1887, though we must allow for the unforeseen which, proverbially, always happens. By this I express the average opinions of the German public."

AN OPPOSITION EXPRESSION.

Herr Holdheim, editor of the opposition Volks Zeitang, said: "The tension is so great that sooner or later war must come. When it does come it is more likely at first to be between Germany and Russia than Germany and France. Between us and the French there will always lie Elsass Lothringen, but though, in a famous speech, Bismarck said our friendship for Russia was built tower high, the German and Russian people hate each other, and war would be as popular here as in Russia. I know positively, through one of our wealthiest bankers, that many great German landed proprietors, nobles and officers have been bearing Russian stocks lately, but I don't anticipate war just yet. While the kaiser lives peace will not be broken, unless in the last extremity.

"The rejection of the army bill would be followed by the dissolution of the reichstag. Bismarck who only wants a handful more followers to have a working majority, would probably gain by new elections. The Deutsche freisennige party would lose, but the center, thanks to the help of the priests, would return undiminished. As to Windthorst's action, he himself will doubtless vote against the bill with the mass of his party, but at the last moment you will see that part of his followers will get a hint to abstain or be allowed to vote as they please. The result will be that the bill will be carried by a small majority. In short, the danger of war with Russia seems greatly lessened since the publication of the humble communique enthusiasm of the official organ the other day. But a bitter, distrustful feeling in regard to Russia exists here. The hostile attitude of the committee made a a disagreeable impression on the court and in government circles. After the solemn intervention of Von Moltke and the kaiser so much resistance was unexpected. Immediately after his threatening speech the grand old field marshal privately assured several conservative deputies that they had no right to fear war during the kaiser's lifetime."

A LIBERAL'S VIEW.

Dr. Dernburg, the well-known editor of the National Zeitung, which, though the liberal organ, warmly approves the army bill, said: "I do not regard war as impossible, but only four or five men in all Europe know whether it will come, and of these four or five only those who are bent on having war can tell whether it is imminent. I don't believe Bismarck is one of those who are bent on war.

"When the German government made its demand for an increase of the army unquestionably it was convinced at the time there was cause for alarm. We cannot for a moment suppose that such men as the kaiser, Bismarck and Von Moltke would speak lightly. Those who are foolish enough to underrate the seriousness of their words may rue their error. The present reichstag or another will certainly pass this measure. Now, as regards France, the opinion is general in Germany that, relatively to the French army, ours has at least as great an advantage now as in 1870. Moreover, though the French are a brave and gallant nation, we know that were we to engage in a struggle our endurance would outlive theirs. Many Germans think it would be better to crush France before she grows stronger, and to secure ourselves a long term of peace. Most Germans, however, differ on this point, for they know that even after the most signal triumph we could not hope to crush France so thoroughly that she would never more trouble us. Rome could destroy Carthage; Germany might destroy Paris; but you cannot wipe out a nation of 25,000,000. We must resign ourselves to facts. As for hundreds of years past the French and Germans have been, so will they be—often at issue, sometimes at war, rarely at peace. France has to contend against a grave error. Germany loves peace, but not 'at any price.' She watches her neighbors across the Rhine. If they fancy they can choose their own time for attacking us, why they are mistaken."

A TALK WITH WINDTHORST.

The fate of the army bill depends mainly on Herr Windthorst, the leading spirit of the opposition and by far the most influential member of the reichstag committee. I was fortunate enough to catch him at dinner to-day:

"You have had every opportunity of weighing the facts," said I. "Do you believe that war is coming?"

"Sir," said Dr. Windthorst, "I do not believe that war is probable. I do not, however, think it impossible. From motives of policy much has been kept back from us, but so long as the eastern question remains unsettled an accident may cause war at any moment."

"Would danger come from the east or west?"

"That, sir, is more than I or anyone can foretell. If Russia were at war with us France would join her. If France declared war she might, though less certainly, have Russia for an ally. But this I know, and it cannot be too often repeated: We Germans are divided by bitter political dissensions. I, for instance, am on many points Bismarck's adversary, but if ever the fatherland is threatened—and remember that Alsace-Lorraine is now a part of the fatherland—our domestic differences would be forgotten, Catholics and Protestants would join hands, and we would march together to the cry of 'Long live the emperor.' And I have such trust in the discipline and might of the German army that I believe it, even alone, could whip the world."

A HOT DEBATE.

There was a hot a exciting debate in the reichstag this afternoon whether the house should adjourn the 4th or 7th of January. Herr Bottlicher, on behalf of the government, caused agre at uproar by rebuking the opposition for its great inattention to business, and disregard of the kaiser's wish for a prompt solution of the pending military question. Windthorst, Rickert and Richter did their best to exasperate the ministers. Finally it was discovered there were not enough deputies present to decide the question one way or another, and the president settled the point ex cathedra, fixing the date of the next sitting for the 4th of January.

POINTS FROM PARIS.

M. Goblet's Cold Reception to the Bulgarian Delegates.

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PARIS, Dec. 18.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—The three roving Bulgarian delegates—Stoiloff, Erekoff and Caltcheff—are received coldly by M. Goblet, who regards them very much as Nebuchadnezzar did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and no doubt would like to cast them into a burning, fiery furnace, for this Bulgarian question is felt to be like an escape of gas. It causes a bad smell in the diplomatic atmosphere and may any moment result in a terrific explosion. Bulgaria to-day s what Schleswig Holstein was twenty years ago when Lord Palmerton described it as the match that set fire to Europe. John Lemoinne, one of the shrewdest political observers in France, says that as the Schleswig-Holstein match ignited Sadowa and Sedan, so the Bulgaria match may set ablaze a still larger conflagration. France feels that her only political ally in Europe is Russia. To this she sacrifices her sentimental fondness for the Bulgarian people, and it was on this account that the French chamber declined to put toward M. Floquet as prime minister. Frenchmen feel that Germany may at any moment demand a serious explanation as to the now rapidly increasing fighting strength that France is achieving under the leadership of General Boulanger. The temper of the people would not tolerate anything of the kind. Rightly or wrongly the French people feel that they have not finished with Germany yet, and while holding out their arms to Russia look forward to the spring with confidence. In fact, never before has General Chanzy's famous saying been more keenly appreciated by the French people, namely, "The Frenchman who takes of revanche should be shot, but the Frenchman who does not think of it should be hanged."

EXPLOSION OF A MARITIME MOTOR.

A trial of a new marine motor came off yesterday at Asnieres with most astonishing results. A small boat had been duly fitted with the motor invented by two ambitious Parisian engineers, Mm. Buisson and Civrein. This new discovery claimed to quadruple the ordinary power of steam. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon hundreds of invited guests assembled at Asnieres to see the boat manoeuvre against the storm. Mm. Buisson and Civrein jumped into the boat, accompanied by a young machinist sixteen years of age named Jules Molgret. One of the inventors gave order "Full speed ahead." The young mechanician pressed a little black ivory knob and the boat shot ahead like a bird taking the wing. Scarcely had it gone twice its own length, however, before a fearful explosion occurred. The spectators saw the boat burst into thousands of splinters that fell upon their heads like a hail storm. A few seconds later a man was seen swimming ashore. This was M. Civrein, who, although he had lost an eye by the explosion, still had strength enough to keep himself afloat until he was picked up by a boat that happened to be passing by. M. Buisson had sunk to the bottom. He was dragged out by a dredging net. He was found to be still alive, but his bones were broken and his body resembled a horrible wound. He died in the arms of Count de Herrison, the well known soldier and author, who, with M. Edmund Blanca, lately in America, was among the spectators. Young Jules Molgret completely disappeared. The Seine was dragged but no trace of him was found. A boatman who witnessed the explosion said: "I saw young Molgret cut into two pieces by a steel plate belonging to the machine."

SEVERAL FINE TOILETS.

The audience at the grand charity rehearsal of "Patrie" on Friday at the opera was one of the most brilliant seen in Paris for a long time. One of the prettiest dresses was that of the Duchess de Trevise, a superb Anne of Austria dress of chiselled velvet, in dead leaf shades upon a white satin ground, with a petticoat of similar material and bows of pearl satin in the coiffure, superb diamonds with velvet bows. Rows of pearls round the neck of the Comtesse de Malley nestled beautifully in cream white plush; her fair hair was picturesquely coiffe in the renaissance style. She wore two magnificent diamond brooches, one just upon the forehead. Mme. Floquet, considered the handsomest woman of the present government, accompanied by Premier Goblet, wore a perfect dress of pale blue velentine and china crepe and a necklace of diamonds upon black velvet. Mme. Derute, in white satin, covered with precious lace, her corsage ablaze with precious stones, wore a royal coronet of enormous turquoises set with diamonds and a necklace with ear rings to match. Mme. Benardaki looked her very best in white satin with bertha of tulle around the front. From the left shoulder to the waist extended an admirably mounted cordon of Russian violets and leaves secured by dozens of sprays and brooches of diamonds. In the hair was a diadem of gems with a tuft of violets. One of the most effective dresses worn by Americans was that of Miss Potter, of pale pink grosgrain and lace, with five rows of pearls around her throat and in her golden hair a tuft of soft pink heather, with a humming bird in the center.

AMERICANS IN PARIS.

Among the Americans in Paris this week were Mr. Edward S. Pierrepont, Rev. Dr. Littlejohn and Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Roosevelt. The Herald storm had the effect of frightening many Americans to the Rivera, among them Bishop Potter, who is now staying at Cannes.

DIRT STILL DROPPING.

One More Day of the Colin Campbell Scandal.

[Copyright 1886 by James Gordon Bennett.]

LONDON, Dec. 18.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—The Campbell case in the course of its devious windings, rather burglariously entered this morning the divisional argument court when Justices Hawkins and Denman sat. Quoth Bompas, Q. C.: "Your lordships, I apply for a criminal information against the Evening News for printing so much of the Campbell case."

The full bottomed wigs on the bench and the flowing wigs at the bar looked astounded.

"Yes," continued Bompas, Q. C., "I am employed by the treasury. We allege an offense against the public in circulating this testimony as obecene public libels. The government wishes to test how far newspapers can publish nasty testimony."

After the judicial astonishment had subsided a desultory conversation arose, which ended in the court dismissing the application, leaving the government to their legal experiments with O'Briens and Dillon.

CLOSING FOR LADY COLIN.

Meanwhile Sir Charles Russell had, in the adjoining room, begun his closing speech for Lady Colin. One could detect in his look something like this thought: "Shall I, an ex-attorney general and the present Erskine of the English bar, be outshot on my own preserves by this Scotch advocate?" who certainly made a great speech and a deep impression as the friend and counsel of the Argyle family. Sir Charles began (remembering Quintilian) by an endeavor at once to gain the confidence of the audience. His tone was flattering, almost obsequious, to the twelve. He spoke at first calmly, with great deliberation:

"Gentleman of the jury: On this, the seventeenth day of the trial, I feel a certain sense of relief which I cannot doubt is shared by you. You have listened with attention, with patience, I believe with open and unprejudiced minds. I opened the case as one in a remarkable degree painful. It disclosed a story of the married life of two people sad in the extreme. I knew it was a necessity of Lord Colin's case that he should impute to his wife gross adultery; that he must, through his advocate, denounce her as guilty of perjury; but I did not know that, in addition to the charges of adultery and perjury, he tended to accuse her of being concerned in a conspiracy to suborn the perjury of others. Above all I did not know that witnesses were to be called by the husband to give evidence which involved the charge of an impure life on the part of Lady Colin before the date of the consummation of the marriage.

"Gentlemen, my learned friend has conducted this case with great ability. He has used to the full his copious vocabulary in denunciations of every one in the case whose evidence, whatever it might be, held against the case which he is instructed for Lord Colin upon. But Lady Miles was reserved for the principal denunciation. Upon her devoted head was poured the full force of his wrath. I request you to ask yourselves when—aye, when—Lord Colin arrived first to the conclusion that it was proper to use denunciation of Lady Miles. It could not have been when he was accepting Lady Miles' hospitality at Leigh court from the month of September to March, nor could it have been when he was carrying on that correspondence with his dearest 'Muzzie,' and signing himself, 'Your affectionate Coca.' When was it that Lord Colin first denounced Lady Miles?. Why, it was on the 5th of November, 1884, when he knew that Lady Miles possessed certain knowledge she was determined to use if he persisted in the course in which he was proceeding against his wife, which Lady Miles believed unjust and false."

Referring to Lord Colin presenting the correspondence from Lady Miles to him on the subject of Amelia Watson, Sir Charles Russell remarked:

"They say Lord Colin was merely seeking to entrap this lady, who had made her house a hospital for him, when he was neglected by his own kith and kin, who apparently had refused to open their doors to him, together with his wife. I believe there is no man of honor who would not have burned his right hand rather than preserve such a correspondence, passed in absolute confidence, much more disclose it to hold in terrorism over Lady Miles and Lady Colin Campbell."

At this outburst Lord Colin and his brothers simultaneously half arose, as if impelled to violence against the orator, but recovering the philanthropy of that ancestral Duke of Argyle who erected the village scratching post, they contented themselves with putting on looks of scorn.

Sir Charles was passing on to the correspondent severely when the court adjourned leaving him to finish on Monday. I understand that on Monday the Purfleet and keyhole incident, as well as the absence of General Butler, will form the principal matters with which the concluding speech will deal.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

How a Belgian Captain Rescued the Stanley Falls Survivors.

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BRUSSELS, Dec. 18.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—The Belgian Captain Coquilhat, chief of the Congo free state Bangola station, returned here to day, being compelled to leave Africa through sickness. I interviewed him and obtained fresh and interesting details concerning the capture of Stanley Falls by the Arabs at the time when the Englishman, Deane, in charge of the Falls, was attacked by Arabs and obliged to retreat. Coquilhat, learning at Bangola that there was trouble ahead, embarked with thirty men and steamed up the Congo hoping to rescue the Deane expedition. This resembled strikingly on a small scale Colonel Wilson's attempt to rescue Gordon at Khartoum. Coquilhat received on the road numerous native reports stating that Deane was still holding out, but on arriving at the falls he found the Arab Zanzibar flag flying over the half-destroyed station, and had to turn back and fly under a heavy Arab fire. During the flight the steamer grounded twice on the rocks, the Arabs still firing, and the Coquilhat party had a narrow escape. Afterward Coquilhat discovered and rescued Deane. On renewing the journey toward Bangola the steamer was again attacked by Arabs, and Coquilhat was himself wounded with twelve of his bodyguard. He had immense difficulty in reaching Bangola safely. He believes the capture of the falls by the Arabs will enable them to resume for a time the terrible slave raids and destruction described in Stanley's last book. Nevertheless, he thinks it will not be very difficult for the free state to capture the falls ultimately. Of the progress of the Congo he gives bright accounts, saying the natives are beginning to show themselves thoroughly amenable to civilization.

FATHER McGLYNN'S CASE.

How It is Viewed by the Authorities At Home.

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ROME, (via Havre), Dec. 18.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—Long and detailed reports have been received at he vatican from Father McGlynn's ecclesiastical superiors concerning his action in the recent New York election. The whole case has been laid before the popes, who has personally made the most thorough examination into the facts. The pope strongly disapproves of Father McGlynn's conduct, and has blamed him through the proper ecclesiastical channels. It is not true that Father McGlynn has been summoned officially to Rome, but it is the pope's intentions to do so in case the semi-official intermediate agents now acting in the matter, and who urge Father McGlynn to come to the vatican to explain his conduct and defend himself, fail in their task. The authorities at the vatican consider it of the greatest importance that there should be no scandal nor sensational measures of any kind, and are very anxious that the matter should be quietly arranged with as little noise or publicity as possible. Owing to these views I am not at liberty to name the two exalted prelates with whom I conversed on the subject, and who received the substance of what is above stated directly from the pope's own lips.

A Steamer's Tough Trip.

[Copyright 1886 by James Gordon Bennett.]

QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 18.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—The Zealand, which left Antwerp December 1, for Philadelphia, has just put in here in a battered condition from the effects of a terrific gale on the 8th and which was predicted by the Herald. The Zealand shipped tremendous seas, which swept her decks fore and aft, smashing in pieces her wheel house, steering wheels, bulwarks, stanchions and carried away the life boats, which were broken in splinters. Twelve passengers were seriously injured, and several of the crew, with broken limbs, had to be removed to the hospital. The passengers were panic stricken, expecting the steamer to founder. After some time they they managed to rig a jury steering apparatus, but the gale continuing, they were compelled to run into Queenstown for safety. The force of the gale was unprecedented.

ANOTHER EXPLICIT DENIAL.

The National Opera Company In a Flourishing Condition.

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Theodore Thomas does not intend to sever his connection with the National Opera company. Furthermore the statement telegraphed from New York to the effect that Emma Juch has left or intends to leave the company, is without the slightest foundation in fact. Charles E. Locke, business manager of the company, said to-day: "Much of my time during the past week has been taken up in making denials of false and malicious reports sent over the country from New York by parties who seem to have some interest in destroying the reputation and good name of the National Opera company. I am glad to have the opportunity of making a general and explicit denial of all rumors of dissensions within the company, as well as to give the lie direct to all stories tending to our financial discredit. Within three days it has been telegraphed from New York that three of our prima donnas, besides Miss Juch and Mr. Thomas, had either resigned or been discharged. Now, to those who know the facts, such reports are simply puerile. I should not notice them but for the fact that I believe the sympathy of the public is with us, and because I am desirous that our friends should know, once for all, that from an artistic and financial standpoint we are to-day stronger than ever. I again repeat my emphatic reputation of the charges in question. That no misapprehension may exist in the minds of the public, let me say that while, from the size of our company, it is necessarily expensive, yet it is not as expensive as was the Mapleson company when he brought out Patti, Gerster, and other high-priced artists. Our receipts in Philadelphia and St. Louis this season exceeded any receipts Mapleson ever took in those cities, notwithstanding the obstacles which have been thrown in our way. This season our receipts in Chicago will be liberally in excess of those of last year. Have we not reason to feel encouraged?"

"What can you say definitely regarding the present attitude of Theodore Thomas?"

"So far from resigning, Mr. Thomas is more interested than ever, with his work in connection with this enterprise. His leaving the company at this time to go to Brooklyn to conduct the annual concert of the Brooklyn Philharmonic society is in accordance with the plans which he arranged last July. He went east because it was stipulated in his contract. I happen to know positively that Mr. Thomas is now considering plans of future work for the opera that will effect another upward step in its artistic career.

The Fight Against the League.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The proclaiming of the anti-rent campaign in Ireland is accepted by the leaders of the National League as a step towards the suppression of the league. The funds of the league have already been transferred to France in order to prevent their seizure by the authorities and the rent moneys deposited with the trustees will also be secreted to guard them against government seizure. The proclamation warns all persons that the inciting of tenants to refuse to pay or withhold rents is an illegal act and that the anti-rent movement by whatever means carried out is criminal conspiracy. In addition it says that all moneys, receipts and documents given or received for the purpose of such conspiracy are liable to seizure and that persons in whose possession they are found shall be arrested. This sweeping measure is the production of Lord Ashbourn, lord chancellor of Ireland, and assent to its promulgation was obtained at yesterday's cabinet council. It is hoped that English and Irish home rulers will now rest until the meeting of parliament, when early action can be taken in opposition to evictions and to restrain the government's coercive activities. In the meantime, however, the unionist papers clamor for the immediate suppression of the National League, and even demand that a trial by jury be suspended in Ireland if juries refuse to convict the advocates of the anti-rent movement.

Provincial Credits Adopted.

PARIS, Dec. 18.—The chamber of deputies, in accordance with the recommendation of the government, to-day adopted provincial credits amended by the senate. M. Floquet, president of the chamber, read a decree closing the session of 1886.

IT LACKED JUST FIVE VOTES.

The House Defeats Morrison's Motion For Consideration of the Tariff.

THE PROTECTIONISTS APPLAUD.

The President Assures Representative Dorsey of His Intention to Open Nebraska Land Offices —National Capital News.

Morrison's Motion Lost.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—It was an exciting scene in the house this afternoon when the vote was being taken on Mr. Morrison's motion to consider his tariff bill. The galleries were crowded with spectators and 302 members of 325 were in their seats. All voted except two—one, a republican, opposed to consideration, and one a democrat, Judge Reagan, of Texas, who was in favor of consideration, so that their absence was equal to a pair and did not effect the result. Judge Reagan was down in the basement of the capital taking a bath when he was informed that the vote was being taken. "Gosh," he exclaimed to the attendant, "help me dress, I must vote," and he stepped out of the bath tub even more agile than he moved out of the capital of Virginia with Jeff Davis at the surrender of Richmond and the fall of the confederacy. As he did so a messenger announced to him that the names were being read on a recall, and that he must hasten if he got to vote. The judge had on his shirt and pantaloons and insisted on running up in the house in that condition, but the attendant protested. When his shoes where being put on he was informed that the vote was a tie. The judge is old and fat and dressed slowly. Directly the news came to him that Speaker Carlisle had voted on the recall and thus gave the bill one majority. The judge smiled, thanked heaven, and dressed more deliberately. Above him there were corrections of the votes and changes till the tally sheets showed 149 for and 154 against consideration. Just before the vote was announced and when it was too late to be recorded the veteran confederate and ex-postmaster general C. S. A. appeared on the floor pulling like a porpoise and perplexed. He was only reconciled when he learned that his vote would have done no good and that the republicans had lost a vote also by the carlessness of a member. It was suggested to Reagan that his constituents would never forgive him unless he told them it was the first bath he had taken for five years. Mr. Morrison felt very good when he thought he had carried his point, and was much disgusted, though not surprised when he saw how near he came to success and yet failed. He sighed and said, "A miss is as good as a mile," and acknowledged that that ended the agitation for the present.

A DEMOCRATIC SCHEME FOR VOTES.

C. H. J. Taylor, assistant city attorney of Kansas City, is in the city making preliminary arrangements for a national convention of colored thinkers of the land. He was today asked to state the purposes and objects of this convention, and said: "The convention is to be composed of representative colored men of every state, and will probably be held in Washington some time early in the next year. The object of the convention is the advancement of the colored race. It is proposed to form a national committee, who shall be composed of one representative from each state, also an executive committee, who shall have all the powers of a full convention. This executive committee shall have the directing and marshalling of the colored voters of each state, and it shall be their duty to lay before these colored voters the questions at issue in the campaign on hand, and shall advise and counsel them how to cast their vote. I am in favor of the colored man being independent, holding allegiance to no political party, but voting as his own interests best dictate." Mr. Taylor says he is a democrat, and gives evidence that the object of his convention is to make democrats of colored voters, and his efforts are not meeting with great success.

THE SIGNAL SERVICE.

General Hazen said to-day that the reports about his failing health are greatly exaggerated. He said that he is suffering from diabetes, but that he has improved very much of late and instead of having an idea of being retired next spring he expects to be at the head of the signal service for the next eight years. "For," he said, "I have not felt so well for several years as I do now. Captain Greely, who was designated as assistant chief signal officer, relieves General Hazen of routine matters, but the latter officer says he expects to remain at the helm.

NEBRASKA LAND OFFICES.

Representative Dorsey called upon President Cleveland to-day and urged the necessity of immediately opening the land offices at Sidney and Chadron. After hearing the statements the president told Mr Dorsey that he recognized that action should be taken at once and that he would make the appointments in a very few days.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

Some time during the last session the attention of Representative Baker was called to the case of an old army friend who had been in one of the Massachusetts regiments, and who found himself at the close of the war with a technical charge of desertion against his record in the war department. The case was rather a peculiar one. The man in question had been captured and taken prisoner by the enemy and was paroled, but in such a dilapidated physical condition that he was compelled to remain in the hospital for many months. He was afterwards sent to the convalescent camp and from there was allowed to return to his home to recuperate. This took him a long while, and when he finally recovered sufficiently to return to duty he found that a charge of desertion had been recorded against him. Just about this time President Lincoln's order granting absolute amnesty to all who were charged with desertion if they would return to the army and finish out the term for which they enlisted, attracted his attention, and he returned under that order early in 1865 only to serve several months. When the war closed he was granted an honorable discharge from the last company in which he served, but the desertion marks in his first enlistment still remained against him. The war department officials were urged to clear his record on the ground that Lincoln's proclamation was absolute and there could be no half way pardon. They admitted the justice of this view of the case, but urged that if it were followed it would entail an endless amount of work and a great deal of expense upon the government, and declined to accede to it. Mr. Baker was requested to make a brief of his points, which he did, for submission to the war department, after which they were transferred to the attorney general for an opinion. Mr. Baker very discreetly called attention to the attorney general's own case, and the ruling of the supreme court on that question. The result of the attorney general's investigation has just been made public. He fully sustains the position taken by Representative Baker, that when a man returned under President Lincoln's proclamation to the service of the United States he was entitled to absolute pardon for any shortcomings with which he might have been charged previous to that time. The point is a very interesting one and very important, as it will effect thousands of similar cases which have occurred in the past.

OUR FORTIFICATIONS.

The appropriation committee of the house do not propose to pay any particular attention to the recommendations of the president and secretary of war in regard to fortifications. If a bill is reported at all it will be the customary measure appropriating but a few hundred thousand dollars for the preservation of forts already in existence and there is not the slightest likelihood that the expenditure of any great amount will be authorized by congress for the purpose of beginning a system of forts along our sea coast for which the war department has been labouring so long. The recent trials of the Krupp cannon in Germany have demonstrated the folly of attempting to build armor which will resist the heavy ordinance now manufactured for modern warfare. These tests also show that with guns of the power of those just completed the seaboard cities of the United States could be absolutely protected against any foreign vessels which might attempt to come within sight of the shore.

A PUBLIC BUILDING COMBINATION.

There are indications that a combination will be formed in the house for the passage of public building bills before the close of the session in such a flood as to cast in the shade all other log-rolling combinations for which this body has been celebrated. There are thirty or forty of these measures on the calendar and as many men who are extremely anxious that their bills should pass. Some of them have even been re-elected on the promise to secure favorable action on bills of this character now pending. The location of these proposed structures is pretty well scattered throughout the United States, and as a result at least one man in nearly every state is to a greater or less degree working in this direction. The scheme as far as it has been developed, up to date, is that the member representing the city in which it is proposed to erect a public building shall vote for each of the other bills of like character that is being pushed by another member, and that in return he shall not only bring his own support to bear in favor of his friend, but also that of the other members of the delegation to which he belongs. If this plan is carried out there will be an enormous diminution in the surplus of the revenues of the United States, and a number of very handsome public buildings will be erected in some very interior towns. Of course there will be those who will certainly oppose the scheme, and it is more than likely that the newspaper notoriety which the combination will receive will serve to nip the proposition in the bud just in the nick of time.

CAPITAL BRIEFS.

Mr. Dorsey called up in the house last night and secured the passage of a bill increasing the pension of Captain Frank Sweet, of Clarks, Neb., to accord with the rank he held when wounded.

Pennies are so scarce in the city that some merchants were offering $1.05 per hundred for them to-day. It is understood that steps will be taken by congress to provide for the coinage of more of the small denominations of coins—1, 2 and 3 cent pieces.

POSTAL CHANGES.

The following Iowa postmasters were appointed to-day: Joshua Dunlap, Leckridge, Jefferson county, vice L. Hopkirk, removed; Jas. Jerobaun, Shell Rock, Butler county, vice J. W. Stewart, removed; Walter S. Matthews, Taylor, Pottawottamie county, vice J. T. Willford, resigned; A. B. Carter, West Bend, Polo Alto county, vice Benj. Franklin, resigned.

A WOMAN'S WOE.

Tale of a Lady's Troubles Told in Divorce Court.

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Mrs. Harriet Hubbard Ayer, the handsome and accomplished lady whose name and initials, "H. H. A.," during the last few years have been more or less familiar to the readers of news and society journals, appeared in Judge Garnett's court to-day as plaintiff in a divorce suit against her husband, Herbert C. Ayer. The testimony was privately heard by the judge before the regular Saturday divorce proceedings opened at 10 o'clock, Mrs. Ayer relating the story of her unhappy married life. She testified that she was married to Herbert C. Ayer in Chicago on October 2, 1876. They lived together as husband and wife until the month of October, 1885, when the final separation took place. It was about that time that the rich iron firm of Brown, Bonnell & Co., of Youngstown, O., of which the defendant was a member, became bankrupt. Mr. Ayer then left his accomplished wife, saying that business interests required his presence in Europe. Gossips at the time whispered, however, that his real object, which, of course, he carefully concealed, was to meet a handsome and somewhat notorious Chicago adventuress with whom he had become infatuated, and who had taken up her residence in Paris. On taking his leave Herbert Ayer, it is alleged in the bill, promised to contribute $500 a month for the support of his wife and two children. But of this it is stated he never contributed one cent. Meanwhile Mrs. Ayer has supported herself and the two children by her own exertions. In relating her story Mrs. Ayer said that two years ago her husband had gone to Europe. She had not heard from him, and had instituted inquiries among friends who had returned to this side of the Atlantic. They had very little to tell her, but finally rumors began to reach her ears that Mr. Ayer had been guilty of improper conduct. Making a thorough investigation she discovered that he had been traveling through France with another woman who lived with him as his wife. Here Mrs. Ayer became convulsed with sobs and nearly broke down. She had made frequent appeals to him for support since he left her, but had never received any response.

In reply to the court's inquiry as to whether she had made any overtures for a reconciliation, Mrs. Ayer replied, with the tears springing to her eyes,

"No, sir; I could not under the circumstances."

The case was continued for further evidence. Mr. Ayer is now said to be living in New York city, and it is rumored that he is likely to regain part of his lost wealth. Mrs. Ayer was one of the most beautiful, talented and well known women in Chicago. She was a reigning belle before and after her marriage. Mr. Ayer was at one time immensely rich and he and his wife lived in the most sumptuous style in a large house on the north side. They had ten or a dozen servants and numerous equipages and horses, and entertained very lavishly. When the crash came the couple separated and Mrs. Ayer took up her abode in New York. For a time she earned an income by writing gossipy letters from the metropolis. Then