Violent Disturbance in a Number of the Larger Cities.

CASTEL-TRANO IN THE HANDS OF A MOS

Local Prison Demolished and All the Inmates Liberated.

HOUSES SACKED AND SHOPS DESPOILED

Citizens Organize and Make an Effort to Defend Their Homes. AUTHORITIES FINALLY RESTORE ORDER

Large Bodies of Troops Rush to the Scene and After Desperate Fighting Arrest the Leaders of the Mob.

PALERMO, Dec. 31 .- It would seem that the-

rioting and disorder which has prevaited in several parts of Sicily for some time past is not yet at an end and the arrival of strong reinforcements of troops is anxiously awaited by all law abiding citizens. At Trapani, not far from this city, news

has been received of a fresh riot and it is said that the reports in circulation have so excited the people of Trapani that disorder is anticipated at that place. The latest riot, according to dispatches from Trapani, occurred at Castel-Trane, a town of 20,000 inhabitants situated about thirty miles from Trapani. It appears that at a given signal a body of roadmakers left work and attacked the octroi station. The men were evidently prepared for the outbreak, as they had secured possession of a number of cans of petroleum, which they had hidden by the roadside with a number of revolvers, heavy sticks and poles to make pikes or staves in case they were attacked. The roadmakers organized themselves into a column and with shouts "Down with the octroi" and "Death to the municipal authorities" marched on the octroi station, burned the sentry box and two of the local octroi offices and then set fire to the central octroi office, the tax offices and the record office, destroying all the archives and doing other dam-

Citizens Prepared to Resist. The whole town was soon in a terrible uproar, the peaceable citizens flying for their lives or locking themselves in their residences, which they promptly barricaded and prepared to defend to the utmost with such means as they had at their command. The mob in the meanwhile had broken into a number of wineshops, and, rolling the barrels of wine and spirits out into the streets, they soon drank themselves into a state of madness and were ready for further acts of

At a signal from the leaders of the mob the column was reformed, and shouting and velling like madmen and greatly reinforced by the lawless element of the town and its neighborhood, the disorderly roadmakers sed the way to the mandamental prison, which they attacked with stones and sledge hammers in spite of the gallant defense made by the authorities of the prison and the guards and keepers of that establish-

Liberated the Prisoners

Finally the mob forced in the doors, se verely handled the defenders of the prison and succeeded in liberating all the prisoners, who soon joined with the mob in drinking the stolen liquors and in acts of violence. After celebrating the victory over the prison nuthorities the mob attempted to destroy the residence of the mayor, the banker and the postoffice. During all this time the town had been practically in the hands of the rioters, the local police force being utterly unable to cope with the mob. The houses of a number of citizens who were obnoxious to the rioters were broken into and despoiled of their most valuable contents and their occupants were compelled to fly for their lives.

The local authorities, however, had been able to communicate with Trapani and other towns with the result that a force of troops and police were sent to the riot.

But though the troops and police were able to save the bank and postoffice from destruction, they were unable to restore order, though the mob was charged several times and though a number of arrests were made the officers in command of the troops were obliged to send for additional reinforce ments which were hurried forward and as soon as possible the rioters were dispersed.

WILSON'S FATE UNCERTAIN.

Said to Have Been Cut to Pieces with His Whole Party.

CAPETOWN, Dec. 31. - A dispatch from Palapye, dated December 13, announces that native runners who have arrived there state that there is no doubt now that Captain Wilson's party was surrounded and killed while fighting against heavy odds.

All the traders urge that no precautions should be relaxed at the company's stations. as the Matabele may possibly attack the advanced posts during the wet season. One of 2King Lovengula's fighting induanas de-scribed the effect of the Maxim guns as slaying his followers like corn, adding: "We halted, knelt and fired, but still the men fell, and we finally laid down, protected by our shields. But the majority were still shet, so I crawled away."

A dispatch from Bulawayo, dated Decem-ber 14, says there are rumors among the na-tives that Captain Wilson is still pursuing I Lobengula. The whites at Capetown inclined to be ieve the Bulawayo disin preference to the one from

ITALIAN EDITORS INDIGNANT.

Verdict in the Case of Aigues-Mortes Riots Not Satisfactory.

Rome, Dec. 31 .- The newspapers here ex press much indignation at the acquittal yesterday at Angouleme, Prance, of the French workmen and others engaged in the Aigues-Mortes riots, when over a score of Italian workmen were killed and many others were terribly beaten and severely in ured.
The Riforma says that the verdict is a fresh obstacle to harmony between France and Italy. The Messagero expresses the opinion that the verdict virtually legalizes

the massacre of thirty Italians. Mello's Ready tinus. Manseilles, Dec. 3i. - Letters just ceived from Rio de Janeiro say a French vessel was fired upon by the Brazilian insurgent warship Aquidaban, which dis-charged a number of its machine guns, but did no damage. The French admiral de-manded an apology and redress. The Aquidaban the next morning saluted the French flag with eleven guns.

tian Alarmed the Authorities. ROME, Dec. 31 .- Owing to the increasing order in Sicily and tardy action of the

SICILY local authorities in quelling a very serious riot which has occurred at Castel-Trano, General Lavrismo, commander of the army corps at Palermo, has been appointed temporarily prefect of Palermo. The present prefect of Palermo has been removed, and his inaction will be made the subject of an investigation.

MOVEMENTS OF PEIXOTO'S SHIPS. America and Nictheroy Preparing to Ap-

proach the Harbor of Rio.
PERNAMBUCO, Dec. 31.—The new Brazilian cruiser America is reported to be off this port, and it is said that as soon as she is ready to put to sea again that both the Nictheroy and America will sail southward, During the last few days the Nictheroy is said to have completed her crew and to have made all the arrangements necessary to sail for another port it Brazii with the America and upon arrival at her next place of call, and upon arrival at her next place of call, rumor has it, the two cruisers fitted out in New York will be reinforced by other vessels belonging to the government of President Peixoto and that his fleet will then sail for Rio ac Janeiro, and that upon their arrival there the ships and forts will make a combined attack upon the insurgent vessels and endeavor to end the rebellion, so far as Rio is concerned with one determined en

Rio is concerned, with one determined engagement. Of course the usual startling rumors are in circulation, but as those from the govern-ment sources seem as insecurate as those coming from the insurgents not much faith is placed in any of them. One of the reports which has gained circulation here is to the effect that President Peixoto has succeeded in gathering together two or more ships, supposed to be the torpedo boats from Europe, in an out-of-the way port, and that the Nictheroy and America are to join those vessels shortly, when the move southward

RROSCHE MASSACRE CONFIRMED.

Cossacks Murdered Defenceless Men and Women While Attending Church, Cologne, Dec. 31.-The Cologne Gazette publishes full details of the attack upon the Catholic church at Krosche, in the government of Kevno, by Cossacks last month. This account of the massacre fully confirms

the report originally sent out and which afterwards was officially denied.

The correspondent of the Zeitung adds that the Cossacks were guilty of incredible barbarities and crueity. They lanced and knouted the defenseless people whom they drove from the churches. Women as well as men were included among their victims. The dead and mutilated bodies were thrown into a lime pit near the church.

The sacred ornaments were taken from

The sacred ornaments were taken from the edifice, broken into pieces and thrown into a cesspool. The Cossacks, after this sacrilege, were allowed to plunder the

RIFF LEADERS AT TANGIER.

Spanish War Vessel with the Prisoners Arrives and Waits for Orders.

TANGIER, Dec. 31.-The Isla de Luzon, the Spanish war vessel, has arrived here with the Riff leaders as prisoners and they have been handed over to the Moorish authori-tics. A messenger has been dispatched to notify the sultan of the arrival of the Riff prisoners and to ask for further instructions.

Powerful Weapon for the Clergy. London, Jan. 1 .- A Vienda dispatch to the Times says the pastoral letter of the Hungarian bishops is calculated to place a powerful weapon against the government in the hards of the lower clergy. It invokes the authority of the apostles in contending that obedience is due to God rather than to man and declared that the government oil is in regard to mixed marriages, civil marriages, etc., are breaches of Catholic dogma and contradict the principles of Christianity, to call upon all Catholics to support their pastors and to jointly de-fend the rights of the church, and says their actions in public affairs must be governed

Discontent to Berlin.

by this object.

London, Jan. 1 .-- A Berlin dispatch to the Times says there is great discontent there owing to the fact the Cameroons incident was kept a secret for a fortnight. When now the cause of the revolt is not given, the general consensus of opinion is there must be something wrong with the administration of the country to excite the police and even the women to mutiny. The police force consists of from 100 to 150 Dahomeyans. character. Prorogued Parliament.

YOKAHOMA, Dec. 31.—There is a political crisis here, and scenes of the utmost disorder were witnessed on Friday when Parliament reassembled, arising out of the question over the presidency. A good deal of violent language was exchanged. The government ended the turnuit by proceeding the Parlia-ment until January 21. By imperial re-scripts the Parliament is dissolved. The election campaign, it is expected, will be of

Think the Situation Serious. Berrin, Dec. 31 .- The German cruiser Princess Withelmina, carrying 365 men, was ordered to the Cameroons from Wilhelms. The newspapers regard this as a sign that matters in the Cameroons are far more serious than the dispatches report them.

Much Blood Sned. CETTIN, Dec. 31 .- A fierce conflict has taken place between the Lume and Caboosch tribes in Albania and much blood has been The commander at Preserved was unable to pacify the tribes and was com-

General Gourke's Side Paralyzed Pereuseuro, Dec. 31. - General Gourke's left side is paralyzed.

LATEST CONFIDENCE GAME.

Unique Scheme of a Southern Politician for Raising Money. Memeris, Dec. 31 .- W. R. Smith, a popu list leader and orator of some prominence in the interior, is in jail here charged with using the mails for fraudulent purposes His scheme was to personate lost and wan dering sons who felt repentent and desired to return home. He answered all the advertisements he could find of this nature and conducted quite a thriving business in collecting advances from anxious parents.

Had Nothing New. New Your, Dec. 31 .- The British steams Mozart, Captain Leeker, from Rio de Janeiro arrived at quarantine shortly after sunset this evening. She brings no news of a startling or exciting nature! from the seat of war. The vessel was only in port for five days and while there the usual cansonad-ing between the rebel and loyal forts took place every evening about 6, p. m., fasting several hours. Nothing was seen of Admiral Mello or his flagship. At Bahla, which port was left December 11, everything was dull and the people apparently were indifferent as to the result.

MILWAUKER, Dec. 31.-Receiver Henry C Payne of the Northern Pacific road returned from St. Paul tonight. He says that the employes of the line do not complain so much of a reduction in wages; as they do of several things on it that they consider unfair Payne says that if he can convince the ceivers that they are not being treated fairly, they (the receivers) may join in a petition to Judge Jenkius to change the schedule to conform to their ideas.

Suffered from Rough Weather. NEW YORK, Dec. 31 .- The Red Star steam ship Rhineland, which arrived late on Saturday night, after a fourteen-day voyage from Antwerp, brought in ten of its crew mjured by being thrown around the decks during the succession of gates which pounded the ship for eleven days.

LASTS SIX MONTHS LONGER

Senators Think the Wilson Bill Will Not Get Through Until July.

LENGTHY DEBATE ON IT IS NOW ASSURED

Four Months Will Be Consumed in Getting it Through the Senate and Ready for Conference After it Passes the House.

> WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE BEE,) 513 FOURTHENTH STREET, WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.

It is not likely that there will be any effort made to hasten the Wilson tariff bill into law. This belief appears now in spite of the fact that republicans as well as democrats feel that the suspense is worse than will be the operation of the law, and that the distress of the country will continue to grow worse and worse till the tariff agitation is over and it is known just what will be the result. Democratic members of the senate finance committee today expressed the opinion to THE BES correspondent that there would be the fullest expression of opinion given to manufacturers, mechanics, laboring men and farmers by the committee before it reports the bill to the senate.

They do not believe they can get the bill efore the senate under a couple of months after it is passed by the house, which will take it over to April. They express the opinion that six and maybe ten weeks wi be consumed in discussion in the senate after it is reported from their committee, even should republican senators conclude to not filibuster against its passage.

May Confer in July.

Thus, even under favorable circumstances, the bill cannot go to a conference committee before late in June or July, and it is calculated that several weeks will be consumed in adjusting the final differences between the two houses in conference. It would thus appear that the bill will not be finally put into law before the middle of the summer, if indeed it is ever to pass. The democrats are being divided into factions upon the measure, more and more bitter every day. It is intimated that the president and his cabmet officers intend to withhold patronage from the representatives and senators whose fidelity to the admittance of the patronage fidelity to the administration is in doubt till after the tariff bill is finally passed, as they did during the pendancy of the silver repeal bill. The object, of course, is to con-trol men in congress and secure the adop-tion of the tariff measure.

Nebraska's Interest.

As Nebraska has no one in congress who has the distribution of patronage it makes little difference to that state. It is believed now that Bryan's private income tax will be defeated. All of the Nebraska delegation have reported their intention to be in their seats when congress reconvenes. Iowa republicans here believe that Repre-

scutative Perkins of Sloux City will be elected United States senator this winter to succeed Senator Wilson.
It is not expected that there will be any important Nebraska appointment outside of the customs officers at Omaha and Lincoln, a postmaster at the latter city and a district attorney, during the coming month. Who will get the positions named is not known to any one at this time. The wholesale removais of land officers planted by Castor appear to have missed fire.

New Years at Washington.

Tomorrow will be devoted exclusively to he festivities of the new year in Washington. All the executive departments will be closed, and only the tread of police will be heard in the halls and corridors of the great capitol building. The weather is bulletined to be clear and warm. It has been so for nearly a week now. Today was like April. There will be first the reception for every-body at the white house from 11 till 2. The employes of the government, members of congress, their office-seeking constituents, and the members of the diplo matic corps will attend. Then thousands of private citizens will receive or call. The re-ception at private residences continues in Washington till midnight, or as long as there is a light in the window. The refresh ments served are elaborate, consisting of many hot dishes, ices, strong punches eggnog. The bars and many clubs them up" all day. There is little drunken-ness here on New Year's day, atrange to say. The streets will be full of carriages and coupes, the sidewalks crowded with pedestrians and galety will abound. All stores and shops will be closed. Outdoor sports will be in full plast, the open and beautiful weather permitting every game on PERRY S. HEATH. the ground.

PROSPECTS IN THE SENATE.

Nothing or Importance Likely to Be Accomplished This Week. Washington, Dec. 31.-In accordance with its decision of adjournment, congress will reconvene on Wednesday of the present week. It is not probable that the senate will realty get down to close business application during the week, and some of the most experienced observers of the course of the senate under circumstances similar to those which will surround that body when it reconvenes, predict there will not be a quorum during any part of the present week, and that, therefore, no important bus-

iness will be undertaken until Monday, The senators generally feel that there is little that the senate can do in the way of comoting legislation until the house t upon some of the measures before it. The senate calendar contains 104 reported measures, but there are less than half a dozen of them that will require a great amount of time for consideration. a number of claim bills, of which the Mc-Garrahan and the Woodbridge are the most prominent, which will, in all probability, bo disposed of at an early date, but whether his week or next or later still will depend altogether upon circumstances.

The most important bill on the calendar is

the federal elections bill and it is possible that it may be taken up for speech-making during the well, though it is not likely there will be an effort to pass the bill during the week. The bill increasing the bank cir-culation to the full amount of bonds deposited is also still before the senate and condition to be taken up at any time. The sonate is not likely to discuss the Hawaiian question again while the foreign relations committee investigation is incomplete, so that subject blds fair to remain in abeyance for some weeks unless there should be unexpected developments. The outlook for legislation in the senate is not therefore, very good either for the present week or the immediate future. The senate will do comparatively little until the house sends the tariff and appropriation bills over.

FORECAST IN THE HOUSE.

Tariff But and Hawatian Ouestion Slated

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31. - The program in the ouse for the coming week has not been definitely arranged, but it is probable that the tariff and Hawaiian question will be a figure. The tariff debate begins as soon as the house reconvenes on Wednesday. The democratic members of the ways and means committee have not yet decided upon the limits which will be set upon the debate, but the democratic leaders seem to believe it ought not to run more than two weeksfour days for general debate and ten days or debate under the five-minute rule.

Whether Mr. Wilson, who is to open the debate, can speak on Wednesday will depend on whether the republicans insist upon a full reading of the bitt before the debate begins. Inasmuch as the formal reading of this bilt was dispensed with when the Mc-Kinley bill was considered, the democrats do not believe the objection to dispensing with the reading of the Wilson bill will be interposed by the republicans. In that case Mr. Wilson's opening speech will be heard on Wednesday, followed by that of Mr. Burrow's, who will reply to Mr. Wilson's argument for the republicans.

ment for the republishes.

At the very quises of the tariff debate, however, it will be autagonized by the republicans, who will come forward with the Hawaiian matter. Mr. Boutelle of Maine served notice that as soon as congress reconvened, he would call up the resolution which he introduced and which he maintained was of a prayalog of character. The question as of a privileged character. The question as to its privileged nature was held in abeyance

to its privileged nature was held in abeyance by the speaker to be decided when it came up formally before the house.

In order to prevent embarrassment on this point it has practically been decided by the democratic leaders to allow the Hawaiian matter to be brought up in the shape of the McCreary substitute for the Hitt resolution on Friday and to give that day and the next Saturday for its consideration.

Saturday for its consideration Saturday for its consideration.

Whether the McCreary substitute, which condemns ex-Minister Stevens, will be passed or not is doubtful, the purpose at this time being only to give both sides an opportunity to vensuate their views in order to get this question temporarily out of the way so the tariff debate can proceed uninterruptedly. It is not probable any attempt will be made at the outset to set a limit to the tariff debate. It will be allowed to run two days, perhaps three, and then if the republicans decline to acquiesce in the democratic plan a special order fixing the limits of the debate will be brought in from the committee on rules. It is barely possible that some measure for the relief of the measury may upset the present prospects in the house for the present week. The surplus is at its lowest ebb and some proposition for the repletion of the national exchequer may be brought forward.

San Francisco at Pernambuco. Washington, Dec. 31 .- Secretary of the Navy Herbert received a telegram from Pernambuco this evening announcing the arrival of the San Francisco at that port this atternoon.

IN EPUPTION.

Volcano Popocatep 11 In Active Action and Some Alarm Felt,

PUBBLA, Mex., Dec. 31.-The volcano Popocatepetl has been in eruption for several days. A smoky glary has been discernible on the great mountain from this city, with intermittent series of flashes often discernible. It was though: at first that the light was caused by forest fires on the mountain or other external causes, but investigation discloses the fact that an unusually violent exaption of the voicano is in process. The voicano at its crater is a sea of fire, which is discernible for a great distance being plainly seen at izucar de Matamoros. Atlixeo and almost to the City of Mexico. The voicano is always in a smoking state, and recent visitors to the in a smoking state, and recent visitors to the summit have noted that its usual slumbrous state has seemed to be slightly disturbed. Dwellers in the vicinity familiar with the habits of the great vilcan have been expect-

ing an outbreak for some time.

It is not known that there are any tour ists' parties at present making the ascent of the mountain, but it is feared that there is at least one party near the summit. If is at least one party near the summit. If this is so its members are in some danger in case they have incompetent or inex-perienced guides. The fate of the work-men at the sulpiur mines at the old crater of the oldesno is the sub-ject of considerate concern. It is thought, however that by the premonitions of the outbreak which have been given they have had sufficed a verying to attend to have had sufficied writing to attend to their own safety but a cending the peak for a sufficient distance to escape harm. Comdifficult in the winter season on account of the heavy snow which blocks the trails, and it will probably be several days before definite information can be secured.

PRESCRIBED HUMAN FAT.

Oucer Remedy of the Late Dr. Herdan for Consumption. CHEYENNE, Dec. 31 .- Dr. M. I. Herdan, whose dead body was found in the Palmer house at Chicago Friday evening, lived in this city from the middle of July until the middle of October, this year. He said he had ocen a physician in A stin, Nev., for four years. His first act here was to advertise in the city papers as a specialist. He filed with the county clerk a certificate that he had taken a course of lectures in Chicago for his diploma. Prosecuting Atternsy Van Orsdel began proceedings against him and he filed a diploma from the college at Bucherset Car. diploma from the college at Bucharest, Germany. There was a question about the genuineness of this paper, but it was not investigated. Whatever money he earned here he spent at the gambling table. When leaving he demanded from Harry Hynds \$15. declaring if he did not get it he would com mit suicide. It was given him. The Evening Tribune charged the doctor with prescribing human fat to a consumptive patient and backed the charge up with

UNION PACIFIC IN CONTROL.

Utah Business that is Practically Con-

trolled by the Overland. SALT LAKE, Dec. 31 .- [Special Telegram to THE BEE.]-General Manager Dickinson, Freight Traffic Accountant Munroe and General Passenger Agent Lomax of the Union Pacific and General Manager Dodge, General Freight Agent Babcock and General assenger Agent Bennett of the Rio Grande Western held a consultation here today and made an agreement which settles old differ-ences between the two lines in Utah, cutting out the Utah Central and Sau Pete Valley roads from all privileges as connecting lines. by severing all relations with them. This is attracting a great deal of attention, as the agreement gives the practical control of all Utah business to the two roads, to the exlusion of the local lines.

flad but Little Information. CLEVELAND, Dec. 31 .- Henry Rouse, one of the receivers of the Northern Pacific, speak ing to an Associated press reporter in regard to the application for the removal of the present receivers, said that the only in formation he had of the affair was what he had read in the daily papers. He stated he had received a felegram from Hoa S. W. Pettit, general course, notifying him of the application, and that he had also received in

cipher a full copy of the petition, which he had not yet read. When asked us to the probable outcome of the matter Mr. Rouse said that in his opinion the petition would not be granted. He had no means of knowing whether the charges preferred against Receiver and ex-President Oakes were justifiable.

Denver Bank Opens. DENVER, Dec. 31 .- The Denver Savings

bank, which succumbed to the panic of last July only after a most stubborn fight, will reopen for business Piesday, January 2. The People's Savings bank has abandoned the attempt to resume and will pay a divi-dend of 10 per cent on \$955,000 of proven claims next Tuesday. Hanged Himself in Itis Cell.

PINE BLUFF, Ark., Dec. 31 .- J. D. Mc Dermot, murderer of G. N. Brooks, was found hanging in his cell in the local jail this morning. He had committed suicide, using a rope made of his bed clothes. Shut Down the Mills. JOLIET, Ill., Dec. 21.-Superintendent Pet

tigrew received orders today to shut down the Joliet Rolling mills indefinitely. This mill has been running only five weeks after stoppage of three years. Movements of Occas Steamers December 30.

At New York .- Arrived -- New York, from Southampton.
At New York Arrived La Bourgague from Havre; Rhineland from Antwerp.

Several Iowa Republicans Who Are Willing to Serve as Senators.

CORPORATIONS WANT THE PLACE BADLY

Cummins, Gear and Hepburn at Present Lead as the Railroad Choice for the Caucus Nomination-Show for Others,

DES MOINES, Dec. 31 .- [Special to THE BEE. |-One of the most important matters that will come before the legislature this winter will be the selection of a United States senator to succeed Hon James F. Wilson, who voluntarily retires to private life. The republicans will have nearly eighty majority on joint ballot, leaving no possible chance for an independent or democratic combine, and rendering morally certain the election of the party nominee.

Already seven candidates are in the field. with the usual number of dark horses in the background. The candidates, named in the order of their supposed strength at this writing, are: A. B. Cummins of Des Moines, John H. Gear of Burlington, L. S. Coffin of Fort Dodge, George W. Perkins of Sioux City, W. P. Hepburn of Clarinda, John Y. Stone of Council Bluffs and John F. Lacey of Oskaloosa. The joint caucus will consist of 112 members, so that fifty-seven votes will be necessary to secure the nomination. None of these aspirants have anywhere

near this number as yet, so that the candidate who can secure the greatest number of second pledges, other things equal, will lead after a few ballots.

The most aggressive candidate in the field is Mr. A. B. Cummins, who is backed by powerful corporation interests, and will be represented by the largest and ablest louby, embracing leading party workers from every section of the state. Mr. Cummios' strength lies in his conceded ability, his magnetic personality, his long and determined opposition to state-wide prohibition and his backing from the railroads. Six years ago he headed an independent anti-prohibition republican movement, and ran on the democratic ticket and was elected to the legislature. He also voted twice for Governor

His friends claim that while he accepted democratic support for the legislature that he went into the republican caucus and acted with them all through the session and has never differed with his party except on the single question of prohibition.

Prohibs Don't Like Him.

This weak point in Mr. Cummins' armor is being assailed, especially by the radical prohibition element with considerable persistence, but what effect it may have when the ballots are counted remains to be seen.

John H. Gear goes into the contest with a claim of long public service and a strong per-sonal following, which his friends say in-cludes Hon. James E. Blythe, chairman of the state central committee. If Blythe is for Gear in earnest, he will lead all the others from the start, and may succeed in winning the prize. Mr. Blythe, though but a young man, is one of the ablest and mest far-seeing 'politicians in the state, and it may be be has an eye on Senator Allison's seat him-seif, in which case his support of Gear could be easily explained. Some think that Blythe, who has strong corporation leanings, will throw his support to the man who is most acceptable to the railroads at the decisive moment, which would insure the nomination of Mr. Cummins. "Farmer" Coffin will go into the caucus

with a strong support from the Tenth dis-trict and will be aided and encouraged by the radical prohibition element. Mr. Perkins will have the support of the

Eleventh district, with scattering votes rom all over the state.

Hepourn will hold the vote of his own dis-trict for a few ballots at least and would loom up as a formidable candidate if the "Q," whose interests he has long served, should happen to prefer him to Gear. Locality would also help Hepburn in a protracted contest, but his well known free silver proclivities have a tendency to neutralize this advan

John F. Lacey enters the race as a favorite, and John Y. Stone more in the nature of a dark horse than an aggressive candidate.

Favored by the Railroads. While Mr. Cummins, who has for many years been the leading lowa attorney for the

Rock Island system, is pre-eminently the corporation candidate, yet it must be con-fessed that the railroads would be satisfied with any one of the list given except Mr Perkins or possibly Mr. Stone. Mr. Perkins is the only candidate named (except Mr. Stone) who, so far as known, gave even a half-hearted endorsement to the recent re strictive railroad legislation or raised hand in support of Governor Larrabin his life and death strugg with the roads. Mr. Cummins d nounced the "Larrabee polt." nounced the "Larrabee pol" y from its very inception and owes his election to the legislature largely to this fact.

If the Rock Island, which has the reputation of keeping out of politics as a rule really desires to send is ablest Iowa attorney to the national senate and is willing to open an "India rubber account" for this bu pose, the coming week will note a deciderise in Mr. Cummins' political barometer On the other hand, should the Milwauk and the "Q" join forces on a deal engineere by Mr. Blythe in aid either of Mr. Gear o Mr. Hepburn, Mr. Cummins would speedily drop out of the race and leave a free right o

way to the railroad candidate. There are some would-be politicians who claim that the railroads are not in the fight at all, and profess to believe that localit and political experience and training wi oo the chief factors in the contest. Others intimate that Hepburn, Gear, Lacey and Perkins, who are all members of the lower house of congress, will pool their issues, and after a certain number of bullots, cast lots to determine which of them shall receive the support of their united followers.

Anti-Monops Handlespped.

There is still another factor to be men ioned which might have an important bearing in deciding the contest. Should the Larraboe element become sufficiently incensed by the open preference of the corration lobby for any candidate as to friven to act together, by throwing the solid farmer vote to Perkins or Stone or some dark horse, like Lafe Young, ex-Senator Sweeney or John Mahin, a nomination might be effected on the spur of the moment that s not down on the corporation program This contingency, however, is not likely trise. The anti-monopoly element is muc weaker in this legislature than for many years, and it will not be apt to assert itself In such a manner as to give any decided offense to corporation interests, fearing a counter movement aimed at the emascula-

aws already on the statute books.

Taken all in all the senatorial situation extremely complicated and decidedly inter-esting. It will remain for the next few weeks to fully develop the strong points of each candidate, and it is very difficult owing to the many factors that will ente into the contest, to predict to a certainty the To sum up, it may be proper to add that

tion or repeal of the restrictive railroad

should it come to a square corporation tussle Cummins as a dark horse will win; should the railroads levep out of the fight, or re-main neutral, Gear, Hepburn, Lacey or Per-kins, as the congressional combine may deermine, will with If L. S. Coffin, who occupies the somewhat

omalous position of a farmer and a "friend

of the railroads" and passes as an ultra pro-hibitionist, by some secret art, could hypno-

tize these elements, and draw them together,

TO FILL WILSON'S SHOES in the event of a proposition of the second choice. That Coffin will work to a second choice. That Coffin will work to all it is worth goes out saying, but whether he can bold any considerable following to determine.

IOWA DEMANDS A CHANGE.

Prominent Men of the State Discuss Pro-

posed Temperance Legislation. OTTUMWA, Ia., Dec. 31:-[Special to The Bug.]-The Courier last evening published a concensus of opinion of prominent lowa citizens on the subject of liquor legislation in connection with the platform of the republican party touching the matter. That plank of the platform declared that all localities of the state should be permitted to use such methods in controlling and regulating the liquor traffic as would best serve the cause of temperance and morality, retaining the present law in some instances and modifying

The utterances of the many persons interviewed in connection with the matter, indicate that there is a general disposition in the state to construe the plank literally and folow the instructions as set forth.

low the instructions as set forth.
Secretary of State McFarland, Hon. E. I.
Foster, Harvey ingham, Hon. Sam
Clark, A. B. Cummins, J. H.
Smith, Henry Sabin, Byron A. Beeson,
H. S. Kneedler, Mason P. Mills, C. W.
Eaton, I. S. Struble, John Mahin, Hon. W.
G. Thompson, Hon. Spencer Smith, Paul
MacLean, L. M. Shaw, Hon. I. M. Treynor,
J. L. Walte, Hon. J. H. Monroe, J. B. Hungerford, Welker Given and J. Fred Meyer
favor the redemption of party pledges favor the redemption of party pledges and either the repeal or modification of the present law to suit all localities. F. R. Con-way, president of the Republican League of Iowa, and Dr. J. W. Clinton of Vinton can set no satisfactory results in modifying the present law in accord with the platform and are rather uncertain of the outcome.

SIOUX CITY SUSPECT ARRESTED.

John Casey in Custody for Murdering John Rohrer. St. Paul., Dec. 31.—John Casey alias Ryan

was arrested here today, being wanted in Sioux City, Ia., on the charge of murder. It is believed Casey shot and killed John Rohrer, an old citizen and expert mechanical engineer, on a bridge in Sioux City on the night of October 2. Rohrer was found dying with a bullet in his brease. There was every evidence that he had been held up and made a vicorous re sistance. Casey was seen across the river in Covington, Neb., the next morning with his head bandaged. The next day he had it dressed at Norfolk, Neb. He was a member of a bad gang of burgiars and thieves in Sioux City. Chief of Police Howard of Sioux City will arrive tomorrow to take Casey back.

EXONERATED THE TREASURER.

County Officer at Hot Springs, S. D., Pro-

tested the People's Money. Hor Strings, S. D., Dec. 31.-[Special to THE BEE. |- Public Examiner C. H. Meyers of Watertown has completed a rigid examination of the county treasurer's books and found the county just 7 cents ahead. Treasurer Bradley has been the subject of se-vere criticism on the part of some for depositing the county money in local banks which have since failed, but Examiner Mey-ers gave him full credit for the amounts deposited, as he has the county amply secured, posited, as he has the county amply secured, both by the stockholders of the bank and trust deeds of property for more than enough to cover the amount from his bondsmen.

The Masonic fraternity have moved into their new quarters in the Harlon block. They have flitted it up with elegant new furniture and finishings, costing a large amount of money. The lodge is in a flourish

Judge J. E. Bennett. PIERRE, S. D., Dec. 31 -J. E. Bennett. presiding judge of the supreme court of South Dakota, died of heart failure this eve-

ing condition.

ning. He was a prominent Knight Templar and Knight of Pythias. IMPORTANT LEGAL POINT.

Decision of an Alabama Judge Concerning Railway Traffic MOBILE, Dec. 31 .- Judge Tourmin, judge in the circuit court, yesterday rendered a decision in the case of the Bigbee & Warrior River Packet company against the Mobile & Ohio railroad involving an interpretation of the interstate commerce law. The facts admitted in the pleadings are that the packet company brought 400 bales of cotton from Demopolis to Mobile on a through bill to New Orleans and off the same to the Louisville & N ville and then to the Mississippi Ohio to be transported at the local rate of 80 cents. The roads refused to take it except at the rate of \$1.25, the respondent setting up that there was a substantial dissimilarity of circumstances and conditions from those

under which cotton is offered by other ship-pers at Mobile and received by respondent to be transported to New Orleans. The court holds that the dissimilarity of rircumstances and conditions set up by the respondent in justification of its claim is not the outcome of competition by water routes or any other competitive railroad line and s not subject to the interstate commerce

PRENDERGAST'S LATEST.

ing in the story.

His Actions Cause the Guards to Think He Contemplated Suicide, Chicago, Dec. 31 .- A rumor was current today that Prendergast, the murderer of Carter H. Harrison, had committed suicide. James Morris was kept busy two hours answering the telephone. There was noth-

Prendergast's actions in the morning proused the suspicion of Guard Wallace, and the latter told the assassin to hold out his ands until he was searched. "Why do you want to search me?" de

manded Prendergast angrily.
"To see if you have anything concealed about you, of course," answered the guard. "If you fellows think I'm going to commit suicide, you are foolish," . cmar sassin as he extended his hands. remarked the as-"If I have to die. I'm going to put you fel lows to the bother of killing me."

Nothing was found in the pockets with which he could do himself in Populists to Confer.

Kansas City, Dec. 31. The populist conference, which is announced to take place here Monday, promises to be one of im portance, as it will bring together the leading men of that party in Missouri and Kan-sas, if not of Arkansas and Texas. The con-dition of the party in Kansas will be can-vassed and an effort made to harmonize its discordant elements with a view to strongth ening it for the approaching campaign. A effort will also be made to effectively organ ize the party in Missouri, with the purpose of wresting it from the control of

Mines Closed Down. BELLAIRE, O., Dec. 31 .- Today about one salf the coal mines between this city and Cambridge, along the Baltimore & Oblo railroad, were closed, waiting the decision of the state convention, to be held at Columbus January 9. This step was found neces-sary, because the miners and operators sary, because the miners and operators could not come to terms about the wage

Muldoon Lost.

St. Louis, Dec. 31. -At the Olympic theater tonight Martin Muldoon of Belfast met Barney Mcl'aden of St. Louis in a Greeco Roman wrestling match. Muldoon, at 198 pounds, was to throw McFaden, at 143, twice in an hour. He fatied to secure a fall. The match was for \$500, of which \$100 went to

BURNED THEM ALIVE

Yesterday's Development: Do Not Mitigate John Cummings' Diabolical Crime.

MIGHT NOT HAVE WILFULLY UPSET LAMP

But He Refused Wife and Her Mother Egress from the Furnace of Fire.

SPRANG TO THE DOOR AND HELD IT FAST

Successfully Thwarted Their Struggles to Escape by Door or Window.

TRAGIC STORY TOLD BY TOMMIE FOX

Charred and Mutilated Remains of the Four Bodies at the Morgue Present a Sickening Sight-Facts About the Family-Home of Woe.

During the forenoon yesterday hundreds of people visited the morgue to see the bodies of John Cummings, his wife, his infant son and of Mrs. Margaret Fox, mother of Mrs. Cummings, all of whom perished in the burning of their cottage, 515 South Fourteenth street, between 2 and 3 o'clock vesterday morning, as described in yesterday's

So numerous did the visitors become by noon that at that hour the doors were ordered closed to all except the relatives and intimate friends of the dead.

A Sickening Sight.

In the basement the bodies were placed in a row upon cooling boards. First was that of the baby, with its face especially badly burned. The little arms had fallen from their sockets and exposed to view the bottoms of the cavitles glistening with their lining of white cartilage.

Mrs. Cummings lay beside the body of her son. Every vestige of flesh was burned from her head and now only the blackened skull remains. Her hands and arms up to the cibows were completely burned away.

The body of Cummings was not as badly burned as that of his wife, but his features were unrecognizable. Mrs. Fox evidently suffered the least of any, for her head, breast and arms are not burned nearly as badly as the rest. It is evident that all died quickly by inhaling fire and smoke. The nuscles in the lower limbs and arms are intensely contracted, showing the torture

Ramor of Robbery.

It was reported yesterday to the police and coroner that Cummings was supposed to have a large amount of money, about \$1,000. on his person, and the theory of robbery naturally suggested itself. This report, coupled with the fact that the front door of the house was found open by the firemen,

gave the police something to work on. First the rooms occupied by the family were thoroughly searched, but no money was found. The debris in the bedroom, where the fire started, was examined carefully with the same result. Later the police and coroner satisfied themselves that Mr. Cummings did not have any such amount of money. If he had any at all on his person

it was burned with his clothing. Inquest Tuesday Morning. Coroner Maul took charge of Cummings' saloon, 414 South Thirteenth street, vesterday, and locked the place up. Nothing was found except a little beer. The stock had either been allowed to run down or had been The fixtures in the place belong to the

Krug Brewing company, and the agent of that concern has asked to be placed in An inquest will be held at 10 o'clock Tuesday forenoon. So far, Chief Galligan and Assistant Chief Salter are the only wit-nesses summoned to appear at the 19-quest, though Phillip Nathan, John Stuart

and Tommie Fox will undoubtedly be cailed. What Later Inquiry Develops. Inquiry yesterday developed few impor-tant additional facts concerning the fire. Whether Cummings purposely knocked over the lamp that caused the catastrophe will probably never be known. What took place ust before this is known only statements of Tommie Fox, Mrs. Cummings'

nephew, who was the only one in the house who survived the fire. He is about 12 years oid. At the time he was who survived the fire. He is about 12 years oid. At the time he was lying down in a room adjoining the bed-room. He says that he had been at the house since 10 o'clock and went there to accompany his grandmother home. It was about this time that Cummings came home. He was intoxicated and irritable and took

Cracity to His Wife. Tommie says that at first he began "fooling" with his wife and afterwards became angry and from time to time cursed her, alhough he did not offer to do her violence Neither Mrs. Cummings nor her mother, Mrs. Fox, had, so far as he knew, been drinking and their relatives say that they never drank stronger liquor than beer, and never

frequent drinks from a bottle of whisky.

drank that to excess. About 2 o'clock in the morning, after the wrangling had been going on for four hours, Mrs. Cummings desired to retire. Her hus-Mrs. Cummings desired to retire. Her hus-band was then in the bedroom and refused to let her in. Giving the baby, which she had in her arms, to her mother, she strug-gled at the door until Cummings opened it. He then took hold of her and threw her on the bed. She cried: "Mother, come and help me, John is pinching me."

The old lady ran into the room, and setting the baby on the floor, took hold of Cum-Then Tommie says he saw Cummings arm swing and his hand strike the lamp. He could not say whether this was intentional. He thinks Cummings might have been in the

Mother Went to Her Assistance,

act of striking one of the women and struck the lamp accidentally.

The work of the fire was quick. The room seemed to be ablaze in an instant, Bound They Should Burn,

And in the glare of the flame Tommie says

he saw Cummings spring to the door and close it, and heard him struggling with the women, who sought to open it, crying: We are burning; let us out."
Tommie then fled from the house and to his home at \$19 Farnam street. It was about this time and after the plarm of fire had been sounded that Philip Nathan, a neighbor, saw Mrs. Cummings appear at the window crying, "My hapy's on fre." She had raised the window and had crawled half way out with the baby, he says, when she suddenly disappeared into the room as if drawn back by force. It might have been her husband; it might have been her mother attempting also to escape by the window.

The room was about six feet by seven in size, there being hardly room in it for the bed, the bureau and the chair that it contained. This explains in part the rapidity with which the five spread and the occupants of the room perished.

Who the Other Man Was. John Stuart, who lives in the basement, as was stated in THE RES yesterday, said that he heard the voices of two men quarreling few minutes before the fire. This is in part orne out also by the testingony of Fommie. He says that not long before the disaster, a brother of Mrs. Cummings called its Tommie' Fox, to distinguish his oar-his little uephow, who was Cupacist, came tender and who roomed at 2