THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

SIXTEENTH YEAR. OMAHA, TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 12, 1887. NUMBER 298

A COMBINATION OF RASCALS

Wholesale Arrest of Train Crews on the Pennsylvania Road.

CARS SYSTEMATICALLY ROBBED

Conductors and Brakemen Jailed at Pittsburg and a Large Amount of Plunder Captured—Two Hundred Warrants Issued.

A Gigantic Conspiracy.

PITTSBURG, April 11.—The officials of the Panhandle railroad began this morning to make wholesale arrests of employes of that road for being concerned in a gigantic conspiracy of robbery. The officials of the road claim that during the past two years the cars on the Pittsburg, Cincinnati & St. Louis road have been systematically robbed of property roughly estimated as being worth half a million dollars. Early this morning 100 policemen and detectives began a concerted raid upon the boarding houses and homes of the Panhandle railway employes and at 9 o'clock forty-four conductors and brakemen were confined in the county jail the officers boarded all early incoming trains and arrested such men as were wanted. John H. Hamilton, attorney for the Pennsylvania road, was seen this morning in the office of the detective agency, sitting among a heterogeneous collection of plunder. He said: "These robberies have been carried on systematically for several years. The company has long been aware that there was a leakage somewhere and as early as September, 1886, they quietly commenced investigations. Detectives were placed on the trains where the goods could be watched and the thieves caught. We had already discovered that the culprits were employes of the company. In September there were eighty crews of freight trains on the Panhandle railroad coming into Pittsburg. Of these eighty crews no less than seventy-five were found to be crooked. The crews consist of conductor, flagman and two brakemen. In some cases all men were involved, in others only part. The statement that the engineers and firemen were mixed up in the robberies is wrong; not a single one is involved. The goods were obtained by the cracksmen in various ways. In many instances the seals were broken, while in others hatchets were used to cut holes in the rear of cars, through which the men crawled and took what they coveted. Then they reported the car in bad condition, claiming that the holes had been made by an accident. The operations were all the result of a combination. Arrangements were carefully made and each rascal was assigned to his particular part of the work in much the same way as bank robberies are committed by professional cracksmen. I do not know that members of the combination were oath bound or anything of the kind, but it is certain that a thorough understanding existed among them and they acted in concert to cover up each others misdoings. The thing which alarmed us more than anything else, was that they stole large quantities of whisky and drank it in the cabooses. They needed vessels to hold liquor, so they stole milk cans and kept it in them, not daring to keep whisky openly in the cars. They tore up the flooring and hid it underneath. The men were continually reported drunk on duty and the probability of disaster was something frightful to contemplate. All kinds of goods were stolen, including sewing machines, guns, revolvers, cutlery, silverware, cigars, clothing, liquor, groceries, furniture, and in fact every imaginable article that could be carried on a car were quickly removed. The depredations were committed all along the road and the losers reside at points as far west as Denver. Fences were established in this city where the stolen property was taken and then sold, the money being evenly divided among the crews."

It is now claimed that the amount of property stolen will not amount to $300. The arrests have created great excitement among the railroad employes of this city. The scenes about the jail doors this morning when relatives of the prisoners were gathered to learn the cause of the arrest were of the saddest description. Wives, children, parents, brothers and sisters with tear-stained faces stood around the entrances to the prison eager to hear the latest development and pleading with the officers for admission to the jail to see the prisoners. At 11 o'clock ten more arrests were reported. They were captured at the pay-car while receiving their wages. This makes a total of fifty-six in jail here and it is supposed as many more have been apprehended at other points along the line. Consternation prevails among the proprietors of the "fences" and dens where the goods were secreted and sold. In one instance the proprietor of a notorious den was detected in the act of burning stolen property. A telegram was received from Dennison, O., stating that J. R. Dunlap, leader of the gang, was arrested there this morning.

One Bushby, the worst man in the gang, slipped his handcuffs and recklessly threw himself from the train, while it was going and escaped.

The following are the names of conductors arrested: John Hestings, Mac Roberts, J. P. Brennan, L. L. Black, H. R. Kuhn, Thos. C. Shay, T. J. Hanley, William Islett, Chas. Watson, Chas. Shanks, C. Sanguere, Clyde Laughlin, Frank Maple, J. R. Dunlap, C. R. Altman, George Latham, C. A. Laughlin, John Collis, Dave Collis. Among those arrested are thirty-seven brakemen. Seven more arrests have been made, but the names have not yet been recorded. Nearly two hundred warrants are still out and it is expected that the list of arrests in this city will be swelled to eighty before night. A number of houses in various parts of the city were raided to-day and a large quantity of goods recovered. Every man arrested had stolen goods somewhere. Among the prisoners were several dangerous characters, who were wanted by the police for other offenses. They were all armed and when not taken by surprise resisted arrest. The number overpowered them, however, and all were safely lodged in jail. A special dispatch from Dennison says officers have arrested James and W. Collins with several thousand dollars worth of velvets in their possession, articles taken from United States bonded cars which were en route to Chicago, St. Louis and other points west. The most important arrest is of Brakeman Young, who made a confession which will, it is said, convict thirteen others. Telegrams from Cadiz, Steubenville and points west of Columbus report the arrest of a large number of railroad employes implicated in the robberies. The preliminary hearing will be heard April 28.

To Joseph Rue, special agent of the Pennsylvania railroad, and Detective Kilkeson, of this city, is due all the creditit of running the thieves down. In the interview with Rue this afternoon the following account of the inception of the robberies, their detection, the modus-operandi of their execution, etc., Rue said: "Two years ago we decided to dispense with locks on cars and introduced our present system of seals. The seal is of lead, is about the size of a five cent piece, and is about one-eighth of an inch in thickness. The wire used in connection with it is one-sixteenth inch iron wire. There are curls in it to prevent its being pulled through the lead seal. The method of using it is as follows: The wire is passed through the seal, then through the hasp of the car door, then back through the seal again, forming an unbroken circle. An instrument then is used in impressing the seals. That in use, say in Pittsburg, stamps upon the immense side the letters 'P.G. FR.' upon the obverse side 'P.C. St. L.' thus indicating that the car is intact when it enters the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis railroad bound westward. The two wires are embedded at the same stroke as the letters are imprinted. This understood, I will give an idea of the inception of the robbery and its discovery by the officials of the road. Eastern bound trains have been the sufferers. As near as we can estimate it, these robberies have been going on for two years. At first there was timidity and they only occurred at long intervals; then, daily growing bolder and more general, until just lately every train was a sufferer. We became cognizant of the robberies through claims submitted by New York to the road on the strength of their western customers' allegations of broken packages, both in bulk and in severality, the evidence in each case being positive that the packages were opened in transit. We were puzzled a long time by the robberies, as our reports from western points showed that the seals were always seemingly intact. For a long time we blamed the extractions of the goods upon roustabouts at piers 27 and 28 in New York and the Dock street station at Philadelphia, as nearly all of our western bound freight was put on the cars at either one or the other of these three places. We employed detectives and all imaginable devices, and found finally that our employes at these points were above suspicion. As I am in charge of all crookedness on our road east of Pittsburg, it then became my duty to follow the robbers up to this city. After a most exhaustive search of the entire division of the Pennsylvania road up to Pittsburg I came to the conclusion that the robberies were committed west of Pittsburg. We then devoted ourselves entirely to the western division. After two months' work we found that the robberies were committed between Pittsburg and Dennison; that out of eighty crews seventy-five were practicing a gigantic scheme of robbery. We were badly startled at first by the fact that the seals on the cars were generally found intact when the cars reached Columbus on their way westward. Then we commenced a system of espionage on every mile of siding between here and Dennison. Day and night the watch continued. Meanwhile marked and decoy goods were used. We found that local freight was generally untouched; that the robberies were committed on Union line shipments. Well and good. One dark night one of our brightest men stumbled against the mystery of the seals and the method by which they were successfully tampered with. Concealed behind a crew he saw the crew come to a Union line car. The wire was pulled out of the seal, the door was thrown back, and the car entered. In a short time the men emerged carrying a lot of plunder. They made off to the caboose and the conductor pulled back the door, run the wire through the seal where it had been pulled out, and with a board struck a blow. The wire went back to its place, the blow united the soft lead again without destroying the lettering on either side, and the seal was apparently untouched. I saw one of these, and it was only by the closest scrutiny that a person could detect signs of tampering with it. All this made clear, our course was much easier. The individuals of these crews were then each of them tracked down, and I may say here that so closely were the stolen goods located that out of all the arrests we made last night and this morning, there was not one man but had stolen stuff either on him or in his room. Of course you understand that our method used in ascertaining all this cannot be made public. Suffice it to say that we have our hands on every thievish employe, and we are within easy reach of those who are not arrested. When I say we, I mean, of course, Mr. Kilkeson first, and to him belongs the exclusive credit of the rich haul that filled the dragnet. I can give a few illustrations of the spirit of these employes. In one case just lately the pursuit was so hot that twenty-five boxes of fine cigars were hastily burned in a caboose stove. In another case a "fin" resulted in two bolts of fine silks being thrown from a caboose into the Monongahela river while crossing the Panhandle bridge. In another instance the crew broke open a car and found it full of organs. One of the men was so enraged by finding nothing of a stealable kind that he thrust an iron bar into the organ and ruined it. We have evidence that a freight conductor broke into a car, opened a piano, and sat and played it all night, stopping at midnight to eat supper off the polished top. The same fellow was thumping a piano in a dive last night when captured. Another brakeman, who lives on Wiley avenue, stole a bolt of cloth, had a suit made for himself, and gave the cloth for two other suits to two of his friends. Another man has become an expert on a stolen accordeon. In all my experience of twenty-nine years, I never saw such a taste for miscellaneous stealing. Everything except a coffin and a blacksmith's anvil has been stolen and made use of. Some of our detectives assured me this morning that not a man was arrested but had from half a dozen to a dozen pairs of clean socks of the finest qualities and a large assortment of shirts of all kinds."

The thieves who were not arrested at their homes were taken from the trains. As the trains came in the officers displayed a red light, the trains side-tracked, and, before the men knew what was the matter, found themselves under arrest. The cabooses were searched and many evidences of long continued depredations were discovered. Hundreds of boxes which had contained the finest imported cigars were found on the trains badly used by the men to hold caps, overalls and lamterns. Fires were in progress today all along the line of the Panhandle road, made up of stuff thrown out of the cabooses which had been cleared of articles valuable as evidence in the coming trial. Almost every man arrested had from one to ten pawn tickets for all sorts of articles on his person. It is alleged that every pawn shop in the two cities is represented on the tickets. An amount of several thousand dollars is said to be recoverable in this way alone.

The crews of men that had been arrested had left a large number of trains deserted. The detention of freight, however, was only temporarily. The railroad officers have taken special precautions to continue moving their freight promptly. An extra force of sixty men had been employed. These were put on the deserted trains in the place of the arrested employes. When it became known that a large number of men had been arrested, applicants for positions commenced to flock to the depot by scores.

Special Agent Rue stated to-night that the total arrests number sixty, of whom there are fifty-six in the Pittsburg jail, One of the men, named Black, was released on bail. J. T. Gibbs was also released this evening. He is an officer of the company and his arrest was a mistake. Deputy Mayor Gripp, before whom the warrants were sworn out, has fixed the hearings for next Monday at 10 a. m. The office of Detective Kilkeson is crowded with many trunks and stolen goods, all of which have been labeled as from whom taken, the date and conditions. They will be carefully guarded to be used as evidence against the men. The goods there are valued at several thousand dollars, which may be greatly increased by the contents of a dozen or more trunks which have not yet been opened. At the jail all was quiet and no more prisoners were expected to-night. It is understood that no more arrests will be made here. In fact Detective Rue said they had all the men wanted except a few no longer connected with the Panhandle road, who are located, and will be arrested within the next few days.

At a late hour to-night J. R. Dunlop, who is regarded as the ringleader of the gang, made a confession to the detectives, in which he implicated several outsiders and located "fences" at Dennison, O., New Philadelphia and other places.

Enforcing the Railroad Boycott.

NEW YORK, April 11.—The World of tomorrow will say: The general passenger agents of the trunk lines held a meeting, at which Commissioner Pierson presided, and at which C. K. Lord, general passenger agent of the Baltimore & Ohio road, was present, with all the other general agents. The meeting lasted until late in the afternoon and resulted in the Baltimore & Ohio agreeing to act with the other trunk lines. Its representative promised to order the tickets of the obstinate western lines off sale to-morrow morning, and after that no tickets can be purchased at any of the trunk line agencies or officers via the Chicago & Alton, Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific, Missouri Pacific, Denver & Rio Grande, Illinois Central, Indiana, Bloomington & Western, and a few other shorter and less important lines.

Raiding the Salvation Army.

QUEBEC, April 11.—While the French detachment of the Salvation Army was parading the streets yesterday afternoon, it was attacked by a howling mob who pelted the members with large lumps of snow and ice. One of the females of the army was knocked senseless, and dangerously hurt by being struck on the head with a piece, weighing five pounds. The drums of the detachments were all smashed. The police have as yet made no arrests.

Death of a Burlington Citizen.

BURLINGTON, Ia., April 11.—E. D. Rand, a lumber merchant, and a wealthy citizen of this city, died here of congestion of the lungs, yesterday. Rand resided here since 1838, and was a member of the firm owning sawmills in this state and Wisconsin.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Great Gathering in Hyde Park to Protest Against Coercion.

MANY THOUSANDS PRESENT

The English Masses Show Their Sentiments in Regard to the Passage of the Crimes Act For Ireland.

The Anti-Coercion Meeting.

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LONDON, April 11.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—Many New Yorkers who this afternoon walked through Oxford street or Piccadilly, each of which is to Londoners what mid Broadway is to the former, must have been terribly reminded of that April day twenty-six years ago, when the Fort Sumpter meeting was held on Union Square to encourage Lincoln to fight against slavery. The dozen wagon-like platforms, arranged in a horseshoe, within the great Hyde Park, into which the London streets, just mentioned debouch, reminded one of the dozen platforms that in 1861 circled little Union Square. Around to-day's wagons were gathered hundreds of thousands of protestors against Irish political slavery.

A GREAT SUCCESS.

To sum up in advance, it may be said that, favored by brilliant sunshine, a mild change in the atmosphere, and roads in excellent condition for marching, the demonstration to protest against the coercion bill was a great success. In accordance with a promise made by the committee of public works, men were set to work at an early hour this morning in Hyde park removing the iron hurdles which fringe all the foot roads approaching that portion known as "The Level," which was set apart for the demonstration. Five thousand policemen were on duty at noon in the thoroughfares and avenues leading thither, or in the park itself. Also, thus early, people congregated along the routes and thronged various sections of the park, invading swell "Rotten Row" and two of the most fashionable drives. From first to last perfect order reigned everywhere, as marked the Fort Sumpter demonstration. At least a tenth of London's 5,000,000 people were at one point or another witnessing the procession or taking part as spectators or auditors. Piccadilly, St. James street and Pall Mall presented the most marked features. Thereabouts are the residences or clubs of many liberal or home-rule leaders, whereat cheers were constantly interchanged, while chaff or groans greeted tory mansions or such clubs as the Beaconsfield, and the Carlton. Yet all was good nature.

CHEERING THE GRAND OLD MAN.

A great ovation was given Mrs. Gladstone and Mr. Herbert Gladstone, who sat on the balcony of Right Honorable Edward Majoriliank's house, No. 134 Piccadilly, corner of Park lane. For over two hours crowds remained in front of the house cheering for the grand old man and the "grand old woman."

THE BANNERS.

Much interest was taken also in the names of the numerous banners. Some had portraits of O'Connel, Emmett, Parnell and Gladstone, not a few in frame. Here are some inscriptions I penciled off: "Gladstone's Union" and "Salisbury's Union," the former being two hands clasped in friendly grip, while the latter presented two priests chained together; "Ireland's a Sister, Not a Slave," "Land for the People" (with a picture of Davitt); "Another Struggle for Fredom," "Scotland is With You," "Justice for Ireland, Not Coercion."

There were several brooms on sticks of red, with green ribbons, bearing the inscription of an old patent for the removal of coercion—a sort of signboard bearing bottles of paraline and having boxes of matches tied on—with the words, "Tory Remedies," this being to remind you of the way the Glenbeigh evictions were carried out by burning the tenants into the streets.

The Woolwich men carried white flags, on which were inscribed the words: "Woolwich Infants Nothing But Victory Will Silence." East Greenwich carried a banner bearing the inscription, "No Recreants." The Bermondsey people carried a flag on which were the words, "Where's Poor Joe." Northumberland excited the greatest merriment by having a coffin mounted on the shoulders of four stalwart men and above it a skeleton, in memory of coercion. The band of this detachment played a dead march throughout the whole distance. The next contingent was from Croydon. Its appearance caused the band to play "Wait Till the Clouds Roll By." One contingent declared on a banner: "We are on the side of the donkey cart with springs."

OTHER FEATURES.

National and liberal club members had a swell turn-out. Their many carriages had out riders and were preceded by a number of bagpipes. Many workmen who were on ladders, scaffolding, etc., at work, decked themselves with green ribbon rosettes or plumes. All the liberal and radical clubs distributed free green ribbons or rosettes to all applicants. Mrs. Josephine Butler gave several thousand shamrock rosettes away.

IRISH AND AMERICAN AIRS.

The processions were accompanied by bands, numbering certainly 100 in all. These played popular airs. I heard a familiar American one—"Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys Are Marching"—and, of course, "The Wearing of the Green," and not a few Irish airs that have to them what Secretary Balfour would call seditious words.

SCENES AT THE PARK.

The meetings around the wagons were opened by speakers soon after 3 o'clock. As the last contingent of the demonstration did not reach the park before half-past 4 they could not have known what was going on at the meeting ground. The scene in the park was very remarkable. Columns of men with banners marched to the bleak old elms to the strains of bands, occasionally broken by the hurrahs of the people. There was a constant streaming in of thousands from all points toward the reformers' tree. This made up a picture not easily to be forgotten. What was going on at the wagons, however, could be but a matter of surmise to the tens of thousands. Arms were waved in the air from the wagons, there were constant bursts of cheering, but nothing definite could be heard from a few feet beyond.

A MAMMOTH TABLEAU.

The largest crowds were gathered around platform No. 14, where Davitt spoke, and where the American flag was flying. The resolutions were put by a bugle signal, which was sounded at the same time from all the platforms, and then followed a mammoth tableau, in which hats were thrown in the air and waving handkerchiefs played the great part, while everybody tried to cheer their loudest for Ireland.

THE FINAL SCENES.

When the crowd began to disperse, kissing rings were formed by the bystanders. Men, women and children joined in the innocent games, to the great enjoyment of the young people. But the air got chilly and the more staid among the elders made the best of their way home.

As I turned out of the marble arch, I saw a veteran police officer. He politely declined to talk politics or give opinions, but to a question inviting an answer, he said emphatically: "I've lived in London, boy and man, for fifty years, but this is the largest meeting I ever saw, read about or heard of."

COMMENT OF THE PRESS.

All the morning papers speak pleasantly about the Hyde park meeting and give fair reports of it, excepting the Times, which scoffs at it, and says that out of the 4,000,000 and more of Londoners who had not left town for Easter not more than 50,000 at the outside found their way to Hyde park to lend the sanction of their presence to the cause of "free boycotting" and "free moonlighting" in Ireland, which seems to suggest that the meeting was really a great success.

Again Threatening the Czar.

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VIENNA, April 11.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—Failure in their repeated attempts to assassinate the czar has not discouraged the nihilists. Circulars are, I hear, now being secretly distributed throughout Russia threatening a fresh attempt and promising that "ere the year is three months older Russia will have got rid of its tyrant." The Times correspondent at St. Petersburg says it is reported that the czar, before returning to Gatschina on Wednesday, found a letter on his writing table in the winter palace threatening him with death.

Fate of Russian Officers.

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CONSTANTINOPLE, April 11.—[New York Herald Cable Special to the BEE.]—I have just seen a dispatch from Odessa, mentioning without particulars, which, of course, would be difficult to obtain, the arrival of 450 Russian officers en route to the horrible penal colony of Saghalier on life sentences. They are in charge of a large prison convoy.

A SHOCKING ACCIDENT.

Two Vassar Students and Their Escorts Meet Death in a Mine.

POTTSVILLE, Pa., April 11.—A shocking accident occured in the mine of the Chamberlain colliery at St. Clair this afternoon. Miss Berlista Shaul, of Sharon Springs, N. Y., a student of Vassar college, was visiting Miss Minnie Keiter, of St. Clair, a fellow student. The two young ladies, in company with a young man named Harry Short and Edwin Thompson, one of the proprietors of the colliery, entered the mine for the purpose of giving Miss Shaul an opportunity to inspect the operation of mining coal. The mine had not been working for a week and none but the explorers were inside at the time. In an adjacent working, however, were Albert Thompson, another of the firm, and several others, who were making examinations of the works. They were startled by a heavy explosion, and knowing that the party had entered the other slope, they hastened there to investigate. About 150 yards from the foot of the slope they came upon Messrs. Short and Thompson and the two ladies lying upon the ground, some of them unconscious and all frightfully burned and mangled. They were taken out as speedily as possible and medical attendance obtained. Miss Keiter's face was burned beyond recognition, her skull and thigh fractured and her ankle crushed. She died this evening. Miss Shaul had a leg badly fractured and was terribly bruised and burned, but may survive. Short's head is a mass of cuts and contusions and he is badly burned. He remained unconscious and his recovery is doubtful. Thompson is painfully but not fatally bruised. The precise cause of the explosion is unknown, but the supposition is that the party carried a naked lamp and encountered a body of fire damp, which, igniting from the lamp, exploded with tremendous force.

RIOT OVER A WOMAN.

A Denver Mob Indulges in a Bloody Fight.

DENVER, April 11.—A bloody riot occurred late last night between rival Swede, Pole and Hungarian colonies at Thirty-fourth and Blake streets, which resulted in fatally shooting one man and seriously wounding several others, and it was with the combined efforts of the police force and the patrol wagon that the affair was prevented from resulting in a wholesale massacre. The settlement where the riot occurred is composed of twenty-five or thirty families, who live in small, one-story tenement houses, not more than ten by twenty feet square, the men mostly being employed in the smelters and foundries located in the neighborhood. The melee grew out of a long standing jealousy in the settlement over a young Polish woman, Alice Falka, who yesterday morning left the settlement on the south side of the street and spent the day with the rival colony on the north side. Considerable beer was drank, and a quarrel in the street between two men of the rival colonies was carried to the house, when all joined in. After the house had been gutted of the furniture, the plaster torn from the walls, one Pole killed and several clubbed into insensibility, the crowd went to a house on the other side and resumed the fight. Finally twelve policemen armed with Winchesters surrounded the house. The mob attempted to resist and made a dash at the officers, armed with clubs, knives and revolvers, but when they met the blue coats ready to fire into them, they fell back and made little resistance. Nearly forty ragged, bloody and vicious looking members of the mob were jailed.

Blaine's Condition Favorable.

FORT GIBSON, I. T., April 11.—Blaine passed an easy and comfortable night. He awoke three times, each time partaking of milk. In the morning he appeared to be very much refreshed and ate a hearty breakfast, relishing the meal, swallowing fibre and all (heretofore his stomach refused anything solid.) His respiration and temperature are normal. The weather is warm and threatens rain—a favorable condition for the patient. The doctor considers that all danger is now past, but requires Blaine to remain in his room for one week.

ST. LOUIS, April 11.—R. C. Kerins and Dr. Mudd, of this city, the latter of whom went to Fort Gibson to examine and treat Mr. Blaine, returned home to-night. Kerins stated to an Associated press reporter that when he and Dr. Mudd left Fort Gibson Mr. Blaine was getting along nicely and was well on the way to quick recovery. The following statement by Dr. Mudd covers the case from the time he first saw Blaine until noon to-day. Dr. Mudd advised Blaine not to attempt to travel or to expose himself unduly for another week: At 11 o'clock last Saturday morning Blaine had a slight fever, the result of general bronchitis, and slight pneumonia of a part of the lower margin of the left lung. The record of this case as kept by Byrne, post surgeon, showed an irregular but daily rise in temperature to 3 degrees. The bronchitis rapidly improved during the next twenty-four hours. There was during this time no extension of the pneumonia, and as neither Dr. Byrne nor myself could detect any imperfection in the constitution of the patient, we felt that there was no serious danger. Blaine is singularly free from any evidence of chronic disease or weakness. Now that the disease has subsided we believe, unless there is a recurrence of the trouble, that his fine physique and good recuperative powers will soon establish perfect recovery.

Acton Downs Lewis.

CHICAGO, April 11.—Battery D. was well filled to-night with a crowd gathered to witnest the catch-as-catch-can wrestling match between Evan Lewis and Joe Acton. Acton won the first fall and Lewis the next three, and the match was declared in his favor. The audience was only moderately enthusiastic, and a comparatively small amount of money changed hands.

SENTENCED TO BE HANGED

Train Wrecker Hoffman Given the Full Penalty of the Law.

TO BE EXECUTED JULY 22.

The Prisoner Breaks Down Completely When He Realizes His Fate—Thieves Escape Justice —Other Nebraska News.

Hoffman Sentenced to Hang.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., April 11.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—David Hoffman, who was tried last week for wrecking a train at Dunbar on January 11 and found guilty of murder in the first degree, was this morning brought before Judge Chapman for sentence. He was very nervous and looked as if he had slept none since the close of his trial on Saturday last. When he stood up to hear the remarks of Judge Chapman, tears trickled down his cheeks, and for the first time since the beginning of his trial he showed signs of weakening. The judge spoke at some length of the trial, the jury and the deed, and finally wound up by naming July 22 as the day on which Hoffman was to be hung at this place. The prisoner broke down and cried like a baby while being taken back to his cell. The trial of James Bell, who was with Hoffman when the deed was done, will take place to-morrow. It is thought, however, since he turned state's evidence that he will throw himself on the mercy of the court and plead guilty. Both prisoners are much broken down.

The Nebraska City Press says the case of David Hoffman, indicted for wrecking a Missouri Pacific train at Dunbar last January, was given to the jury Saturday afternoon. In half an hour the jury returned a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree. When the jury filed in very few spectators were in the court room. The prisoner was in his place, stolid as he had been throughout the trial. There was an interval of deep silence when the verdict was read. The jury was then discharged and a motion for a new trial entered. The prisoner broke down twice; once just after the jury went out while his brother was talking to him, and again when his sister came near him after the verdict was rendered. With these exceptions his manner was stolid, rather than nervy, throughout.

OTHER DOINGS IN COURT.

Keenan and Murray, two men arrested for burglary, were released by a jury this evening in the district court, although the goods were found on their persons when arrested. Judge Chapman, in discharging the prisoners, said: "I know that you are guilty, but the jury has cleared you."

Another thief plead guilty and was sentenced for one year.

Detective Flynn this afternoon brought in a man from he arrested for placing stones on the B. & M. track west of Syracuse one day last week. It is thought that the man is slightly demented.

It has been intimated that Bell, one of the train wreckers who turned state's evidence, has been promised immunity and will escape with a light punishment.

Judge Chapman will adjourn court to-morrow to the 25th.

O'Donnell Again Given Damages.

COLUMBUS, Neb., April 11.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The case of James O'Donnell against the Omaha, Niobrara & Black Hills railroad company was given to the jury this afternoon and a verdict was returned for $5,000 in favor of the plaintiff. The case was tried last January, when a verdict for $5,500 was rendered. A new trial was granted with the above result. Considerable interest was shown in the suit from the fact that in February, 1886, O'Donnell, with his team, was run over at St. Edwards by the Albion train about 7 o'clock in the evening, killing both the horses, breaking the wagon into kindling wood and injuring O'Donnell to such an extent that with his injuries and his broken hip he has been failing in health as a consequence. But the most incredulous part of the suit is the statement of the defense that neither the engineer, fireman, conductor nor any one on the train knew nothing of the matter till after the train had reached Albion and the conductor was asked to report the accident that had occurred at St. Edwards. Then, for the first time, did any of the train men know that O'Donnell had been run over by their train.

A Horse Thief Shot Dead.

BROKEN BOW, Neb., April 11.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Sheriff Penn and deputies just returned from Elton and Sargent, where they went to take care of the remains of a horse thief who was shot yesterday evening by a posse who attempted his capture. The sheriff captured the dead horse thief's pard, and landed him in the Broken Bow jail this evening. The posse was from Brown and have returned. The dead and captured are old horse thieves.

THE HADDOCK TRIAL.

Legal Points Argued and the First Speech Made.

SIOUX CITY, Ia., April 11.—The day has been spent in the Haddock murder trial mostly in the counsel arguing the law points relating to conspiracy and the application of the term "reasonable doubt." In the afternoon Hon. E. H. Hubbard, of counsel for the state, presented the case before the jury, closing at 5:30. The attendance has lessened to over one-half, but public interest does not seem to subside. The probable outcome of the jury's deliberation is the theme of the people. Three speeches will be made on each side before the case goes to the jury, and it is not thought improbable that it will not be submitted until Thursday.

Indianapolis Carpenters to Strike.

INDIANAPOLIS, April 11.—The carpenters of this city and their employers held separate meetings to-night, but were unable to agree and the men decided to inaugurate the strike to-morrow. They demand nine hours a day and an increase of 10 per cent in wages. The employers insist on ten hours and offer a graded scale of wages, the highest being 25 cents an hour and the lowest 17 cents, which was rejected. The strike will affect, it is said, about 900 men.

Bad Floods In New York.

CANAJOHARIE, N. Y., April 11.—Excitement was never more intense along the Blackhawk river, which has continued to rise since morning. The bridge over the Mohawk at Fort Plain was carried away by the flood to-night. Fultonville and Fonda are nearly all under water. No telerraph wires on the Central railroad are in operation. The railroad tracks are torn up at Podestine. The bridge and tracks are washed out in various places. Travel will be impeded for several days.

The Eagle in Port.

ST. JOHNS, N. F., April 11.—The sailing steamship Eagle, which arrived here to-day, reports that the debris and apparent wreckage with the ship's name found on the ice were flung overboard to make room for seals. There is great rejoicing among the sailors' families over the arrival of the supposed lost steamer.

A Strike Averted.

CHICAGO, April 11.—Two weeks ago the switchmen in the Illinois Central yards quit work, because the company ordered the force reduced. They returned to work but were expected to go out again to-day, but the company ordered the same number of men to be employed as heretofore and the strike was averted.

Three Men Killed.

NEW YORK, April 11.—Three men were killed to-day at shaft No. 10 of the new aqueduct by the falling of the cage. They are Edward Shedy, machine runner, and J. O. Skinlill and Antonio Coleno, laborers.

THE SWEENEY LAW.

It Is Declared Unconstitutional By the Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON, April 11.—A decision was rendered in the supreme court of the United States to-day in the railroad permit case of Henry S. Barron against George W. Burnside, sheriff of Lyon county, Iowa, in error to the supreme court of that state. The question presented by the case is the validity of the act of the general assembly of Iowa, approved April 6, 1886, entitled "An act requiring foreign incorporations to file their articles of incorporation with the secretary of state and imposing conditions upon such corporations transacting business in this state." The object of the act is to compel foreign railway corporations to take out a permit for the transaction of business within the state, and it is made a condition of the granting of such permit that when a railroad company is sued by a citizen of the state it shall not remove the case to the federal court. This court, in an opinion by Justice Blatchford, holds that the Iowa statute is void. The judgment of the supreme court of Iowa is reversed and the case remanded with directions to enter judgment discharging the plaintiff in error from custody. The corporation concerned in the case is the Chicago & Northwestern railroad company.

The News in Iowa.

DES MOINES, Ia., April 11.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The announcement that the United States supreme court had declared the Sweeney law unconstitutional was received here without much surprise. Many were prepared for it since the elaborate discussion of the question before the state supreme court last December. The Sweeney law, passed by the last general assembly, compelled all foreign corporations doing business in the state to re-incorporate here and thus be subject to state laws and state courts. It was the last section to which most objection was raised, as it took away the right of foreign corporations, when sued, to transfer their cases to the federal court as is now usually done. To make a test case, the state arrested the employes of two or three foreign railroad corporations, among them those of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad. The company defended its refusal to reincorporate on the ground that the law was unconstitutional. The leading foreign railroads entering the state united, and through their chief solicitors argued the case before the Iowa supreme court last December on an application for a writ of habeas corpus to realize the arrested employes. The state court denied this and the case was at once presented to the United States supreme court with the result announced to-day. Governor Larrabee stated to-night that the state would probably abandon at once the prosecution against the other corporations under the Sweeney law, but it would make no change in its prosecution of the Pullman sleeping car company for refusal to pay taxes in Iowa. He says that he is not disappointed in the decision of the supreme court, and he thinks that the next legislature, if any legislation on this subject is attempted, will be very careful not to interfere with constitutional rights of non-resident corporations.

It Was Deadly Play.

DUBUQUE, Ia., April 11.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—This morning two young men, Nick Olenger and B. Galic, took a skiff and rowed to Dunreith. On returning, when near shore, they stood up in the boat and playfully commenced to rock it from side to side. It was capsized and Olenger was drowned fifteen feet from shore. At the moment of his drowning his mother was being married in St. Mary's church. It is supposed the young men had been drinking.

Fire at Center Point.

CENTER POINT, Ia., April 11.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The residence of Dr. Wilson, occupied by S. L. Wilson, was consumed by fire this morning, catching fire from a spark that got under the roof. About half of the household goods were saved. The loss is $3,000; insured for $2,000 in the Cedar Rapids company.

Stove Moulders Strike.

KEOKUK, Ia., April 11.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The moulders in the Central stove works struck to-day and are still out. They were given St. Louis stove patterns to work with and they refused.

THE CLEARANCES.

Omaha Leads All Competitors in Per Cent of Increase.

BOSTON, April 11.—The following table shows the gross exchanges at the leading clearing houses in the United States for the week ending April 9, 1887, together with the percentages for the corresponding week in 1886:

CITIES.	CLEARINGS.	Increase.	Decrease.
New York	$ 659,269,000	15.2	....
Boston	87,950,000	36.8	....
Philadelphia	56,052,000	13.7	....
Chicago	50,545,000	16.2	....
St. Louis	17,555,000	9.1	....
San Francisco	14,658,000	50.4	....
Baltimore	11,544,000	3.5	....
Cincinnati	12,259,000	25.4	....
Pittsburg	8,555,000	9.3	....
Kansas City	7,885,000	....	....
New Orleans	6,850,000	....	11.2
Louisville	5,584,000	....	21.7
Providence	4,695,000	16.3	....
St. Paul	3,685,000	40.9	....
Detroit	3,677,000	22.8	....
Milwaukee	3,521,000	9.7	....
Cleveland	3,179,000	41.0	....
Omaha	**2,941,000**	**100.2**	....
Minneapolis	2,793,000	71.0	....
Peoria	961,000	42.5	....

Preparing for a Row.

NEW YORK, April 11.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—A telegram from Washington to the Star says: "The fishery question is rapidly approaching a culmination. The menacing attitude assumed by the Canadian authorities encouraged by the British government, is now a feature of controversy, as the United States was led to believe that the London authorities were disposed to adjust the matter in dispute amicably. It having been ascertained officially that England is not disposed to make the concessions asked by the United States, the president and secretary of state are considering the step to take in the impending dispute. What has leaked out in official circles indicates that the president and secretaries of state and the treasury are now in favor of resorting to the powers granted by congress. If the Canadian English authorities persist in their course effective retaliation will be resorted to at once. The outline of the proposed retaliatory proclamation, it is understood, has already been disclosed, and at the proper moment will be issued if necessary. There is some activity in naval circles preparatory to transportation of torpedo boats and appliances to the lakes. It is now proposed to supply all lake ports with abundant torpedo equipments. The army will also be carefully inspected with reference to any emergency which might present itself.

Dan Thought It Improper.

WASHINGTON, April 11.—A delegation of Irish-Americans called at the white house today to invite the president to attend a meeting to be held in this city to-night to protest against the coercion policy in Ireland. They saw Colonel Lamont and were informed that whatever the president's views on the subject might be, it would be manifestly improper for him to attend such a meeting in his official capacity. The committee withdrew without further effort to see the president.

Strike of Moulders.

CHICAGO, April 11.—The stove moulders employed in Collins & Burgess' foundry quit work this morning. This, together with the men who struck Saturday, throws 600 men out of work.

THEY ARE CLUBS ON SUNDAY

How the Washington Saloons Evade the Strictly-Enforced Law.

CLEVELAND AND THE JUVENILES

Ten Thousand Little Ones Roll Eggs On the White House Grounds and Shake the President's Hand—National Capital News.

They'll Have Their Sunday Nip.

WASHINGTON, April 11.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—A way around the Sunday laws in this District, which are to be rigidly enforced, has been found. It is through the clubs. Yesterday the police were informed that the clubs were selling liquor to their members and guests just as openly as the saloons formerly did. The complainants were told that the clubs could not be interfered with; that they were the castles of their members, just as a man's residence is his own. Under this ruling there was an immense boom, and club books were opened for almost a score of new clubs, the entrance fee to be nominal and no dues for maintenance. Most of the books were opened by well-known saloon men, and each member is to be permitted to visit "the club" on Sunday with friends and buy wet goods at the usual "club" prices, which do not vary from