THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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THE CRUSADE AGAINST LAMAR

Senator Ingalls Will Lead the Opposition to His Confirmation.

A FIERCE WAR TO BE WAGED

Ex-Land Commissioner Sparks Also Interested in the Fight—The Head of Navigation Bureau Reports.

Ingalls Opposed to Lamar.

WASHINGTON BUREAU THE OMAHA BEE, 513 FOURTEENTH STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 2.

Senator Ingalls intends, when the nomination of Secretary Lamar comes before the senate, to oppose his confirmation on the grounds that he is unfit for the exalted office for which the president has selected him. It is well known that Mr. Ingalls is always hunting for masks and that he enjoys nothing better than to expose those who masquerade. He is also one of the hardest fighters in the senate and always makes it very interesting for those whom he chooses to oppose. He takes the ground that the supreme bench is now weak, both in capacity and in the ability to dispatch the business before it, by reason of the fact that at least three of the justices have reached the age at which they should retire, and that Secretary Lamar will increase the incapacity of the court by adding one to its number who is not only indolent but indifferent in ability. Mr. Ingalls holds that Lamar's entire public life has been one of indolence and that the bent of his mind is not judicial and that he is not qualified in any respect for the services to be performed. Ex-Commissioner Sparks is also interesting himself in opposing the confirmation of Lamar, and, while ordinarily there would be little reason to consider this fact of any weight, it is said that Sparks has behind him some influence that will be effective. A gentleman who is well posted explains the situation as follows: "The casus belli upon which Mr. Lamar as secretary of the interior and General Sparks as Land Commissioner had an open rupture was the refusal of the latter to sanction the issue of patents to the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad. This corporation has for its president Marvin Hughitt, of Chicago, who is also now president of the Chicago & Northwestern system. For some months this corporation had sought to secure patents to lands which they claimed had to be earned under the origieal grant. Mr. Sparks stood in the way of their issue, and it may be proper to add just here that when Mr. Cobb, of Indiana, was chairman of the committee on public lands he introduced a bill in the house of representatives to forfeit these very lands to the United States on the ground that the corporation had forfeited them because of gross violation of their chartered rights. As to the justice or the injustice of the position taken by Mr. Sparks or Mr. Cobb, it is not necessary to analyze in connection with what did follow the removal of General Sparks. Hardly had he been dethroned ere President Hughett, with Mr. Phipps, who is the land commissioner of the Omaha system, turned up in this city. Upon the day following their arrival the patents which had been in controversy were issued and with such expedition on the part of the interior department officials that a working force was employed upon them night and day. Now, the part this railroad corporation bears to the confirmation of Mr. Lamar becomes somewhat significant. The lands patented to the railroads are largely in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Dakota and Nebraska. Even before the nomination of Mr. Lamar was publicly made to the senate it was claimed that both Senators Sawyer and Spooner, of Wisconsin, following the announcement of the removal of Sparks, had declared that they would vote for his confirmation. Senator Spooner, before he entered the United States senate, was the general solicitor of the very railroad which became the beneficiary of the lands after Sparks was gotten out of the way. Largely by him the Omaha system was devised and the legislation to perfect it enacted by the Wisconsin legislature from time to time was watched and actually guided by him. There is reason, moreover, to believe that Mr. Vilas, before becoming a member of Mr. Cleveland's cabinet, had the interest which exists between attorney and client with the railroad corporation. And, to still further add aggravation rather than extenuation, the report is circulated here that, previous to the letter which Secretary Lamar wrote Sparks overruling his decision to the lands of this railroad, he was visited by a democratic lawyer of prominence whose name was actually balloted for in the very convention which nominated Grover Cleveland for the presidential office.

Whatever then of influence this railroad may exert in behalf of Mr. Lamar's confirmation naturally would in itself be subtle rather than direct. Before congress adjourned for the holidays the friends of Mr. Lamar claimed his confirmation by the votes of five republican senators, viz: Sawyer and Spooner of Wisconsin, Evarts of New York, Stewart of Nevada and Mitchell of Oregon. The delay, however, has been to Mr. Lamar's prejudice. Mr. Spooner in the senate now declares he cannot vote for him. Being in his first term in the senate, he feels doubtless that such a vote would be antagonistic to his future, as the sentiment of the republicans of Wisconsin is against the appointment. Mr. Evarts has likewise shifted his position. While willing and a trifle anxious to vote for Mr. Lamar, he will excuse himself on the ground that it is liable to shatter his chances of a presidential nomination. He found that Mr. Sherman was taking advantage of his position and he readily changed front, solely for self-interest. Mr. Sawyer still clings to his announced intention to support the appointment. He has just been elected to a second senatorial term, and ere its six years period has elapsed he will have attained an age which will preclude even the desire of further political preferment. Mr. Mitchell, of Oregon, is in doubt. He was elected by a coalition of democratic votes, and is inclined to make payment of the obligation in part, but he is by no means decided.

SMALL MATTERS.

According to a Waterbury, Conn., despatch in to-day's New York World, General Howard's son, J. W., is visiting in the city with his fiancee, "a Russian Princess." The young lady is quite well known in Omaha, where she resided at the general's house, in the person of a very sweet and unassuming German girl.

Senator Paddock will vigorously oppose Lamar's confirmation. The senator will again take up the fight on behalf of Nebraska for the refunding to the state of the 3 and 5 per cent claims on account of sales of public lands.

Mr. W. A. Carter, of Fort Bridger, Wyo., and bride, (nee Miss Kate Chase, of Omaha,) who were married in Atlanta, Ga., on Tuesday, are stopping at the Arlington. They will be at Ithaca, N. Y., during the winter, where Mr. Carter is attending lectures at the law school.

Mrs. Senator Paddock assisted Mrs. Senator Reagan in receiving guests at the Dixie Cotillion club last Wednesday evening.

IOWA CALLERS.

Representatives Holmes, Fuller, Struble and Conger, of Iowa, made calls together to-day. They were a happy quartette and received a hearty welcome everywhere.

Representatives Henderson, of Dubuque, and Mr. Clarkson, of the Des Moines Register, called together, accompanied by the two sons of the latter. The young men are attending college in the east.

Ex-Governor and Representative Gear Meade calls alone.

None of the Nebraska delegation were here to enjoy the New Year festivities and none of the ladies from the state kept open house. Senator Paddock is in New York.

No Halt in Land Reform.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—[Special to the BEE.]—There is a good deal of disappointment among the land jobbers over the continued rigid enforcement of the laws by the general land office. The howls of joy which went up over Commissioner Sparks' retirement have died away in the face of the grist of decisions which his successor, Acting Commissioner Stockslager, continued to send out touching bogus claims and violators of the law. The corporations and individuals who found the new administration of the land office vigilant in detecting and inflexible in exposing the schemes for the robbery of the public domain are beginning to discover that a change of men at its head does not mean a change of policy. Commissioner Stockslager has given even less grounds for criticism than his predecessor. He has changed in some respects the methods without changing the tone of his department and while accomplishing the same results in the protection of the governments interests he has done so without laying himself open to the complaints of manner and of means which attained against Mr. Sparks. But the efficiency of the general land office remains unimpaired. Whatever else Mr. Cleveland's administration has done or has left undone, it deserves and will receive the credit of having given to the country for the first time in long years, an inflexibly honest and a rigidly impartial conduct of the affairs relating to the public domain.

The attempts which have been made to prejudice the public mind against land reform and to picture the whole west as up in arms against the policy of the administration have very properly failed. Corporation attorneys who have been faced with the proofs of the gigantic steals by which the nation has been swindled out of millions of acres of land intended as free homes for the people, have filled columns of purchased papers with their protests. Money loaners whose deep interest in the welfare of bogus pre-emptors and cowboy homesteaders has wrung their 2-per-cent-a-month hearts with anguish at seeing the titles to claims on which they had mortgages called into question, have denounced investigations set in motion by the land department as inquisitions. But the mass of honest western settlers who have redeemed the prairie from a wilderness by making it their homes, and farmers have found nothing to dread in a policy directed only at the land grabbers and have supported the efforts of the land office to preserve the people's land for bona fide occupants of the public domain.

The effects of the system of rigid enforcement of the land laws inaugurated by General Sparks are beginning to show themselves in Nebraska in stimulation of honest occupancy of the frontier. Pre-emptors have discovered that a residence of a month and an absence of five will not be accepted as compliance with the law touching residence. Cattle syndicates have found out to their disgust that they will no longer be permitted to monopolize the streams and to fence in miles of territory by purchasing the oaths of employes and suborning perjury for the purpose of securing thousands of acres of the most available farming regions of the west. Companies formed of alien speculators have learned that there is a power more efficient than money when evoked for the people's interests.

The whole tone of the land office has been changed in the last three years and the west has reaped the benefit. So far from entries having been retarded they have increased in number. The population of the frontier has grown in greater proportion than ever before. Premptor and homesteaders have become actual instead of constructive settlers and the adjacent country has reaped the benefit of bona fide occupancy of the land. The speculator has been relegated to the rear and the settler has come to the front.

L. Q. C.'s Confirmation.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The nomination of Mr. Lamar for justice of the supreme court will be taken up by the senate as soon as the committee on judiciary is ready to report on it. All the members of that committee have taken their position—the republicans against and the democrats for confirmation—except Senator Evarts. How he stands on this matter remains in uncertainty, even to his colleagues. It has been thought that he is in favor of confirmation and will cast his vote that way, but he may yet vote the other way. The only two republican senators besides Riddleberger who are pretty certain to vote for Lamar's confirmation are Sawyer, of Wisconsin, and Sabin, of Minnesota. Why they should do so is a mystery to their friends here. It is probable, however, that they committed themselves to Lamar's support before the nomination and before they had been unable to learn how objectionable Mr. Lamar is to the great mass of their constituents. A third republican senator, who is claimed for Lamar, is Don Cameron, of Pennsylvania. Cameron is the close friend and associate of Butler and Hampton, of South Carolina, and of other southern democrats, and it is possible he has been persuaded to vote for Lamar, although some of his friends assert that he has made no promises. Senator Teller, who was very much inclined to vote for Lamar's confirmation, is reported to have changed his mind and would vote the other way. If only Riddleberger, Sawyer and Sabin vote with the democrats for confirmation, then Mr. Lamar will take a seat on the bench of the supreme court by a scratch, but he will be satisfied to get there even that way, and it is reported that Mr. Cleveland will share the satisfaction.

Needed Naval Improvements.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The report of the commissioner of navigation sets forth in detail the various aids and advantages enjoyed by the shipping of other nations, and concludes that it is impossible without a change of present conditions for our nation to regain its lost supremacy in foreign trade. He says our vessels must be put on equality or gradually be forced out of the contest with foreign ships. Bounties or subsidies is paid by Spain, Italy, France, etc., and British vessels have been and are aided under one guise or another. The report alludes to various facts relating to the West Indian and South American trade which naturally belongs to this country, but is almost monopolized by European ships.

With regard to the coasting trade the case is different and the shipping employed, amounting to 3,090,000 tons, without including many crafts not documented, is reasonably prosperous, especially upon the lakes, where the coastwise trade is developing rapidly, the increase in American tonnage there during the year ended June 30, 1887, being 21,161 tons. The grain on the Pacific coast was 8,761 tons, and was about the same on western rivers. The total documented tonnage of the United States is 4,105,844 distributed as follows: Atlantic and Gulf, 2,638,372; Pacific coast, 356,445; northern lakes, 783,722; western rivers, 327,405. Foreign registered tonnage is 1,015,562 tons. The commissioner recommends that the coasting trade be relieved of its burdens, for pilotage fees. He speaks of the impolicy of local taxation of vessels and its tendency to drive the ownership to places where they are not taxed, as well as the fact that it weights them in the contest with foreign vessels. He says the expense of state quarantines should be paid by the parties interested, that is by the general public, and that the fees for the support of stations and the salaries of officers should not be exacted of vessels. The commissioner is of the opinion that American sailing or steam vessels should be allowed to transport goods on which duties have been secured without further bonds. An amendment of the laws relating to the tonnage tax is recommended so that steam vessels may pay on the same relative capacity as sailing vessels. The present tax discriminates in favor of foreign vessels. The report refers to the lack of any system of jurisdiction on the lakes as regards the punishment of crime there, on vessels of the United States, and recommends an extension of admiralty jurisdiction, etc., include such cases.

He also makes various suggestions as to the inspection and handling of steam vessels on the waters of a state, and regarding steering gear uniformity, etc. He describes the many hardships encountered by ship owners by reason of the contract change going on in navigation, from sail to steam, from wood to iron, and from iron to steel, and also by reason of foreign bounties, subsidies and aids granted to foreign ships competing with our vessels, both in the merchant, marine and fisheries. He expressed himself strongly in favor of a naval reserve and concludes his report with a draft of a bill embodying his ideas of the necessary legislation.

WILL FIGHT TO A FINISH.

Employes of the Reading Road Adopt Vigorous Resolutions.

DETERMINED TO STAND FIRM.

The Company Issues a Circular to the Scabs Thanking Them For Their Allegiance to the Corporation

Resolved on a General Strike.

SHAMOKIN, Pa., Jan. 2.—A meeting of Knights of Labor and railroaders was held here to-day, and as a result a general strike of miners and railroaders will be made tomorrow throughout the Anthracite region, except in the Wyoming valley. The miners strongly condemned the course of the railroad company and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and made an appeal to the men who contemplate coming into the region to seek work to remain away until the strike is settled. They also advised hotel and boarding house keepers not to entertain "scabs," and declared their intention to fight to a finish.

Traffic Almost Blocked.

READING, Pa., Jan. 2.—The coal and freight traffic, while in full operation on the Reading railroad, is not as brisk as it was before the present labor troubles. It is apparent that the new men are not able to move trains as rapidly as the old ones. The majority of the coal mines are idle and this likewise has its effects on traffic. There is now no fear by the business community that the shop hands in this city will strike. It is an assured fact that they will not do so. A circular was issued by Superintendent Cable and distributed among all employes here, thanking them in the name of the company for their loyalty and faithfulness and promising that their good conduct should not be forgotten. Men in this city, while not taking any official action at their assembly meetings generally speak in denunciation of Sharkey, Lee and other leaders who, they say, having now been discharged by the company, try to foment trouble and lead old and faithful employes who have no grievance, to strike.

Advices from the north of Reading to-day say that at Gordon Plane a full complement of hands is at work. Superintendent Lawler, of Shamokin, reports that he is well supplied with men and really has more now than he requires to handle trade.

At Mahoney Plane the strike is more serious, but with the collieries all idle the officials have not experienced much trouble in handling its business. At all other points on the Shamokin division everything was reported quiet. All the iron industries in this vicinity are preparing to shut down if a coal strike takes place. There is not enough coal on hand in this city to supply private consumers more than several weeks, and prices are going up.

Reading Receivers Retire.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2.—The Reading railroad to-day passed out of the hands of the receivers and the officers of the road assumed full control, this action being taken in acordance with an order from the United States court.

ELECTRIC SHOCKS.

A New York Street Blocked by Broken Wires.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—People about the corner of Fourteenth street and Fourth avenue at 8 o'clock last evening watched the blue and white flames which at times sputtered from wires intersecting above the middle of the street. Suddenly one of the wires parted, and the ends dangled in the street. A man who was the street came into contact with the wire and was thrown to the ground. The snapping and crackling fag ends lay unguarded in the middle of the street, imparting their electricity to the rails on the car track. A line of impromptu fireworks was set up, and bystanders looked on in amazement. Several persons had their feet entangled in the wires, but escaped without injury. A moment later a Fourth avenue car reached the spot. The team got full effect of the powerful current. The horses reared and plunged, and their cries could be heard for blocks. A man rushed out to distangle the wire with his bare hands, but a policeman seized him in time to save his life. The wire got fastened into the harness of one of the horses. As the animal stood on wet ground a perfect current was established, and the brute fell dead. The remaining horse tore away from his prostrate mate and ran up the street. The policemen was kept busy restraining the curious, but for three-quarters of an hour the dangerous obstruction lay in the street, blocking traffic and menacing life. At last a tineman came equipped with rubber gloves and cut the wire. A continuation of sparks along the unbroken wires led the spectators to fear further trouble would ensue. The kept themselves at a distance, and awaited developments, but none occurred.

Wrecked on the Beach.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—During the fearful storm which raged along the New Jersey coast yesterday the steamship Towanda, a coaster engaged in the southern trade, was wrecked off Brigantine beach. After a gallant struggle with the waves a boat which was launched from the steamer and which contained the mate and two seamen, was capsized near the shore. The mate and one seaman were drowned. The steamship Towanda was built in Philadelphia in 1864 and was of 845 tons burden.

A Triple Killing.

NOGALES, A. T., Jan. 2.—An account is given of the killing a few days ago of Santiago Rokas, his son and grandson near Rancho de Nevajo, on the road to Venturos, by a band of Bernals bandits. The dead bodies were rifled of $1,500. A report from Valparaiso, Zacatecas, says that Bernal has been seen in that vicinity, and Governor General Arec has left the capital with 300 cavalry for that point.

Better Quarantine Needed.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Mayor Hewitt sent a letter to the governor to-day in which he states that neither this city nor state nor any other portion of the union is free from the spread of contagious diseases under the present quarantine regulations at this port. The opinion of the mayor is based upon the report of the board of health of this city. He recommends that the governor submit the matter to the legislature for action in improving the arrangements at quarantine.

Mutinous Indians Sentenced.

LOS ANGELES, Cala., Jan. 2.—A general court martial order has been issued from the headquarters of General Miles, fixing the sentence of the five regularly enlisted Indian scouts, who mutined at San Carlos last June and fled to the mountains, where they remained until captured. They are sentenced from two to twenty years each.

The Miller-Weir Fight.

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 2.—The fight between Mike Weir and Tommy Miller, the Omaha bantam, originally announced to be fought at Omaha, January 11, will occur in Minneapolis January 23. The contest has been changed from ten to twenty rounds with the smallest gloves the law will allow.

Made an Assignment.

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan., 2—F. L. Martin, owner of the Mortimer apartment house which was destroyed by fire a few weeks ago, made an assignment to-day. The assets consist of real estate to the amount of $50,000 and insurance $47,500. Liabilities, $40,173.

SCHMIDT RESPITED.

The Fayette County Murderer Gets a New Lease of Life.

DES MOINES, Ia., Jan 2.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Governor Larrabee announced to-day that he had granted a respite to Henry Schmidt, the Fayette county murderer, who was sentenced to be hung next Wednesday. He has postponed the date of the hanging at least to the 13th and may postpone it until longer or commute the sentence to imprisonment for life. A strong effort is being made to do it. Several of the leading business men of Fayette county, including two or three ministers, court officials and other prominent men, have urged him to do so from the peculiar condition of the crime and its consequences. Much sympathy is expressed for Schmidt, who was a young German boy of eighteen and had been in this country but a few months when he committed the crime. He confesses that he was hired by his employe, a Mr. Smith, to kill Mr. Peek, that he went to the house for that purpose accompanied by Mr. Smith and shot Mrs. Peek through the window, not recognizing her. Many believe that Smith is as guilty of the murder as the boy Schmidt and some think that Leanard, who was wounded but not fatally, was really shot by Smith. Certain it is that Mr. Peek was found dead with a bullet hole in him. Mrs. Peek was found dead likewise shot and Mr. Leonard, who was a guest of Peek's that night, was found badly wounded. This tragedy occurred in September, 1886, and there had been a very bitter feeling between Smith and his neighbor Leonard, as also between Schmidt and his former employer, Peek. Schmidt was tried for the murder of Mrs. Peek and found guilty, and although it is generally believed that he shot the other two persons, yet he has not been tried for anything except the killing of Mrs. Peek. Smith was tried for his part in the tragedy and acquitted, but the impression prevails, to some extent, that the boy Schmidt, who certainly shot one person and possibly three, was hired, as he says, by his employer Smith, to commit the murder. Many say in Fayette county that if both Smith and Schmidt could be hung they would not object, but they feel that it would be unfair to visit all the penalty, and that the death penalty, on the boy Schmidt. The governor has the case under advisement and is receiving constant appeals for clemency. He has not yet decided whether to let the law take its course or commute Schmidt's sentence to imprisonment for life. He says that the hanging will not take place before the 13th, at any rate, and he is not prepared as yet to say whether it will take place then or not at all.

A Sioux City Shooting Affray.

SIOUX CITY, Ia., Jan. 2.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—John King, one of the parties alleged to have been employed to whip the witnesses in the Haddock case, shot several times at H. McKenzie in a dance house last night, one ball striking him in the forehead the other in the fleshy part of his arm. As McKenzie made through the door King shot again but missed his victim. When McKenzie reached the outside he fell in the snow. His wounds are not considered serious. King was immediately placed in jail upon a charge of assault with intent to commit murder.

Woodbury County Officers Installed.

SIOUX CITY, Ia., Jan. 2.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The county officials elected last November took charge of their respective offices to-day. Sheriff Don McDonald is succeeded by D. A. Magee, after seventeen years of service either as deputy or principal in the office. D. L. Hedges succeeds Ed H. Atkinson as treasurer; J. J. Jordon, W. C. Hutchins, as auditor; W. W. McElrath, W. L. Jones, as supervisor and Prof. Palmer, Prof. Shoup, as superintendent of schools. The retiring officers go out with the best of records and leave the county's affairs in good shape.

A Small Blaze.

SIOUX CITY, Ia., Jan. 1.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Just at noon to-day a fire broke out in the basement of the New Security National bank building, but was extinguished before a great amount of damage was done. The fire was traceable to a new heating furnace.

Drank Concentrated Lye.

SIOUX CITY, Ia., Jan. 2.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The infant son of William J. Walker drank a large quantity of concentrated lye to-day and died soon afterwards.

KANSAS KUKLUX.

Arrest of a Desperate Gang—Their Treatment of a Homesteader.

TOPEKA, Kan., Jan. 2.—A gang of Lane county kuklux has just been broken up by the arrest of all but one. There are eight of them and they were brought to the city and lodged in the county jail. The charge against them is conspiracy to intimidate a homesteader named Hoover, with a view to forcing him to abandon his claim for the supposed purpose of one of their number jumping it. Five of the defendants gave bond for their appearance to answer an indictment in the United States district court and the others were taken to jail to await the sitting of the next term of court. The defendants, who were masked, entered Hoover's house near Dighton. They set upon Hoover and beat and kicked him unmercifully. An attempt was made to tar and feather him, but he fought desperately and the tar was scattered over the room and furniture. Mrs. Hoover came to her husband's assistance and with a heavy wooden chair felled three of them to the floor. In the scrimmage the masks were torn off, disclosing the identity of the parties, who then retreated. Not long after this occurrence Hoover's dwelling was burned to the ground one night, leaving his family homeless on the prairie. The matter was presented to District Attorney Perry, who brought it before the grand jury, which resulted in the guilty persons being arrested.

Discharging Workmen.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 2.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—There is much suppressed feeling among employes of the Gould Southwestern railroad system here and other points along the line, because of an order to at once reduce the working forces to 10 per cent. The officials claim the reduction is the result of the dull season and will not last longer than March 1. The men claim the reduction is not justified by the labor situation on the system and is resorted to as a substitute for cutting wages. Fourteen hundred men will be left without work.

Roumania's Military Preparations.

BUCHAREST, Jan. 2.—A decree has been published fixing the number of recruits for the coming year at 44,000. This is a notable increase and is regarded as a proof that Roumania is preparing for coming events. Arsenal and state railway factories are working night and day and their hands have been doubled. Premier Bretanio states that Roumania if obliged to enter the field, can do so with 300,000 men.

Friendly Comment on the Czar.

BERLIN, Jan. 2.—The North German Gazette, in the course of a political review of the year just closed, says the publication of the forged documents recently sent to the czar is, without doubt, the most important event of recent history, and affords eloquent proof of the loyal intentions of the czar in paving the way for a modification of the existing situation.

Steamship Arrivals.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Arrived—The Ethiopia, from Glasgow.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2.—Arrived—The Indiana, from Liverpool.

CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT.

The New Year's Reception at the White House.

SOME OF THE HANDSOME DRESSES

Danger That the Blair Bill Will Be Strangled—Secretary Whitney Not Pleased With Cleveland's Civil Service Methods.

The White House Reception.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—New Years came in with a brilliant and beautiful day in Washington. The sun shone warmly in the cloudless sky and, with the exception of the ice-covered sidewalks in the early morning, which made walking difficult, the day was all that could be desired. The white house was the main point of interest to the official world and public to-day, and long before the beginning of the president's annual reception the great iron gates closing the Pennsylvania avenue entrances to the grounds, were surrounded by people who gazed with curiosity at the brilliant costumed throng of diplomats and officers as it filed through the executive mansion. The interior was tastefully, but not lavishly, decorated with potted plants, flowers and vines. All the shades were drawn and the gas burned brightly in crystal chandeliers, which were festooned with smilax and other graceful vines. The vestibule was almost filled with the scarlet coated marine band, which discoursed pleasing music as the ceremony progressed. A few minutes after 11 the band began to play "Hail to the Chief," and the reception party descended the staircase and entered the blue parlor. Marshal Wilson and Lieutenant Duval, U. S. N., led the party, followed by the president and Miss Bayard, Secretary Bayard and Mrs. Cleveland, Secretary Fairchild and Mrs. Whitney, Secretary Endicott and Mrs. Fairchild, Postmaster General Vilas and Colonel Lamont. Secretary Whitney came later.

Marshal Wilson took a position at the west door of the room and introduced the official and the public to the president, who stood at his right hand. Lieutenant Duval performed a like service for the officials of the army and navy. Mrs. Cleveland stood near the president and was assisted by Miss Bayard, Mrs. Fairchild and Mrs. Whitney.

Mrs. Cleveland wore a princess of olive green plush, trained and cut pompadour at the neck. The skirt was gathered full at the waist and the rich train of plush was without a single break. On either side and to the front were up-and-down stripes of ecru etruscan silk lace, the only trimming upon the skirt. The same kind of lace was used to edge the square neck for the epaulets upon the shoulders, and down the elbow sleeves and for the cuffs turned at the elbow, and down the front of the bodice on either side of the fastenings. Her right hand was bared and on her arms were gold bracelets in lace. On the side of her corsage was a coil of gold wire, an her left hand was a grey-white glove and closed fan, and in her hair, which was in a clytic knot, was arranged a necklace, caught with two diamond stars. Her neck was without ornament and outlining the waist line was a white silk cord, knotted in front and falling almost to her feet, ending in two tassels. Her slippers were bronze leather, embroidered with bronze beads.

Miss Bayard wore a high necked dress of black dotted tulle, short skirted, trimmed with black lace, and open V shaped at the neck, veiled with black tulle. There were rows of white pearls about her throat and a great bunch of American beauty roses in her corsage. She held a black fan and wore black gloves.

Mrs. Fairchild wore a white toilet of white satin. It was half high in the neck, had a train of ivory white brocade and the front fastened with white gauze over small falls of plaited gauze and lace. She wore a large pearl pendant from white ribbon that encircled her throat.

Mrs. Whitney wore a French dress of antique blue brocade with rows of silver embroidery upon the folding panels. The train was full and plain and the corsage was V shaped, draped with silver spangled tulle and at the point she wore an immense diamond star. In her ears she wore solitaires. The space in the rear of the reception party was filled with persons prominent in Washington official society, among them being Miss Endicott, Mrs. Lamont, Miss Vilas, Miss Garland, Mrs. Sheridan, Mrs. Stevenson, Mrs. George Knott, Mrs. H. S. Thompson, Mrs. Colonel Wilson, Mrs. A. A. Wilson, Miss Wilson, Miss George Bancroft and Mrs. Stebbins. When the party had taken its position and exchanged greetings with the members of the cabinet, the diplomatic corps was received. The supreme court next paid its respects to the president, all of the members being present. It was followed by the judges of the court of claims and members of the district judiciary. Then came the senators and representatives and their ladies. Speaker Carlisle did not enter with the members of the house, but came nearly half an hour later. The officers of the army and navy, who had assembled at their respective departments, reached the doorway just as the last of the representatives passed through the blue room. Lieutenant General Sheridan and Rear-Admiral Janett led the army and navy contingents respectively. Next came the regents and secretaries of the Smithsonian institute, the commissioner of agriculture, the civil service commissioners, the interstate commerce commission, the assistant secretaries of the departments, the assistant postmaster generals, solicitor general, assistant attorneys general, heads of the bureaus of the several departments and the president of the Columbia institute for the deaf and dumb.

A notable break in the programme at this point was the non-appearance of the Associated Soldiers of the War of 1812. Last year they numbered but six, but to-day not one made his appearance. The Grand Army of the Republic with a large number of members and the Oldest Inhabitants' association of the District of Columbia were the last organized body to exchange greetings with the president and party, and it was 12:30 before the general public was admitted. Although people were presented in large numbers, the crowds were hardly equal to those of previous years. The reception terminated at 2 o'clock, having passed off successfully in every particular and without incident.

Strangling Legislation.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—[Special to the BEE.]—"Speaker Carlisle has made a committee on education and a committee on labor, which are prejudiced against the Blair educational bill, and should the measure be sent to either, it will be smothered," said an old republican member from the west to-day. "You will remember," he continued, "that when the Blair bill came over from the senate in the last congress there was a scramble over its reference. The majority in the house at first wanted to send it to the committee on education because that committee was known to be opposed to the measure, and it was notorious that the administration and the majority in the house wanted the bill strangled, as its passage would mean defeat to tariff reform, which is the paramount desire of the party. Subsequently the bill was taken from education and sent to labor, which was not known to be "set up" against the bill; but the screws were brought to bear on that committee and the bill reposed there to the end of the session of congress. Both of these committees are cocked against the measure, and should it go to either one it will be strangled again. There is no use of talking about the Blair educational bill or a general bill for educational purposes of any character as long as there is any possibility for tariff reform or free trade and there is a majority in either branch of congress democratic.

Will Secretary Whitney Resign?

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—[Special to the BEE.]—It has come to me in three or four different forms during the past two weeks that Secretary Whitney intends leaving the cabinet. It is now known that while the secretary was in New York for a month or more during the campaign this fall that he was not sick, as was reported. Mr. Whitney was working in politics while he was absent from his official duties, and the work he did and the things he heard led him to conclude, so the reports say, that he would like to relinquish his connection with the administration before the campaign for the nomination fully opens, and before he is committed.

Mr. Whitney does not like to do things politically by halves. He wants no civil service reform or presidential headstrongness to stand in his way. Both have operated against his purpose. The president has probably heeded more of the advice of Mr. Whitney than any other man in the cabinet, but the secretary of the navy has wielded very little influence. He has been unable to reward any of his friends or make himself strong before the country. He prefers to be in the practice of law in New York, and to be in a position to make a dash for the presidential nomination himself or select his own man for the race.

It was only to satisfy a momentary personal ambition that Mr. Whitney entered the cabinet. His millions of wealth and immense schemes in New York brought him in such a large and sure income that he rolled in luxury, was a power in business, politics and society, and since he has had the experience and the change which nearly three years in the cabinet have given him and he finds himself less potential and less contented than before, and the novelty of the thing having completely worn off, it is stated that he will very gladly step down and out next spring at the close of the society season and the demands of congress, and go back to New York.

Parcel-Post Agitation.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—[Special to the BEE.]—The somewhat severe construction of the postal laws by Postmaster-General Vilas, taken in connection with the fact that during the last two weeks a great many packages of merchandise sent through the mails have been charged at full letter rates of postage, because the word "Merchandise" appeared on the outside, has stirred up the advocates of cheaper parcel-postage. It is asserted now that the rates of postage upon merchandise are so heavy that poor people are compelled to use the express companies for small packages in this country, while in every other civilized nation postal facilities are so much better in this respect that there is no use whatever for express companies. Every attempt which has been made in the past to reduce postage on merchandise has been vigorously opposed by the express companies, who have fortified themselves against legislation objectionable to their interests by supplying every member of each house with franks enough to send away all of his own packages. The postal laws are now such that the weight of a package which can be sent by mail is limited to four pounds, and the rate is fixed at 16 cents per pound for such package. We have a postal treaty with Bermuda which provides that a package my be shipped in San Francisco to that island of early vegetables. It will travel clear across the continent and be shipped in New York by steamer. It may weigh eleven pounds, may be four feet long and a foot thick and the prepaid postage upon it will be but 12 cents per pound. If that same package should be posted by the same man and destined for New York it would be thrown out as unmailable, because of its size. If, however, it was below four pounds in weight it would be carried, but the owner would be compelled to pay 16 cents instead of 12 cents per pound.

The government now carries newspapers from the office of publication at the rate of 1 cent per pound. It is said that this is done without loss, yet merchandise of all descriptions is charged at the rate of sixteen times as high as newspapers. If the government can carry newspapers through the mail at the rate of 1 cent per pound, there is no reason why it should not carry merchandise at a rate not exceeding 4 cents at the highest. The parcel post in every other country is well patronized and is a blessing to all poor people who are unable to use the high-priced express companies, and one of the reforms that could be advocated in the postal service with more promise of benefit to the many than any other which has been mentioned is the reduction of postage upon merchandise to a rate somewhere commensurate with the service performed.

The Democratic Convention.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—[Special to the BEE.]—Although the democratic committee does not meet in this city to select a place for holding the next convention till the 22d of February, there is already a great deal of talk among democratic politicians as to the probability of the selection of one city or another. All this preponderance of sentiment seems to be in favor of New York as the best place. There is a decided feeling among many in favor of San Francisco. A member of the cabinet, in discussing the question informally among some of his friends the other evening, gave his views about as follows:

"The selections of 1887 practically settled the question of New York's place in the election of 1888. New York will go democratic no matter where the convention is held. In 1884 Blaine carried the Pacific slope, and there is a chance that he may do so again. It cannot be denied that the Pacific has been rather unfairly treated, and it is evident that something must be done to make the people of California understand that they are still in the union. Now, if we hold our convention there next year, the Californians will meet democratic leaders from all over the country. The result cannot be other than beneficial to the party, and for this reason I think it would be wise politics to select San Francisco as the place for holding the next democratic convention."

Accident to Mrs. J. H. Gear.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Some ten days age Mrs. Gear, wife of Gov. John H. Gear, representative from Burlington (Iowa) district was visiting at the Ebbit house. In stepping from the elevator in one of the upper corridors she stumbled in the dim light over a pile of baggage and received a severe sprain in a tendon of the hip. Since then she has been confined to her apartments at the Portland, with no immediate prospect of recovery.

MEXICAN BAD FAITH.

The Arizona Indians Grossly Cheated of Their Lands.

NOGALES, Ariz., Jan. 2.—Strange news developed during the past few days in the Yaqui river campaign. The Yaqui war has been carried on with the understanding that at its close the land between the Yaqui and Mayo rivers was to be divided in severalty among the Indians, and by making them believe this, the majority surrendered. It has now come to light that the Mexican gunboat, Democrata, has secretly removed at various times fifteen hundred or more of the Indians to the state of Colima, where they are dying of fever and other diseases. It is stated that Chief Cajema, who was reported killed in accordance with the military laws of the country, was really assassinated by Mexicans. It is asserted that land grabbers are gradually absorbing all the tillable land in the valley and that the remainder of the Indians are becoming greatly dissatisfied. Open war is looked for again soon.

Injunction Denied.

ST. PAUL, Jan. 2.—The motion of H. G. Stone for an injunction against the Minnesota Thresher company came on for hearing in the United States court to-day before Judge Nelson, and at the close of the hearing a motion for an injunction was denied and refused. The formal transfer of the great property will now be made and possession taken at once.

Earthquake Shock in Mexico.

CITY OF MEXICO, (via Galveston) Jan. 2.—A sharp shock of earthquake was felt here this morning at 7:30 oclock. During the last three months there have been seismic disturbances throughout the country.

A SCORING FOR SULLIVAN.

Mitchell and Kilrain Reply to His Recent Attack.

BOTH THINK THEY CAN WHIP HIM

Baiting the Boston Boy—Several People Shot By a Mysterious Stranger in London—Jamison and the Cup.

Pugilistic Gossip.

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LONDON, Jan. 2.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—Pugilism was again to the fore to-day. Kilrain and Mitchell conversed at the Sporting Life office about Sullivan. Jem Smith had a complimentary supper in Spitalfields, and Jem Carney was welcomed home to Birmingham with an effusion in its kind greater than greeted Mr. Gladstone in Florence. When Kilrain was asked to-day to state his relations to Sullivan he substantially said: "I have only set-toed with him twice. Once when he was trained to fight a Providence (Rhode Island) man, who did not turn up, I was asked if I would give three exhibition rounds with Sullivan and consented. I sparred three rounds with him. In regard to our second meeting it was a friendly setto, terminating with honors equally divided. Why Sullivan should allow his signature to be put to untruthful garbage baffles my comprehension, as it only tends to make him ridiculous in the eyes of the public. It is well known in the States that Sullivan sneaked out of a match with me after blowing what he would do in the ring. To conclude I will answer him in his own language. I shall have no use for a beaten man, which he will surely be unless he crawls out of the match with Mitchell."

Mitchell said: "The public in America and England know well that I have been on Sullivan's track for the past four years appearing before 10,000 people on June