THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

TWENTY-SECOND YEAR. OMAHA, THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 15, 1892. NUMBER 178.

WANT PERMISSION TO POOL

Railroad Men Seeking to Have the Interstate Commerce Law Amended.

OBJECT OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES

Presidents Roberts, Depew, Ingalls and Other Prominent Railroad Men Give Testimony Before the Interstate Commerce Committee of the Senate.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 14.—Chauncey M. Depew, President Roberts of the Pennsylvania system and Chairman Walker of the Western Traffic association addressed the senate committee of the Interstate Commerce commission today in favor of amending the commerce law so that railroads could form pools under the supervision of the Interstate Commerce commission.

President Roberts of the Pennsylvania railroad said that in his judgment the interstate commerce law had not operated for the benefit of the public in the matter of preventing discrimination. He said in the course of his remarks that he wanted to impress on the committee the fact that the law as now drawn, precluding railway companies from making arrangements in reference to traffic agreements, induces radical violations of the law by the companies and the shippers as well. The companies were not violating the fifth section of the law (that preventing pooling), but in observing its provisions they were violating some other section. Mr. Roberts did not thing the commission should be allowed to regulate rates, because it was not in the interest of the public that it should do so. Nor was the pooling system the best; but it was better for the public than the practice now existing. Mr. Roberts was of the opinion that it was of as much importance to the public at large that the railway companies should not be allowed to charge too low rates as it was that they should be permitted to charge rates that were too high. Pooling might be authorized by congress, subject to cancellation by the commission if found unjust.

Mr. Depew's Testimony.

Mr. Depew, president of the New York Central, said the interstate commerce law had been established to prevent discrimination; but its effect had been to promote trusts, beyond anything that had ever been dreamed. There were eight roads between New York and Chicago. But for all the public, there was but one. If an ironclad rule of equal rates, under equal conditions of time, was established, the New York Central and the Pennsylvania would do eight-tenths of the business. Other roads would go into bankruptcy, with all the attendants of bankruptcy. In this way the law preventing pooling was creating trusts. If this law continued in force five years longer, Mr. Depew thought there would not be an independent business man in any of the large cities in the United States. It was creating trusts and this condition of affairs was being brought about by the miserable operations of a law intended to prevent them.

In response to the query of Mr. Cullum as to how the evil was to be cured, Mr. Depew said that under the proposed amendment the roads would be authorized to make contracts upon a business basis and could agree upon rates, which would be always the same to the public. The law would empower the companies to enforce their agreements and the public would be protected by putting the matter under the control of the commission.

In discussing the existing conditions, Mr. Depew said that it would soon be impossible for manufacturers to exist except at terminal points, a statement which caused Mr. Brice to ask if he was to be understood as meaning that New York and other cities of like character would be favored to the discrimination of such places as Lima, Newark and other places in Ohio, which the Ohio senator named.

To this Mr. Depew replied that, under the operation of the present law, such places would cease to exist, except to be summer residences of United States senators.

President Ingalls' Opinion.

Mr. Ingalls, president of the Big Four and Chesapeake & Ohio roads, said that two situations confronted the railways of the country. If they went into competition under the law, the railroads would become bankrupt, or in the end be forced to make a combination which would put them all under one control and the power to regulate them would slip from the grasp of the legislatures. The general public now paid the full rate, while the big dealers were the ones who got the advantage of the rebate. Under the existing law, Mr. Ingalls said, the small dealers were being driven out of business to the great detriment of the whole country. It was for the interest of the whole country that the railroads should prosper. A million men were employed in the business and twice that number were engaged in manufactures that furnished railway supplies. It was to the interest of the railroads to enforce the law, and if the law, which the companies were now seeking to have amended, had been in force, the principal competitor of the Chesepeake & Ohio would have been bankrupt, so many cases of violation had they made against it. In conclusion, Mr. Ingalls said that it had come to the point where the roads were compelled to get under the shadow of the law to keep business. If the amendment sought passed it would not result in an increase of rates, but in equal rates, and in many cases, in reduced rates. Many of the railways had done all they could to break down the interstate commerce law; but they had become educated and were not in favor of it.

Mr. Walker, of the trunk lines, spoke briefly and said the object of the bill was to suppress unhealthy competition, not healthy competition.

The committee will probably hold another meeting next Wednesday.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE LAW.

Amendments to Its Provisions Proposed—Washington News Notes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Another turn was taken at the interstate commerce law today in a bill introduced in the senate by Mr. McMillan of Michigan, in which it is sought to amend that law by making it unlawful for any common carrier, subject to the provision of the existing law, to enter into any contract, agreement, etc., with any other carrier, for the division of freight rates of the different competing roads or to divide the aggregate or net proceeds of the earnings as provided in that bill. Each day of the continuance of such agreement is deemed a separate offense. Agreements such as are prohibited above may, however, be made, provided they are in writing, duly executed, and shall not conflict with any other provisions of the law. They may become operative only after having been filed with the interstate commerce commission and approved by it. After such approval each party is required to deposit sufficient security to guarantee that the terms of the agreement will be carried out.

The other section of the bill deals with the claims of the method of conviction and punishment.

Yesterday's Confirmations.

Edwin E. Ells, agent for the Indians of the Consolidated Puyallup agency, Washington.

Postmasters: Arizona—J. G. Pritchard, Bisbee. Iowa—W. F. Schuler, Woodbine; William Thero, Farmington; Lyna Whited, Belmond. Kansas—H. W. Kent, Weir; W. H. Johnson, Salina; Martha E. Cowgill, Baldwin. Nebraska—A. L. Norris, North Bend; J. L. McDonald, Atkinson; Samuel Atkenson, Cozad. North Dakota—F. C. Walther, Minto. New Mexico—Mary J. Cuniffe, Lacours. Oklahoma—R. R. Hicok, El Reno.

John H. Drake of South Dakota, to be United States consul at Kiel.

Anxious to Make Its Report.

The house rules committee has promised the members of the Raum investigating committee a special order within a day or two for consideration in the house of the report of the majority made at the last session as the result of its investigation into the management of the pension office. It is expected that the order will enable the majority to call up before the holidays their resolutions recommending the dismissal of Commissioner Raum. The republicans prevented action on the rule during the last session, and an attempt to pass it at this session is very likely to provoke a lively debate.

A quorum of members failed to appear at today's meeting of the house committee on the World's fair, at which Representative Durborow's resolution for opening the fair on Sunday was to have been considered. It seems that some of the members desire to hear arguments by persons interested in the question of Sunday opening before recommending legislation on the subject, and it is probable that such a course will be taken by the committee. Another meeting is to be held on Friday.

Involves Millions.

Next Friday probably the case of Barden against the Northern Pacific railway will be called for argument in the United States supreme court. This case is of special importance, as it involves the question of the right of a railway to mineral lands within the limits of its grant. The contention of the railroad company is that it is entitled to all such mineral lands, the mineral character of which was known at the date when the line of its road was definitely located. The government will maintain that all lands known to be mineral at the date of the issuance of the patent to the railway company are under the terms of the granting act, excepted.

The decision in this case will be farreaching, as it will affect all railway grants passing through mineral countries, and will involve millions of dollars in value.

Secretary Charles Foster of the Treasury department was at the capitol today. He saw Chairman Holman of the appropriations committee and Springer of the ways and means committee and a number of other persons of prominence. He assured several of them that there would certainly be an available balance of $20,000,000 in the treasury at the close of the fiscal year.

Arrangements have been made at the Treasury department for the issuance from the Philadelphia mint tomorrow of about $30,000 in Columbian souvenir 50-cent pieces. The first shipments will be made to Chicago and New York simultaneously.

MORRISON FOR THE CABINET.

Friends of the Illinois Statesman Booking Him for the Treasury Portfolio.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 14.—The meeting of the Illinois delegation today has revived speculation in this city as to the possibility of President-elect Cleveland selecting his secretary of the treasury from the west. Ever since the election, when Illinois surprised the nation by giving the Cleveland ticket a plurality of nearly 30,000, the impression has been general, not only in the west, but in this city as well, that the only thing that could prevent the president-elect from following out his natural desire to recognize the triumphant democracy of Illinois, by giving the Prairie state a representation in his cabinet, would be the failure of the prominent Illinois leaders themselves to unite in deciding who should be presented for the great honor. The initial step toward securing unity of action in the Illinois delegation was taken at a meeting called today by Senator Palmer and attended by various members of the Illinois delegation. Hon. William R. Morrison, the man most likely to be presented by the Illinois delegation to President-elect Cleveland for a cabinet portfolio, was present by invitation, and while no decisive action was taken as to the course to be pursued by the delegation in the all-important question, the discussion of the day developed general good feeling and indicated that at the proper time the Illinois delegation would be able to act harmoniously in the recommendations to be made to President-elect Cleveland.

It is understood that National Committeeman Cable is prepared to act as the representative of the Illinois democracy in delicately suggesting to President-elect Cleveland the good results to be attained in selecting Colonel Morrison for secretary of the treasury, and the long experience of Colonel Morrison as the chairman of the ways and means committee in the house of representatives, has caused the suggestion of his appointment to the place to be observed with great favor by the democrats of the south and west, where the veteran tariff reformer has always been a favorite.

Colonel Morrison himself naturally declines to discuss the probability of his selection as a member of the cabinet, but his friends feel confident that if the president-elect decides to turn from New York for his secretary of the treasury the selection will fall upon the man who for many years was the framer of the revenue and financial legislation of the democratic congress.

It is expected that immediately after the holidays a conference of the Illinois delegation will be held, at which a plan of unanimous action in urging upon the president-elect the claims of Illinois, will be adopted.

Senator Palmer was seen this evening and indicated that the Illinois delegation would be found to be unanimous for any prominent Illinoisan who might be favorably considered by Mr. Cleveland. Said he: "If the president should be disposed to turn to the west for his secretary of the treasury and look with favor upon Colonel Morrison, I will certainly unite in recommending his selection. Of course, the matter principally rests with the president, as about all we can do in so delicate a matter is to indicate our hearty approval of the man he may select."

SENATOR MILLS WRITES A LETTER.

He Denies That He Made Certain Statements Attributed to Him.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 14.—Senator Mills of Texas today sent the following letter to E. Ellery Anderson, president of the Reform club, New York City, regarding the Crisp episode:

Colonel E. Ellery Anderson, President Reform club: Dear Sir—It is stated in the New York Sun of the 13th inst., that I said to several democrats Saturday afternoon on the 10th inst.: "Speaker Crisp has come to town with a speech prepared, but I know that he will not have an opportunity to deliver it." And the Tribune of the same date says that I am reported to have said: "Crisp has got a speech ready to deliver at the Reform dinner tonight and has given it out to the press, but he won't get a chance to fire it off. He will find that this is not his show."

Both of the statements are false, wholly so. I never knew that Mr. Crisp was invited to speak or had a speech prepared, that he was invited to the banquet or that he was in the city until I sat down to the table and saw his name on the program and the seat he was to occupy. He soon appeared on the stand. I advanced and shook hands with him, and aided him in finding the seat set apart for him. I learned for the first time in the papers Sunday morning that he was indignant at his treatment. I said then, and say now, that I do not believe that the club, or any of its officers, intended to show him the slightest disrespect, and I have no more connection with the matter than the man in the moon.

R. Q. MILLS.

WICHITA'S SENSATION.

John V. Moffett Makes a Deposition Charging Her Councilmen with Boodling.

WICHITA, Kan., Dec. 14.—In the United States district court today the deposition of John V. Moffett, formerly of Wichita and a politician of state repute, now territorial agent of the Rock Island company, in the Jasprite paving case was filed and created a profound sensation.

Moffett testifies that Robert F. Wilson of Chicago, the Jasprite contractor, asked his aid to secure the contract for paving Douglas avenue. He told Wilson that it would cost him about $10,000 and then relates how the money was secured by Wilson from the Jasprite company's headquarters and distributed among various councilmen.

FIRST ONE OF THE SESSION

Passage by the House of Representatives of the Army Appropriation Bill.

MR. ANTHONY PRECIPITATES DISCUSSION

McGarrahan's Claim Occupies a Good Portion of the Senate's Time—Senator George Vigorously Advocates the Passage of the Anti-Option Bill.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 14.—The house entered actively into the work of the session today and after one hour's debate passed the army appropriation bill, practically without amendment. There was some sharp discussion over a novel amendment presented by Mr. Anthony of Texas, prohibiting retired army officers from drawing pay from the government in any other capacity, but it was finally defeated.

Cobb of Missouri reported a bill from committee on war claims, for reference to the private calendar, for the relief of the heirs of Mary Ann Randolph Curtiss Lee of Virginia amounting to $217,000.

The publication of 10,000 copies of the president's annual message was ordered.

Among the other measures passed was the bill extending the provisions of the act for the immdiate transportion of dutiable goods to Duluth, Minn., also a bill extending, for one year, the provisions of the act authorizing the construction of a bridge across the Red river.

The house then went into committee of the whole (Mr. De Armond of Missouri, in the chair), on the army appropriation bill.

Mr. Outhwaite of Ohio, chairman of the committee on military affairs, made a statement as to the appropriations carried by the bill. They were $24,202,704, against appropriations for the current fiscal year of $24,288,450 and against an estimate of $25,922,956 for the coming year.

Mr. Anthony's Firebrand.

The bill having been read for amendments, Mr. Anthony (democrat, Texas), cast a brand of fire into the committee. It was in the shape of an amendment providing that before any retired officer, or retired enlisted marshal be paid any part of his pay, as such retired man, the secretary of war shall ascertain if such person receives pay from the government in any other official capacity, and if such is the case, he shall not receive any pay under this act. Mr. Anthony in behalf of his amendment, cited the case of a postmaster in his congressional district who was upon the retired list of the army and who was also receiving a pension from the government.

Mr. Bingham (republican of Pennsylvania) stubbornly opposed the amendment and offered the case of General Sickles and General Rosecrans—to both of whom he paid high compliments—in order to impress the house with the desirability of rejecting the proposition.

He was ably seconded by Mr. Outhwaite, and without division the amendment was rejected.

The committee of the whole having arisen, and the bill having been reported to the house, Mr. Anthony moved to recommit it to the committee on military affairs, with instruction to the committee to report it back amended in the manner in which it would have been had the former motion prevailed. This was rejected and the bill was passed—heading the procession of the appropriation bills of the second session of the Fifty-second congress.

The house then adjourned.

IN THE SENATE.

Mr. George Earnestly Advocates the Passage of the Anti-Option Bill.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 14.—The famous McGarrahan claim occupied the attention of the senate today up to 2 oc'clock, when it went over until tomorrow without action. The vice president having presented the message of the president, stating the reasons why he had not approved the bill passed by both houses last session (referring the matter to the court of private land claims), and having stated the question to be, "Shall the bill pass, the objection of the president to the contrary notwithstanding?" the vote was about being taken by yeas and nays, when Mr. Sanders interposed with a suggestion that some explanation should be made of why that bill should pass. He thereupon entered into an argument to show why, in his opinion, it should not pass.

Mr. Teller followed in a brief argument in favor of the bill, and was in turn followed by Mr. Hunton on the same side of the question. The bill went over, however, without action, and will come up again tomorrow in the morning hour.

Mr. George's Anti-Option Argument.

The anti-option bill was then taken up and Mr. George resumed his speech in favor of it. He commenced by saying that he saw in one of the New York papers that the dealers in futures in the city of New York had undertaken to punish the people of the United States because the senate had yesterday, in the performance of its constitional duty, proceeded to consider the important bill. Cotton had been made to fall three or four or five points—the dealers in futures thereby undertaking to force the senate to cease the performance of a great constitutional duty. To show that that fall in cotton was purely fictitious, purely in the spirit of bravado, he called attention to the fact that while cotton had gone down in New York, corn and provisions had gone up in Chicago. He took it that senators would treat such threats with that degree of contempt to which they were entitled. In the course of his argument he said (in reference to the suggestion that the bill should go over until after the holidays) that postponement of action was impossible without giving up the bill. There was—he also said—a blessing in disguise in the short crop of cotton with which Providence had afflicted the southern people. That blessing was that while the gamblers and speculators might temporarily depress the price, there was a deficiency for consumption, and the consumers would be obliged to come forward and take cotton at the prices. The present time was, therefore, the time when he bill could be passed with the best prospects of escaping the domination of speculators.

Most of Mr. George's speech was devoted to a description and criticism of the modes of business in the New York exchange, which he characterized as an elemosynary institution, mentioning frequently its "unhallowed traffic" in "phantom bales." He spoke over two hours, but had not finished when he yielded for other business. The anti-option bill then went over without action.

The resolution offered yesterday by Mr. Daniel, calling for information on the subject of the civil service, was taken up and agreed to.

After a short executive session the senate adjourned.

NEWS FOR THE ARMY.

List of Changes of Importance in the Regular Service Yesterday.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 14.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The following army orders were issued today:

Captain Frank Taylor, Fourteenth infantry, is released from duty in the war records office, War department, to take effect December 25, when he will proceed to join his proper station. Leave of absence for three months is granted Captain Hiram H. Ketchum, Twenty-second infantry. Lieutenant Colonel William D. Wolverton, deputy surgeon general, is relieved from duty at Fort Schuyler, N. Y., and will report in person to the commanding officer, Watervliet arsenal, West Troy, for duty at that arsenal.

Second William H. Hay, Third cavalry, will report in person to Major Samuel Whiteside, Seventh cavalry, president of the examining board at Fort Riley, for examination as to his fitness for promotion. First Lieutenant Frank P. Avery, Third infantry, will report in person to the examining board at Fort Snelling for examination by the board as to his fitness for promotion. Captain Henry D. Borup, ordnance department, now awaiting orders, is assigned to duty as assistant to Captain Andrew H. Russell, ordnance department, in charge of the ordnance exhibit at the World's exposition and will take station at Chicago, reporting to Major Clifton Conley, ordnance department.

The following changes in the stations and duties of officers of the ordnance department are ordered: Lieutenant Colonel Francis H. Parker, now on leave of absence, is relieved from the command of the Watervliet arsenal, West Troy; Captain Marcus W. Lyon is relieved from duty at Rock Island aresenal, Illinois, and will proceed without delay to the Builders Iron foundry, Providence, R. I., and relieve Captain John E. Greer from the duties of inspector of ordnance at those works. Captain Greer on being relieved by Captain Lyon will repair to Columbia, Tenn., and assume command of the Columbia arsenal. Major Isaac Arnold, jr., is relieved from the command of the Columbia arsenal, Tenn., and will proceed to West Troy and assume command of the Watervliet arsenal. The retirement from active service to date, December 11, of Colonel Alexander J. Perry, assistant quartermaster general, is announced.

Discussed the Silver Question.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 14.—The house coinage committee had an informal discussion on the question of silver legislation in view of the probable failure of the Brussels conference to reach any definite results. It was suggested that congress be given an opportunity to vote on the question of repealing the Sherman law, as provided in the Williams law recently introduced. The free coinage men, however, favored the calling up of the Bland bill, which was put aside at the last session by dilatory motions. No definite action was taken.

BLAINE REPORTED DYING.

Sensational Dispatch Sent to New York Concerning His Condition.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The following special dispatch from Washington has been received: "James G. Blaine is now on his deathbed. The strength sapping malady from which he has suffered for so long a time, has assumed a form which warns his family and friends of a speedy termination. The disease attacked his lungs a short time ago, and its course has baffled the skill of his physicians. The visit of Dr. E. G. Janeway of New York to Mr. Blaine is indicative of the extreme anxiety of the family. When the fact became known that Mr. Blaine's lungs were succumbing to the ravages of the disease, plans were laid to convey the distinguished invalid to Pasadena, Cal., in the hope that a mild and soothing climate might enable him to rally. Mr. Blaine's weakness, however, increased so rapidly that it was deemed unsafe to move him and the trip to California was abandoned. There was reason to believe that the ex-secretary's death may occur at any day.

"Rev. Father's Ducey's visit to the Blaine residence at this time has naturally revived the talk about Mr. Blaine's embracing the Roman Catholic faith. A strong belief prevails here that it is Mr. Blaine's desire to die a communicant of the church of which his mother was a devout member."

TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT.

Friends of the Late Balmaceda Surprised in a Plot.

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VALPARAISO, (via Galveston, Tex.,) Dec. 14.—[By Mexican Cable to the New York Herald—Special to THE BEE.]—Another plot of the followers of the late President Balmaceda has been discovered by the government at Santiago and frustrated. An attempt was made to corrupt the Seventh regiment, and that fact became known to the government Sunday. Shortly before the evening call yesterday, sentries of police were stationed around the various barracks, and immediately after the sentries closed in, barring the exits.

The police went in and arrested several groups of conspirators. The plans of the plotters were seized. Various points in the city were to have been sacked, and there were lists of prominent government officials who were to have been killed. A number of masks, daggers, revolvers and military caps were found in addition to blue bands for distinctive marks, blue lights and torches. Forty-six prisoners are now in custody. They are all ex-officers of the army and among them is Mâlquido Concha, who was the agent of Juan McKenna.

The plotters were divided into groups and each ordered to attack and plunder a certain portion of the city. The Seventh regiment has been ordered south and the executive intends asking congress for extraordinary powers. Public opinion demands strong measures, and it is the general opinion that the best method is to transport the conspirators to Easter island. Claudio Vicuna is said to be supplying funds to the malcontents from Buenos Ayres. Several ex-officers of the army have entered the service of Paraguay.

The Herald's correspondent on the Uruguay-Brazil frontier telegraphs that large numbers of federals are camped along the frontier waiting orders to attack the republicans. They wear badges bearing the inscription, "All for liberty." Up to this time the federals have not attacked because they knew the republicans are well defended, but a general battle cannot much longer be delayed. The federal residents of Tacuarembo are arming two steamers with which they intend to bombard Santa Anna. Small fights and skirmishes are of daily occurrence. Heavy guards of Uruguayan troops are stationed along the frontier to prevent an invasion of Uruguayan territory.

Within three years Rio Grande has had eighteen governors and ten revolutions. The province is in a thoroughly demoralized state. Thanks to Bermejo, the cabinet difficulties have been satisfactorily arranged. At a recent meeting of radicals Senor Irigoyen read letters from President Saenz Pena inviting a reconciliation. It is not likely that it will be effected, however.

Argentine officials claim that their trials show that the Mauser rifles are superior to those recently adopted by the United States or any other. News comes from Montevideo to the effect that active measures are under way against President Hewera.

IN GOOD CONDITION.

Union Pacific Prospects Attracting the Attention of Capitalists.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—There was much talk in railroad and financial quarters yesterday that the Boissvain interest which came so near getting control of the Union Pacific management last spring is again at work. A representative of Boissvain has just completed a careful examination of the Union Pacific system and he reports the property to be in very good shape physically, affording the basis of an expectation of continued increase in earnings, which are slightly affected by the difference in regard to passenger traffic. He believes that the outlook is favorable for a settlement with the government. The company is in good condition financially. The announcement of the retirement of more collateral trust notes is expected soon. The next annual election for directors of the Union Pacific road will be held in Boston next March. It is doubtful that George Gould will make any fight to retain his control.

BURYING THE ARMY BILL

Caprivi Preparing to Give His Pet Measure a Decent Interment Soon.

SPEECH HE WILL MAKE AT THE GRAVE

Planning to Keep Himself Before the Country as a Martyr to Duty—Ketterborn in Disfavor with the Kaiser—Phelps Annoyed.

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BERLIN, Dec. 14.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to THE BEE.]—Caprivi will go down to history as a docile chancellor. No one was more surprised than the chancellor at the exaggerated praise with which the majority of the London newspapers have covered him. The Berlin correspondent went so far as to call him greater than Bismarck. Poor Caprivi! He may well cry "God save me from my friends." There is no occasion to cast him for a part to which he does not aspire. The quality which above all commends Caprivi to the kaiser is that which makes a good soldier—implicit attention to orders. He deprecates being placed on a pedestal. He says:

"I am simply a soldier, doing my duty as a soldier, which is to obey the superior officer. I am here merely to carry out the wishes of the kaiser."

The soldier-statesman is a very rare combination. Caprivi does not belong to that race. Had he been so, he would have engineered the army bill more skillfully, and have, if not carried it, suffered defeat in a less crude form.

Burying the Bill.

The latest about the military bill is it will be referred to a commission of twenty-eight liberals. The translation of this is the bill is dead and about to be buried without a chance of being resurrected. It has, however been cleverly embalmed, so as to give it the appearance of vitality, in order not to shock too severely the immediate friends of the deceased. This is the first ceremony which decency demands prior to the last, the funeral. With the commission, which will act as coroner's jury, the pallbearers will be the members of the government, the chief mourner will be Caprivi. There will be few invitations to the last sad rites, owing to the unfortunate circumstances under which the deceased came to an end. Only a few private friends will be present. Caprivi will make a touching oration at the side of the grave. He will say:

"In memory of our much regretted friend I ask your favor. I had expected by means of our late lamented friend to be able to increase the army vastly. You prevented that, and it killed him. In his memory I ask now that you allow me to improve our artillery. In these days artillery means everything for the army," and it is quite possible that, stilled by the emotion of the moment, the crowd present in the graveyard—otherwise the Reichstag—will cry, "Ja wahl, gang Reichstag," and vote accordingly.

Katterborn in Disfavor.

The government lacks good orators at the present moment. A case of this to hand is the speech made by the minister of war on the bill. The emperor is nothing if not a shrewd observer, and after he had read it he was in no pleasant mood. At Potsdam, in the presence of General Schliffe, he commented upon the minister's speech with frankness quite characteristic. After remarking upon the emptiness of the speech he said, "Er hatte licher den mund halten solden." The imperial comment, if somewhat harsh, was nevertheless correct. War Minister de Katterborn had been singularly unfortunate in his discourse at a vital moment when a rousing speech, might have had a powerful effect in influencing the vote of the house, but this was not the only reason for the emperor's discontent. He holds the minister of war responsible for the abstraction of the now famous Wesel letters, as also for the defective surveillance of arms charged in the Ahlwardt trial. Caprivi supports the minister, but his position is very much shaken, and he will very probably be superseded at an early date.

Annoying Minister Phelps.

Minister Phelps has been considerably annoyed by newspaper paragraphs to the effect that the United States was on bad terms with the German government. Such reports appear to have been sent out from here by irresponsible journalists and are founded on the minister's Thanksgiving speech at the Kaiserhof banquet. The reports further state that Mr. Phelps' speech was unfavorably commented upon in the German press. The latter is perfectly untrue. While the question of his popularity with the government is shown by the fact that the day following the banquet he was invited to dine with Baron von Marschall, minister of foreign affairs; the week following he dined with Baron von Berdefeschs, minister of the interior, and Saturday last with von Stephan, postmaster general. The fact that Mr. Phelps made a special allusion to Bismarck as a personal friend through whose support he (Phelps) was able to effect the introduction of American pork in Germany in spite of strong opposition is not remarkable. If as an American, he gave thanks that the United States was not called upon to support the vast standing army, that was natural and does not demonstrate that he is opposed to the government which chooses to arm up to the teeth.

The conclusions to be drawn from Minister Phelps' common sense speech are made a strong argument against the military; but by Phelps it was not so meant. His amicable relations with the government here are unquestioned.

PANAMA CANAL SCANDAL.

Testimony Given Before the Committee of the French Chamber Yesterday.

PARIS, Dec. 14.—The principal witnesses examined by the Panama canal committee today were M. Rouvier, who yesterday resigned the finance portfolio; M. Constans, a former minister of the interior and M. George Clemenceau, the well known radical deputy.

M. Rouvier was the first to be examined. He declared that he had nothing to add to what he had said yesterday. On being questioned in regard to his relations with Baron de Reinach he replied that when he visited the de Reinach residence, the baron appeared to be greatly agitated; that he asked the baron if he had committed any criminal offenses or bribed any senators or deputies and that the baron replied: "No, I have realized some profits, which I have shared with certain friends."

M. Rouvier, continuing, said that he could not explain why Baron de Reinach had hoped that M. Herz would have the newspaper attack s upon him stopped. He (Rouvier) had not been aware that Baron de Reinach was to be prosecuted. His impression had been that the baron was to be summoned only as a witness. M. Rouvier added that he had been assured by Baron de Reinach's son-in-law that the baron had not committed suicide.

M. Clemenceau was then called to the witness stand. He testified that M. Rouvier had asked him to see M. Herz on account of the desperate state of mind into which the baron had been driven by the charges brought against him by various newspapers. Witness did not know why Baron de Reinach should have applied to M. Herz to have the press attacks stopped. When witness and Baron de Reinach left the house of M. Constans, the last named gentleman having denied that he had instigated the newspaper agitation, the baron said: "I am lost."

M. Clemenceau added that Herz was a shareholder in the newspaper, La Justice, in 1884-5 to the amount of $140,000, and that he himself had had frequent relations with Baron de Reinach, whom he believed to be connected with the Panama Canal company in the capacity of banker.

When M. Constans was called to the witness stand he declined to be sworn, but gave his word of honor that he would tell the truth. He testified that he had told Baron de Reinach that he had had nothing to do with the newspaper agitation. He had never seen M. Herz, he said.

George Duval, the acting editor of La Libera Parole, who had been summoned to testify before the committee, has written a disrespectful letter, in which he refuses to appear before the committee and declares that M. Deumont, the editor of La Libera Parole, must be liberated from prison.

The seals were removed from the house of the late Baron de Reinach and all the documents belonging to the baron were taken possession of by government officials and afterward handed to the committee investigating the scandal.

M. Thierre, the coulissier, who testified two weeks ago that his firm had received from Baron de Reinach on July 17, 1888, a check for 678,095 francs, drawn on the bank of France and that the firm had handed back to Baron de Reinach twenty-six checks payable to bearer, amounting altogether to 678,905, francs was recalled today to give further evidence.

M. Thierre admitted that he burnee the stubs of the checks referred to. They bore certain notes, he said, upon which the charges of bribery may have been revived.

M. Maujan, a member of the committee, asked M. Bourgeois, the minister of justice, to what extent the government would assist the committee if further domicillary visits should be found necessary in the prosecution of the inquiry.

M. Bourgeois replied that the government would support the committee as loyally as possible, but that it was difficult to give a general answer. Everything would depend upon circumstances, he said.

The committee discussed at length the proposal of M. Bourquerry de Boissersin to invest the committee with judicial power, and decided that in view of the attitude of the government, and of the assistance it had given the committee, no further powers were necessary. The committee will supports the government in the chamber if the discussion it demands is adjourned, but if both the government and chamber decide in favor of a debate, the committee will support the principal of M. Bourquerry de Boisserein's proposal. This decision of the committee has been communicated to Premier Ribot by M. Brisson, the committee's chairman.

At a meeting of moderate republicans, attended by 150 deputies, it was decided to form a permanent group under the name of the republican alliance, and to oppose M. Bourquerry de Boisserein's proposal.

ANOTHER COAL MINE HORROR.

Fifty Men Lose Their Lives in an Explosion of Gas in an English Colliery.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—A fearful explosion occurred this morning in the Bamfurlong colliery, Wigan, and not less than fifty lives were lost. The men went to work this morning as usual after the mine had been inspected. Shortly afterwards a fearful explosion shook the earth and a cloud of smoke shot up through the shaft.

It is supposed the explosion was caused by an accumulation of coal gas, which the inspector overlooked in his rounds.

As soon as the explosion occurred women and children rushed to the mouth of the pit and there were the usual heartrending scenes when such accidents occur. Steps were immediately taken to ascertain the extent of the disaster and many volunteered to explore the pit.

After the greatest exertion twenty miners were rescued in a bad condition. The men still below are imprisoned in a seam below where the fire is raging. There are still hopes that many of them will be rescued.

Despite the efforts to extinguish the fire, the flames spread to the engine house at the tunnel. This stopped the pumping of air into the mine and added greatly to the peril of those who were in the pit. The fire was not subdued until 4 o'clock this afternoon. Some little time after the bodies of two of the miners who had been suffocated by the noxious gases generated in the mine after the explosion, were brought to the surface by the rescuing party.

The work is extremely dangerous, the exploration of the workings is continued in the hope that some of the miners in the pit at the time of the explosion may of reached places of safety and are awating the approach of the rescuers.

THREATENS TO RESIGN.

President Carnot of France Said to Be Thinking of Leaving Office.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—A dispatch from Paris to the Central News says: The rumors that President Carnot will resign shortly are confirmed this evening. At Tuesday's cabinet meeting during the heated dispute between M. Ribot and M. Rouvier, the president interposed the remark: "The action of certain ministers renders my retention of office almost impossible."

M. Rouvier thereupon left the meeting, declaring that he would resign.

President Carnot's difficulty is increased by the reports that his father and his brothers are involved in the Panama canal scandal. President Carnot himself, and not M. Ribot, sent to M. Tierard the dispatch: "I call upon you as a friend of my family not to refuse office. If you do, I will resign tomorrow."

BEHANZIN DEFIANT.

His Recent Defeat Did Not Break His Spirits—He Will Continue to Fight.

PARIS, Dec. 14.—King Behanzin writes that the negotiations which took place with the Cannas resulted in the drawing up of an agreement providing for the cessation of war in return for the cession of the town of Kotonou to the French. General Dodds, the commander of the French forces operating against the Dahomeyans, broke the agreement, however, and commenced his march to Abomey, the capital.

Behanzin adds that he thereupon set fire to Abomey and retired to Acaduten with 20,000 soldiers, and that he is prepared to carry on a sanguinary guerrilla welfare. He concludes his letter by proposing to cede Whydah to the British.

NOT FRIVOLITIES.

Plain and Simple Inaugural Ceremonies for Crank-Ridden Kansas.

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 14.—The populist state government-elect will indulge in no frivolities during its term of office. This was determined upon today at a meeting of the officers-elect and the citizens' committee, at which the nature of the ceremonies inaugurating the new government were discussed. The officers-elect were unanimously opposed to an inaugural ball, deeming it of too frivolous a nature to usher in a serious business administration. It was decided to hold, instead, an inaugural reception. A public invitation was issued, uniquely phrased, as follows:

The people of Kansas, irrespective of age, sex, color or previous condition of political servitude, are hereby cordially invited to be present at the inaugural ceremonies on Monday, January 7, 1893, at high noon, and the reception by the governor and state officers in the evening of the same day.

DENIES HE IS A HERETIC

Dr. Briggs Continues His Argument Before the New York Presbytery.

INTEREST IN THE TRIAL IS INCREASING

Arguments That Will Not Be Heard with Pleasure by Orthodox Presbyterians—The Old Scotch Church Crowded with Interested Listeners Yesterday.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Dr. Briggs resumed the reading of his lengthy defense in his trial for heresy at the Old Scotch church this afternoon. There is evidently no diminution in the public interest in the result of the contest, because the church galleries were filled as usual with spectators.

Dr. Briggs took up charge two, which alleges that he co-ordinated the bible, church and the reason as sources of Divine authority, in his celebrated inaugural address. He denied that he was a rationalist. He recognized that the scriptures are really the greatest authority of the Christian religion. He thought, however, that the authors of the Westminster confession of faith had not sufficiently recognized that the Logos was the light of the world, as taught in the prologue of Jesus' gospel. If the Presbyterian doctrines as taught by the Westminster divines were alone accepted, and the better belief of the more liberal modern Presbyterian churches rejected, then the soldiers of the Salvation army, the members of the Society of Friends, the unnumbered heathens and the unbaptized children of the Baptists must be considered eternally lost. He was not willing, for one, to subscribe to any such barbarity. The Salvation army, he believes to be doing a great and unselfish work in the vineyard of God, yet it took the bible and reason, not the church, as its source of religious inspiration.

The confession of faith did recognize that the world should be illuminated by the spirit of God in the heart. The illumination of the spirit of God was the illumination of the conscience and the religious feeling, which he considered to be but forms of reason. The heathen could be saved by the shining of the Logos in their mind, and not by belief in a bible they knew nothing of. As the Pharisees of old were rebuked by Christ for maintaining that they alone possessed all goodness, so now should these modern Pharisees of the Presbyterian church be rebuked for denying salvation to the millions who do not subscribe to their narrow belief.

Continuing, he said: "The reason is acknowledged to be the greatest endowment God has given to man. It is the holy of holies of human nature; the presence chamber of God within the soul, into which the Divine Spirit enters when he would influence the man and in which our Savior believes."

The doctor said of the Salvation army: "It is very significant at the close of our century that we have a great military organization outside the Christian church, without ministry and without the sacraments, which seeks above all things the salvation of the lost and endeavors to impart a full salvation to all people."

At the close of the meeting a motion to adjourn tomorrow until after the holidays was lost. Permission was given Dr. Briggs to print his reply to charges 4 and 5 and submit it to the members, who wished to read it. This part of his reply, the doctor said, would require a week to read.

Official Proceedings.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 14.—There has just been issued by the publishing house of John Murphy & Co. of this city, for private circulation among the bishops of the Catholic church in the United States, an authentic abstract of the minutes of the third annual conference of the most reverend archbishops of the United States. This authorized abstract is signed P. L. Chapelle, secretary, and is accompanied by the following statement:

In accordance with the resolution of the board, the foregoing abstract has been approved by the most eminent chairman (Cardinal Gibbons), and by his grace, the most reverend archbishop of New York.

These approved minutes will probably be accepted by Catholics everywhere as conclusive on the disputed questions as to what took place in the conference of archbishops as to Mgr. Satolli's mission and the views the papal legate laid before the conference on the public school question.

Will Appeal to the Synod.

CINCINNATI, O., Dec. 14.—Sentence of suspension of Prof. Smith, under findings of the presbytery, was pronounced this morning. Both sides will appeal to the synod of Ohio. Prof. Smith, it is said, will not be removed from Lane seminary, as a large majority of the trustees favor his retention.

BRILLIANT SOCIAL EVENT.

Wyoming's Governor and Miss Amelia Kent Joined in Wedlock.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Dec. 14.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The most brilliant social event of the season occurred today. It was the marriage of Miss Amelia Kent and Amos W. Barber. Miss Kent is the eldest daughter of T. A. Kent, a wealthy private banker, and Mr. Barber is secretary of state and, by virtue of his office, acting governor. The auspicious event took place at the beautiful residence of the bride's parents on Ferguson street this afternoon. All the elite of the city and state were present. The bride was dressed in a white embroidered crepe gown with trimmings of orange blossoms. The house was illuminated with innumerable wax candles which gave a beautiful effect to the magnificent floral decorations. After the ceremony had been performed a wedding breakfast was partaken of, at the conclusion of which the bridal party took the evening train for Denver. Their tour, which has not been definitely decided, will probably include eastern points of interest.

Wyoming Criminals Sentenced.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Dec. 14.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—William Jackson, for grand larceny, was today sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment in the state penitentiary. Frank Montgomery, for burglary, and Frank Tucker, for shooting Officer Ahrens, also got terms in the penitentiary, the former six years and the latter five.

LAID THEIR PLANS WELL.

How the Alleged Homestead Prisoners Secured Their Drugs.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Dec. 14.—The story of the selection of the poison alleged to have been used in the execution of the Homestead plot, was learned from an authoritative source. As has been stated the design was not to cause the death of any of the nonunion men, but to produce such an epidemic of sickness as to create a panic among them and thus effect a stampede from the works.

A prolonged discussion ensued among the conspirators as to the kind of poison to be used, and it was decided to consult a druggist. The conspirators represented that they wanted to disable a pugilist so that he could not win a fight in which he was to engage. They were asked if they wanted the drug to act quickly or otherwise. It was stated that they preferred something that would take effect gradually, so as not to arouse suspicions. The conspirators were told that a preparation could be made that would gradually undermine the strength, and if persisted in would knock the victim in three or four days. The formulas of the preparation were obtained, and it is said, the ingredients were found in the samples of coffee and soup which were analyzed by the chemists of the company at Braddock, Homestead and Duquesne.