THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

TWENTY-SECOND YEAR. OMAHA, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 16, 1892. NUMBER 179.

TALKED OF IT FOR THREE DAYS

Senator George at Last Concludes His Argument on the Anti-Option Bill.

FURTHER DEBATE ON THE MEASURE

Other Senators Express a Desire to Talk on the Subject Before the Bill is Put to a Vote—In the House.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 15.—A very strong presentation in favor of the claimant of the famous McGarrahan case was made in the senate today by Mr. Hunton of Virginia. The main point made by him was that after a hearing before Mr. Lincoln, in which both sides were represented by counsel, Mr. Lincoln had decided in support of the claim and had directed the issuance of a patent; that the patent was actually filled out and signed, and that it was afterwards (before McGarrahan knew of its existence) mutilated in the land office of the interior department. The morning hour expired before the argument was concluded and the bill went over, without action, until Monday next, in the morning hour.

Mr. George brought to a close his three day's speech in favor of the anti-option bill, and Mr. Washburn made a determined but fruitless effort to have a day next week fixed for a vote upon it. He had, early in the day's session, fought against a motion to adjourn over until Monday next, in which fight he was defeated only by the casting vote of Vice President Morton, which vote was greeted with laughter and applause by the opponents of the anti-option bill. The bill went over without action until Monday next and there will then be but four days left until the holidays begin, and as four senators have given notice of their intention to discuss the measure, there is little probability that a vote can be reached until after the recess.

Attacked the New York Cotton Exchange.

Mr. George, in continuing his speech in favor of the anti-option bill, opened with the congratulatory statement that, although the price of cotton had gone down in the New York Cotton exchange on account of the bill, it had gone up again yesterday. Much of Mr. George's speech was addressed today, as on the two previous days, to an attack on the New York Cotton exchange, where, he said, falsehood, chicanery and trickery were used for the purpose of influencing prices, and he quoted from the testimony of Mr. Kneeland, a prominent member of the New York Produce exchange, before the senate committee, in which this expression is used: "They cannot get up a bear lie that I cannot get up a bull lie to equal it." A prominent confession, he said, that lies were used on both sides for the purpose of raising and depressing prices.

"That makes honors even," Mr. Gray remarked.

In conclusion Mr. George said: "The cotton raisers of this country, the wheat raisers and the corn raisers are entitled to some consideration at the hands of the American senate. They have complained in their conventions, their public meetings, their granges and their lodges of the future system. They know that there has been a great depression, a great lowering of prices. They feel that their business has not only become unprofitable, but that it is prosecuted at a loss. Mortgage is on the homestead, debt is pressing. They have tried again and again to emancipate themselves from the shackles of this future system. They find prices of their product going lower and lower. They find that dealers in futures in New York and New Orleans are increasing year by year their purchases of futures, and decreasing their purchases of real cotton. They think that their voice sought to be potential with us. They think that if the American people are to be considered as fit for self-government we ought to conclude that this measure is a proper one for them and that we ought to give it to them. With these remarks, I submit the argument, as far as I am concerned."

Want to Speak on the Bill.

Mr. Washburn made an effort to have a day fixed next week for a vote to be taken on the bill, but objections were numerous and the effort was abandoned. Notice of an intention to speak on the bill was given by Senators White, Palmer, Harris and Vilas.

The bill went over until Monday next.

The house concurrent resolution for the holiday recess was presented and referred to the committee on appropriations.

The house amendment to the senate bill of last session, extending to Duluth, Minn., the privilege of the first section of the "immediate transportation of dutiable goods" act, was presented and concurred in.

The senate then went into executive session and soon adjourned until Monday.

IN THE HOUSE.

Consideration of Indian Affairs Takes Up the Greater Part of the Day.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 15.—The house today agreed to a resolution for a holiday recess from Thursday before Christmas until Wednesday after New Years, and then proceeded through a resolution brought in by the committee on rules, to apportion the days before the recess among its various committees. Today was assigned to the committee on Indian affairs.

A bill relative to bills of lading was passed without any outspoken opposition. The measures called up by the committee on Indian affairs consumed the remainder of the day.

The next bill called up was one authorizing the secretary of the treasury to cover into the treasury $48,800 of the appropriation for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians. Passed. Then was called up a house resolution, giving (in response to a request for information by the president in message of February 17, 1892,) the opinion of the house that there is not sufficient reason for interference of the due execution of the law for the payment to the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations their interest in the Cheyenne and Arapahoe reservations. After some discussion the resolution was agreed to.

A bill was passed to ratify and confirm an agreement with the Kickapoo Indians in Oklahoma Territory.

Mr. Holman (democrat, from Indiana) moved that when the house adjourned today it be to meet on Saturday. A similar motion had been previously made by Mr. W. A. Stone (republican, from Pennsylvania), but had been voted down. The motion was agreed to, and the house then adjourned until Saturday.

REPUBLICAN SENATORS CAUCUS.

They Will Take an Interest in Senatorial Contests in Doubtful States.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 15.—The republican senatorial caucus met again this morning and after considering the question of senatorial contests in several of the western states, decided to appoint a committee of five to consider the wisdom and propriety of senatorial interference in these contests.

The senators who participated in the discussion were Messrs. Sanders, Perkins, Dubois, Warren, Manderson, Paddock, Hoar, Hale, Hawley, Morrill, Carey and Sherman. The consensus of opinion expressed was that while the senators did not desire nor intend to interfere with the states in carrying out the will of the people, it was the duty of the republican senators to resent strenuously the assertions of the democrats who are now, as they charge, trying to pervert public sentiment.

It was shown to the satisfaction of the caucus that the democratic "steering committee" had no ground upon which to stand when it gave out the authorized interview in New York and in corroboration of this some figures were produced. In Nebraska it was said by the speakers that the democrats had but four members in the entire legislature and in Kansas but seventeen. In North Dakota the republicans had a clear majority of nine in both branches, and in Wyoming five. In California and Montana the vote is close, with the populists holding the balance of power.

Senator Morrill made a strong speech, in which he deprecated the assertions made by the democrats, and urged that the republicans do whatever might be necessary to make plain the fact that such assertions were based upon assumptions of the most violent character, and insulting to the integrity and honesty of the republican party.

One of the active members of the caucus said it was not the intention of the republicans to appoint any so-called "steering committee," for the reason that the only purpose of such committee would be to exercise an improper influence upon the legislatures in the states in question.

READING INVESTIGATION.

Testimony Given Yesterday Before the House Committee—Washington Notes.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 15.—The house committee appointed to investigate the Reading railroad anthracite coal combine, resumed this morning in the commerce committee room the inquiry into this subject during the recess in New York, Philadelphia and elsewhere.

William H. Joyce, general freight agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad company in his testimony stated that the Reading company had made agreements with a number of miners and shippers and it was, therefore, necessary for the Pennsylvania railway to do likewise if it were to secure the product of collieries that had heretofore shipped over its lines. These contracts gave shippers for their coal 90 per cent of the prices obtained at tidewater. The letter stated that the Pennsylvania company would, therefore, reduce its price for carrying coal to tidewater. Witness said that the price over the road was determined by the law of supply and demand.

Mr. Patterson then asked a number of questions designed to bring out the fact that the Reading, Lehigh Valley and Jersey Central met and, by concert of action, arbitrarily determined prices and that the Pennsylvania then followed suit by naming the same rates, thereby preventing the operation of the natural law of supply and demand.

Eckley B. Cox of the coal operating firm of Cox Bros. & Co., mining more than 1,250,000 tons of coal per annum, was asked whether, speaking very broadly, the coal-producing business was profitable in recent years, or was it tending toward bankruptcy?

His answer was: "I think the people who have put their money in coal since the war have not, on the whole, made a fair interest on their money. Until a comparatively recent time, out of ten men who have gone into the coal producing business, nine have failed. It is the most risky business I know of. Until the business got into the hands of the big companies I think the failures averaged much larger than in any other calling."

In the view of Mr. Cox the first union of transporting and of coal producing companies was due to business necessities and competition, arising from the fact that the transporters and the organization of big companies were menacing them. Then, he added, after the union of these two interests was effected, and the horse was stolen, the state of Pennsylvania, by a constitutional convention, prohibited future consolidations.

Mr. Patterson—Wouldn't it be a relief to the people if they could go into the markets of the world and get their coal duty free?

Witness—It would be a great relief to their feelings if they are democrats [laughter], but it would not do them any other good; that is, except, perhaps, a few people up in New England, who get coal from Nova Scotia.

Adjourned.

Populists Are Alarmed.

The populists in congress have taken alarm at certain measures aimed at the interstate commerce act, and are fearful that determined effort is to be made to devitalize that most beneficent piece of legislation, as they regard it.

Senator Peffer of Kansas is the first to see the workings of the plan. This morning he said that he wished to call attention to some significant facts in connection with the pending Cullom bill to amend the act. This bill, he said, was marked "introduced by request," and he intimated that it was done at the request of the railway people. It was introduced the day before yesterday and was not printed until yesterday morning; yet a meeting of the committee was held to hear the railroad people almost before the bill was off the press. Looking at the bill itself, Senator Peffer said it was framed to achieve the very thing that the interstate act was framed to prevent, which was pooling. Under its terms the people would surrender the control they now had over the railroads and the latter would once more be authorized to make and maintain any rates they chose to fix. Then the amendments to section 10 would fix the penalty clause so that there would be practically no punishment for the violation of the very essence of the act. Altogether, Senator Peffer regards the bill as a most dangerous measure, and announces his purpose to fight it at all points.

Will Plead for the Nicaragua Canal.

A committee composed of Walter Gresham of Texas, Charles M. Shelly of Alabama, Mr. Raybury of Michigan, Edward F. Cragin of Illinois, J. F. Odendahl of Louisiana and Richard L. Edwards of New York made its appearance in the city this morning to promote the Nicaragua canal project in congress. This committee was appointed by the national Nicaragua convention to present to congress the memorial adopted by the convention, which met in that city, and to request congress to take such steps as will insure the early completion of the Nicaragua canal and place it under the control of the government.

The secretary of the treasury today authorized the delivery of $83,000 in souvenir 50-cent pieces to the World's fair directory, that being the amount of expense vouchers so far approved by the department. These coins will be shipped from the mint at Philadelphia tomorrow, $5,000 worth going to New York and $28,000 worth going direct to Chicago. The former will reach New York the same day, and the latter will reach their destination Saturday afternoon, but will serve only partially to meet the present heavy demand from all points for these coins for use as Christmas gifts. Orders have been issued for the coinage of these pieces as rapidly as possible, and it is estimated that several hundred thousand of them will bear the date of 1892.

Washington Notes.

Senator Sawyer today introduced a bill which imposes heavy penalties upon persons who either attempt to wreck a train or rob its passengers.

Confirmations: James W. McDill of Iowa to be interstate commerce commissioner; also the entire list of army and navy promotions made during the recess of congress.

The military post, authorized by act of congress, approved May 12, 1892, to be established at or near the city of Helena, in Lewis and Clark county, Montana, will be known and designated as Fort Harrison, in compliment to the president of the United States.

Talking for Admission.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 15.—Governor Murphy of Arizona is in Washington, strongly urging the immediate admission of the territory into the union. He contends that the strength and population of the territory are unquestioned, and that its late rapid growth is almost phenomenal. The people of the territory, under legislative sanction, have already framed a constitution for a state, which was submitted to a vote of the people and adopted by a large majority, and an admission act, based upon the constitution as adopted, is now pending before the senate committee on territories, it having passed the house almost unanimously.

No race or religious prejudice, he says, exist, affecting social and educational conditions in Arizona, and he says he finds it difficult to understand why self-government should be denied. It would not only be a gross injustice, but, he thinks, a very serious administrative mistake for the pending admission act to be allowed to fail at this time.

JONES' SILVER ARGUMENTS

He Makes an Able Address Before the Brussels Conference.

HARD FACTS FOR THE MONO-METALISTS

His Speech Replete with Interesting Data and Convincing Figures—Other Delegates Make Propositions and Arguments—Date of Adjournment.

BRUSSELS, Dec. 15.—The committee appointed by the monetary conference to consider the various plans submitted to the conference has reported without recommendation.

Senator Jones of the United States delegation made a strong speech at the monetary conference today in favor of bimetallism. He said that the enemies of silver and of every silver currency reform were the very men who directed attention to the appreciation of gold. In nature, money was a function rather than a matter. That function, created by law, was vastly more important than the material upon which the money function was conferred. The fact that during the period when science built railway and other works were being constructed and wages advanced, disproved the contention that a fall in prices was due to scientific development, reducing the cost of production. The construction of the Suez canal brought to European markets the effective demands of hundreds of millions of Asiatics, of which the tendency to raise prices more than offset the tendency of science to lower prices. American bimetallists did not claim that making the two metals legal tender would secure stability in prices, but they asserted that free coinage over a wide area would result in the fluctuations of the values of gold and silver being considerably lessened. They fully admitted that the demands of the myriad-peopled east might, in case of a harvest of abundance, so increase the demand for silver bills as to bring silver to a slight premium over gold. But the fact that the competition for whichever metal became fractionally cheaper, would sustain the values of the metals inter se, had not been questioned at the conference.

Afraid of Silver Yet Undog.

The mono-metallists of Lombard street, when confronted with this argument, spoke of mountains of silver they were told were about to be discovered which would swamp the market for silver with bills sufficient, not only to overwhelm the money demand for Europe, but also to inflate the silver currencies of 600,000,000 of Orientals.

Evidence taken before the British commissions in regard to India showed that the rupee today purchased as much in India as it ever did. If the Indian farmer gets more rupees for the thirty shillings gold which his wheat realized in London today than he did for forty shillings ten years ago, how could Europe and America market their crop in the face of such competition? While the collapse of silver stimulated Indian exports at the expense of British farmers, it was similarly creating an enormous competition, Bombay sending cottons to China at the expense of Lancashire. What India gained by falling exchange, she more than lost by hesitation of British capitalists to invest. India's indebtedness to Great Britain compelled her to sell annually in London at least 80,000,000 ounces or silver—more than was produced by all the mines in America. Could it be said then that England had no interest in the silver question? He would not complain of the attitude of France, which was already amply provided with silver currency, with a stationary population, a steady bank rate and a small eastern trade. The French interests in silver could not for a moment compare with the English. The fall of prices in England was driving farms out of cultivation and putting the landed interest into the hands of mortgage companies. History was full of warnings. Financial struggles had led to social struggles, and sometimes to revolution. Governments could undo the mischief governments had done. Whatever might result of the conference, if some measure of relief was not willingly adopted in the near future, they might rest assured that ultimately, in spite of the craft and cunning wiles of the wicked, the great producing masses of the civilized world would crystallize into law their imperial will.

Senator Jones spoke for two hours.

Mr. Allard's Plan.

M. Allard of the Belgian delegation then spoke in support of his own plan, which proposes an international agreement for the purchase, under a common account, of stocks of silver, against which treasury notes shall be issued by the contracting states, none of which would be obliged to coin the silver thus purchased or to modify its existing legislation, the treasury notes to have international circulation.

In the course of his speech M. Allard complained of the obstructive tactics of the British delegates.

Senor Osma of the Spanish delegation, and M. Raffalovitch of the Russian delegation, urged the American delegates not to press a vote on the main question at the present stage. Short speeches were made by Prof. Andrews and Senator Allison of the United States delegation.

Senator Allison spoke with some warmth. He said that he and his colleagues did not ask for a vote on the main question. They fully appreciated the cordiality with which the question had been approached by all sections of the conference. The proposals already presented to the conference were of such a character that they would, if adopted, impose a heavy burden upon America. The American delegates could not make concessions without compensating amendments. He believed that the truest ratio between gold and silver was 15 to 1, and he wished to repeat that if there was any intention to resume the conference later the United States would be willing to go as far as possible, with due regard to its own just interests, to satisfy the expectations of Europe. He promised that the United States would accept any scheme that met with general approval.

The next, and probably the last, session, for the present, will be held on Tuesday. A proposal will then be made that the conference adjourn to June 6, without dissolving.

The delegates will be photographed in a body tomorrow before attending the fete to be given in their honor at the town hall.

THE DEATH ROLL.

Senator Gibson of Louisiana Passes Quietly Away—Others Called.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Dec. 15.—After a lingering, but apparently painless illness, Senator R. L. Gibson died at 3:15 p. m. At the time of his death he was surrounded by the members of his family and several close friends, who wept bitterly when it was seen that the noble-hearted statesman was dead.

Senator Gibson passed away as though he had merely gone to sleep. There was no struggle, no suffering. He had been confined to his bed here since the 12th of November, since which time his death has been expected daily.

In accordance with his wishes, the remains will be buried in Lexington, Ky., by the side of his wife, who died some years ago. The funeral train bearing his remains will leave here for Lexington tomorrow.

BOSTON, Mas., Dec. 15.—Ex-Congressman Leopold Morse died at his house, 203 Commonwealth avenue, tonight.

Figuring on Kansas' Senator.

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 15.—Democratic leaders from all parts of the state are here to attend the meeting of the democratic central committee to decide the senatorial question. Numerous candidates are in the field, but John Martin seems to have a lead which is hard to overcome, the belief being that he can best unite all members of the party. With the aid of one democrat the populists can elect a senator, and makes it impossible to elect any democrat other than a fusionist, and the populist caucus will decide who that fusionist will be.

WYOMING'S CONTESTS.

Defendants in the Case Explain Their Present Position.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Dec. 15.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The first stand taken by the defendants in the case of S. B. Bennett and Harry A. Chapman, candidates for the legislature in Carbon county, against Amos Barber, Charles W. Burdick and Otto Gramm, constituting the state canvassing board, was presented in the form of a motion before the supreme court to quash the alternative writ of mandamus issued against the defendants by Chief Justice Grosbeck last week. The grounds relied upon for the sustaining of the motion was that a justice of the supreme court has no power to issue a writ during vacation. Counsel for the defendants insisted that the constitution of the state gave to the court and not the judges the power to issue writs of mandamus against state officers.

The judges, they maintained, had powers to issue writs of habeas corpus only. Several states had held that a power given to a court would not be exercised by a judge in vacation. Counsel insisted that the power conferred on them by statute and the constitution gave to the supreme court original jurisdiction in mandamus suits against the state officers. This being the case, to hold the writ could not be issued in vacation would be to hold that the writ could not issue at all, thus denying justice to the people, or would compel the supreme court to remain in perpetual session. In case the motion could be sustained a new writ will at once be issued by the court and the main questions considered.

Efforts of Jail Breakers Frustrated.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Dec. 15.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Three prisoners in jail here evolved a scheme to effect a general jail delivery. The leading spirits in the plot were three men condemned on charges punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary. They had not, however, received their sentences and expected a longer time to elapse before being sentenced and sent to the pen. This alone prevented the success of the plot. They had procured a saw to cut a number of the cell doors, which would afford them an opportunity to overpower the night guard when making his regular round. The preparations were not complete yesterday when they were taken into court and sentenced. Immediately after they were taken to the penitentiary, "Six Shooter" Smith, who is in the jail, feared the saw in his possession would be discovered and gave it up, at the same time disclosing the plot so narrowly frustrated.

Building a Railroad.

RAWLINS, Wyo., Dec. 15.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Colonel John Weir, head of the Soda Lake syndicate and the proposed Casper-Hanna railroad, left this morning for Johnstown on the Sweetwater, headquarters of the company. The survey having been made last summer, contracts will now be let for grading, ties and bridge timber. It is already reported that a Lander firm will supply several million of the latter. The business men will make a move for a branch line into this city and from present appearances with a very fair prospect of success.

Important Legal Decisions.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Dec. 15.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Several important questions were determined in the decisions of the supreme court handed down today. The power of the trial judge to sign a bill of exceptions after the close of his term was affirmed. It was held that the judge of a district had power to adjourn court in one county, go to another county in his district and hold court and then reopen court in the first county.

NO CHANGE DESIRED.

South Dakota Miners Satisfied with Present State Laws.

DEADWOOD, S. D., Dec. 15.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Delegates of miners and prospectors to the number of 300 representing every mining camp and district in the Black Hills, assembled in the city hall at 10 o'clock this morning in response to a call for a mining congress. The purpose of the congress, as expressed in the call, was to discuss the merits of certain amendments proposed to the mining laws of the state.

After thoroughly debating the subject the delegates, believing the new bill might be in the interest only of corporations and rich individuals, and being satisfied with the present code, by a rising vote adopted the following:

Be it resolved by the miners of the various mining districts of the Black Hills, assembled at Deadwood, S. D., this 15th day of December, 1892, that whereas the mining laws, as they now exist, having been passed upon by the court and fully adjudicated and such decisions having also been endorsed and adopted by the United States land office department, therefore be it

Resolved, That we, as miners, are opposed to any change in the laws as they now exist and it is our unanimous expression that our representatives in the next legislature assembled do not make any change in the local or state laws affecting the mining laws as they now exist.

Among the notables present was Prof. Jenny, whose report, made at the instance of the government in 1875, first established the existence of gold in the Black Hills, then part of the Sioux Indian reservation, and led to its opening to settlement in 1877.

Will Reopen the Bank.

RAPID CITY, S. D., Dec. 15.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—It is learned from a reliable source that the Black Hills National bank, whose suspension last Tuesday caused such consternation in business circles, will be reopened within thirty days. National Bank Examiner Diamond still has charge of the affairs of the institution, but expects to complete his work of examination in a few days. Charles J. Buell, chairman of the board of directors, states that as soon as large collections due can be made the bank will resume business.

OBSTRUCTING A WATERWAY.

Damage to a Missouri Pacific Bridge Closes the Arkansas River.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec 15.—A Little Rock dispatch states that a queer complication exsists at the Missouri Pacific bridge across the Arkansas river, where several days ago a freight car jumped the track on the bridge, damaging the draw so that to move it will result in the collapse of the structure. Yesterday the Mary Morgan approached the bridge and gave the customary signal, but no attention was paid to it though repeated several times. No satisfactory explanation being forthcoming from the bridge officers, the boat's captain reported the case to Captain Tabor of the United States engineering corps. That officer, this morning proceeded to give the Mary Morgan the right of way of the channel, and in personal command of the boat slowly drifted in the direction of the obstruction. When within about fifty yards of the bridge, he ordered the American flag hoisted, and after the pilot had blown four distinct whistles, Captain Tabor standing upon the deck, demanded of the bridge attendant in the name of the United States to open the draw. The man in charge paid no attention to the order of the federal officer. Tabor sent an official report to the War department explaining the situation and entering complaint against the Missouri Pacific for obstructing the channel of the Arkansas river.

The owners of the boats at the levee will sue the bridge company for damages.

New York Exchange Quotations.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—New York exchange was quoted as follows: Chicago, 20c premium; Boston, par to 8c discount; St. Louis, 25c discount.

RIBOT'S MINISTRY IS DOOMED

Saved by Voting for Itself Yesterday, it Will Fall to Earth Today.

FRENCH POLITICS GROWING MORE DARK

Rumors Afloat in Paris Concerning the Arrest of Managers of the Panama Canal Company—New Scandals and More Revelations Promised.

[Copyrighted 1892 by James Gordon Bennett.]

PARIS, Dec. 15.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to THE BEE.]—There is a rumor afloat to the effect that the government has decided to arrest the managers of the Panama Canal company, charged with complicity in the alleged frauds. They will be arraigned, it is said, at the court of assize.

The situation grows in gravity. Either the ministry or the investigating committee will resign tomorrow. In all reality the ministry in the vote in the Chamber today was in the minority, since there was an apparent majority of six votes. The vote of the eight ministers was only a vote for themselves which was contrary to all precedent.

New scandals, more revelations are announced for tomorrow. Three of these talked about are politicians and one of them is in the cabinet. It will all end in a presidential crisis and the resignation of the cabinet.

JACQUES ST. CERE.

STORMY SCENES.

Discussion of the Canal Scandal Causes Confusion in the French Chamber.

PARIS, Dec. 15.—At a cabinet meeting held at Elysee today, M. Bourgeois, minister of justice, announced that he would oppose in the Chamber of Deputies the proposal of M. Bourquerry de Boissevein to invest the investigation commission with judicial powers.

The conflict between the Panama investigating committee and the judicature still continues with a vengeance.

M. Quesney de Beaurepaire was outspoken on the subject, and even hastened on the proceedings in the Panama canal case lest Parliament should get before the law in the matter, attain a dangerous popularity and create precedent for interfering in judicial questions, which would cramp the action of the presiding judges.

When the question came up in the Chamber of Deputies today the galleries were crowded. Every deputy was in his place, and an atmosphere of intense excitement pervaded the house.

M. Hubbard, member for Seine-at-Oise, opened the discussion by calling for the immediate discussion of the de Boissevein proposals, and M. Ribot, premier, supported the motion.

M. Brisson, president of the investigating committee, moved that the Chamber adjourn. The committee, he said, would have no difficulty in fulfilling its task. If, however, the de Boissevein proposals were brought to discussion with the approval of the Chamber the committee would support them. In the name of the committee M. Brisson then made an attack upon M. Ribot and M. Bourgeois.

M. Brisson Used Strong Language.

M. Brisson's language was severe and at times intemperate.

M. Bourgeois answered for the government. The ministry, he said, was determined to bring the matter to a settlement. The question was put to a vote and the decision in favor of proceeding with the discussion of the bill in accordance with the government's desire was carried by 424 to 122.

Immediately after the vote it was reported that, in consequence of this reverse, M. Brisson would retire from the presidency of the committee.

The way to the consideration of the Boissevein bill was clear and M. Bourgeois proceeded to state forcibly the objections of the ministry to it. They had to deal with the enemies of the republic, with men whose plan of campaign it was to disseminate among the people, calumny and venomous falsehoods. The ministers wished to have a searching inquiry, but the scope and character of this inquiry must conform with the fundamental principles of state. If this matter could not be decided once and for all at the present sitting of the Chamber the cabinet would resign.

M. Brisson replied that perhaps the ministry was the power most inimical to republican policy.

This inuendo aroused a storm of protests, amid which M. Ribot arose. It was of supreme moment to the public, he said, that the government should have the support of the united republicans. The government had decided to institute fresh legal proceedings, calculated to throw the utmost possible light upon the Panama Canal company's affairs. [Applause.] M. Ribot closed with an eloquent appeal to the republicans to rally around the flag of the republic.

Arraigned the Minister of War.

M. de Launey, member for Cotes du Nord, who followed M. Ribot, accused M. Freycinet, minister of war, of being responsible to a great extent for the Panama scandals and asked why M. Herz had been decorated with the cross of the legion of honor at the request of several questionable politicians.

M. Clemenceau interrupted the speaker to deny that he had recommended M. Herz for the honor. M. de Launey ignored the interruption and proceeded to attack M. Baihaut, ex-minister of public works, for neglecting to communicate to the Chamber Rousseau's report of the Panama scandals.

M. de Freycinet in answering the charge as regards the decoration of M. Herz declared that the honor had been granted at the recommendation of many scientific men, who had praised M. Herz highly for his electrical work. He was surprised that six years had been allowed to elapse without anybody's directing attention to the matter, if it had really been regarded as so suspicious. [Applause.]

M. Bourgeois promised the investigating committee all possible assistance from the government and reiterated his exhortations that the Chamber show confidence in the government by rejecting the measure.

The vote at the end of the discussion was 271 to 265 against the de Boissevein proposals. It is regarded as tantamount to an expression of confidence in the government.

Immediately after the vote the chamber adjourned.

Challenged to Fight.

The confusion throughout the sitting was unprecedented in recent years. While the vote was being taken, the Boulangist deputy, Gabriel for Meurthe-et-Moselle shouted an insulting remark to the republican deputy Arene. Immediately after the vote Arene challenged Gabriel, but the latter refused to fight.

M. Brisson has summoned the investigating committee to meet tomorrow, when he and the committeemen of the extreme right, are expected to resign.

M. Ribot's announcement concerning fresh judicial proceedings refers to the impending criminal prosecution of the directors.

The criminal court will permit retrospective prosecutions covering the last decade. Deputies proved to have sold their votes will be brought up to answer the charges.

Many bondholders are to appear as civil plaintiffs in a case before the Chamber of appeals for the purpose of demanding the transfer of the case to another court, on the ground that a Paris court is not likely to be impartial, in view of the relationships of magistrates to Panama canal directors and contractors. M. Perivier conscript of the court, for instance, is the son of a former contractor. M. Lefever, president of the Chamber, is the intimate friend of De Lesseps. The minority of the Chamber includes the entire right and seventy from the left. The majority of the whole is republican.

Tonight satisfaction is expressed with the vote today.

M. Roche is about to sue La Libre Patrole for saying that his name appeared on the stubs of the Thierre checks.

The narrowness of the government's majority had a depressing effect on the bourse.

GERMAN POLITICAL GOSSIP.

Triple Alliance Weakening—Russia's New Tariff—Race War Growing.

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BERLIN, Dec. 15.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to THE BEE.]—The Italian debate on the triple alliance is here reckoned as having brought to the fore certain jealousies which exist between Austria and Italy which have heretofore lay smouldering. The opinion of many is that the alliance has been so very much weakened that Germany will have to become strong enough to stand alone. The comments made by Signor Giolletti have been badly received.

It is given out that the prince archbishop of Breslau will be made a cardinal at the next consistory. Dr. Kopp is a docile instrument of the government.

There are evidences of commercial tension once more breaking out between Germany and Russia. This time it is concerning the Russian differential tariffs, which are considered a sort of threat. General von Wordes will have an early opportunity of showing the capacity as a diplomatist, for which he is credited with possessing by building up and maintaining an advantageous commercial understanding.

I have commented several times upon the ill blood aroused here in the matter of the Jews. I have been approached by both sides, but the Herald is strictly neutral in all such questions. I have previously blamed Ahlwardt, not because he criticised the guns, but because he made it largely a question of religion. That he did prove much, even in the face of the adverse bench and powerful machinery brought to bear against him, is clear from the fact of his light sentence. People certainly think him right, as they have proved by his election. But if Ahlwardt in his attacks on the Jews is in fault, equally so are the semites now. They are making a grave mistake, for they, or the press which represents them, is leading a hot campaign into the enemy's camp. Over-excited by the laudatory words of the chancellor on the Loewe guns, and by the injudiciously severe remarks passed by the judge in the Ahlwardt case against the anti-semites, the semite organs now call upon the chancellor to bring in a law to declare the anti-semite movement illegal. This means that another kulturekampf be begun against no less than three-quarters of the conservative party, the right and the all-powerful center. The Norddeutsche Allegemeine Zeitung and the Courier de Hannover join in with the Berlin Tageblatt and the Boersen Courier in calling upon the leaders of the movement to stop the agitation.

Caprivi is in part responsible for the renewal in stirring up of race hatred, for his speech on Monday was over-zealously couched in favor of the semites. It would have been more judicious to leave out the race question entirely. An evil institution it may be, but anti-semitism in Germany today is an enormous power to deal with. Every attack upon it adds fuel to the fire. Left unnoticed, it smolders; stirred up, it flames fiercely. It is first-cousin to socialism, with which it works, and has become a political factor of great and ever-growing force. It permeates the army and professional circles of the entire country. The Ahlwardt trial was a grave mistake. It fanned the embers of anti-semitism into flames. The chancellor's speech was a mistake. It fanned the more than natural resentment which the semites feel against their rivals. This bodes very ill for the future.

SOUTH AMERICAN NEWS.

Participants in the Latest Balmaceda Plot Are Kept Close Prisoners.

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VALPARAISO, Chili (via Galveston, Tex.), Dec. 15.—[By Mexican Cable to the New York Herald—Special to THE BEE.]—The prisoners taken in connection with the recently discovered revolutionary plot are in prison under a strong military guard, and are denied communication either with each other or with outside parties. An examination of the prisoners revealed little of interest. They generally refused to make statements compromising others, though it was found that the wife of Claudio Vicuna had been supplying funds for the plotters. Vicuna is going to Europe from Buenos Ayres, now that the plot has failed.

The conservators in congress intend asking for full data from the government in relation to the plot.

I had an interview yesterday with Nicholas Acosta, one of the chief supporters of General Camacho. He said the Bolivians appreciated the Herald's support of every liberal movement in South America. Camacho and his party, he said, are resolved to free Bolivia from church domination and make her progressive and liberal in all matters. Camacho and Acosta left for Bolivia last night. Baptista's government is granting permits for the return of the exiled deputies. Ex-President Arce is still here watching for any attempt to form a plot against Baptista.

The Herald correspondent in Rio Grande telegraphs that there is no doubt, but the Castilhosta chiefs have given orders that all federal officers taken prisoners shall be shot. On the Uruguayan frontier the troops are preserving a semblance of neutrality. At Cacimbinhas four federal officers were burned to death. The government papers are attacking Uruguay for allowing the federals facilities, and the papers of Montevideo are on the warpath and declare that the insult to Uruguay by the government of Rio Grande can only be wiped out by war with Brazil. President Herrera proposes to raise a loan for the purpose of buying arms and ammunition.

Senor Quintano has resigned from the Argentine cabinet and Senor Anchorena assumes the premiership.

CHEATED THE GALLOWS.

C. A. Benson, a Kansas Murderer, Assaults the Death Watch and Then Kills Himself.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., Dec. 15.—Early this morning C. A. Benson, Theresa Metman's murderer, made a vigorous attack with a knife upon Captain Morgan, the aged death watch. Benson slashed and cut him about the face in a terrible manner. The wounds however, are not considered dangerous. The old man pleaded so hard for mercy, that Benson said he could not find the heart to kill him.

The disturbance brought the jailers and as they were coming up the stairs Benson plunged the knife twice into his left side. The condemned man told them he had taken poison, and would die in five minutes. The doctors have not discovered the nature of the poison Benson took. At noon he was in an unconscious condition and all efforts to revive him proved fruitless and he died this evening.

BLAINE ON HIS LAST BED

Death of the Distinguished Statesman Only a Matter of a Few Days.

CALMLY WAITS THE COMING OF THE END

Clearly Conscious of His Condition and Aware That Death is Near—Surrounded by His Family—What the Physicians Have to Say.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Dec. 15.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Mr. Blaine's life is ebbing away. It may be days, but the end cannot be far off. The breakup in his system, which his family and his physicians have feared, has come. His immediate family is about him and they are filled with the gravest anxiety.

Mr. Blaine is worse tonight. This much is positively known. Yesterday he seemed to be better, but a change in the last twenty-four hours has given cause to the most serious forebodings. There have been reports that his mind wanders and that he is delirious at certain times. These are not correct. Mr. Blaine's mind is as clear as a bell. More than this cannot be said. His physical powers are all waning.

Mrs. Blaine is constantly at his bedside. James G. Blaine, jr., Miss Hattie Blaine, Mrs. Damrosch and Mr. Blaine's cousin, Miss Dodge, are all at the family residence. Outside of his family and physicians and possibly his religious advisers, nobody has been able to see Mr. Blaine. Until the last day or two his family have been hopeful that his present attack was only a temporary one, but the signs of lost vitality are such that they no longer seek to comfort themselves with this hope. They do not give up entirely, but they realize that Mr. Blaine is in a much more dangerous condition than at any previous time.

Dates Back Only Ten Days.

The distinguished patient's present illness dates back only ten days. He went out driving then and caught cold, which was followed by a fever. For a few days this did not seem likely to prove more serious than the previous attacks. Mr. Blaine apparently was rallying from it, but the improvement did not continue. He has been growing worse since last Saturday, though he has had one or two temporary rallies and has been bright and cheerful.

So late as yesterday there seemed hope for improvement. Tonight no encouragement is held out. Mr. Blaine is said to be suffering from no special malady beyond the general giving away of his physical powers. It is possible that he may really be a victim of Bright's disease, and that the spells of nervous prostration to which he has been subjected are due to this cause, yet there is nothing that can be learned definitely. Monday Dr. Janeway of New York was here in consultation with Dr. W. W. Johnson, Mr. Blaine's regular physician. Yesterday Dr. Taylor of Philadelphia, who attended Mr. Blaine at Bar Harbor, was here. While no statement was given out, the impression left by the visiting physicians has been that they saw little that was encouraging in Mr. Blaine's case.

Mr. Blaine's spells of illness have been so frequent that his family have naturally been averse to giving publicity to them. The widespread interest in the foremost private citizen of the republic justifies the statements which are made regarding his condition now.

His Recovery Despaired Of.

He has practically been an invalid for three years past, and whether chronic disease has been making ravages on his system or whether a succession of attacks of mild illness have weakened him, there is no longer any question that his vitality is impaired so that his recovery is despaired of by those who know the facts. The sympathetic interest is as widespread as it is deep. From every corner of the land and from almost every part of Europe inquiries come daily to know how Mr. Blaine is. The answer cannot long be made cheering.

During his present sickness Cardinal Gibbons and Father Ducey of New York have seen Mr. Blaine, but it cannot be learned that their visits had any reference to his embracing the Catholic faith. The report that such was the purpose has been denied. Father Ducey is still in the city.

Members of the Blaine family gathered tonight in the cozy sitting room on the main floor of the Lafayette street residence and passed the time in social intercourse. There were repeated rings at the bell during the evening, but callers contented themselves with leaving their cards and did not intrude upon the privacy of the occupants of the famous brick mansion. A small onyx top table in the hallway was speedily covered with small pieces of pasteboard with one corner turned up to indicate that those whose names appeared had called in person. About midnight the shutters were closed and the curtains drawn in the rooms used by the family, save in the southern exposed room, where the distinguished patient l