

NEWS OF THE WEEK SUMMARIZED.

Testimony of Captain Phelan

Captain Phelan testified in New York, to the assault upon him by Short in Rossa's Office. He also said:

Reports from Kansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Missouri, Maryland, and Virginia, of winter wheat, are not at all favorable. It is said the crop must certainly be 30 per cent. less than that of last year. Should these reports be substantiated there will be higher prices for spring wheat.

Carroll D. Wright, lately appointed commissioner of the labor bureau at Washington has had large experience and observation at the head of a similar bureau in Massachusetts, and in a late interview says: "I think I am able to see a great revival of trade in all directions. I may be mistaken, but I think you will find three months hence, that the percentage of unemployed men will be much smaller than at present."

In Connecticut there is a strong sentiment in favor of a state income tax to increase the revenue without adding to the burdens of taxation now borne by real estate, manufactures and trade, and a bill has been introduced in the legislature for that purpose. It is undeniably that in theory, the collection of a tax on incomes is the most equitable method of producing public revenue, but it has been found impracticable in the United States, owing to the difficulty of ascertaining incomes, save by species of espionage that is distasteful to the people. Until perjury is looked upon differently than what it is at present an income tax law cannot be generally executed with any degree of fairness.

The locomotive buildings industry has suffered with many others in the past year. According to the American Machinist during 1883 seven of the largest builders turned out 1,346 locomotives, while the same builders during the past year turned out only 901. There are only sixteen locomotive building shops in this country, and in these shops, as near as can be learned, the total number of locomotives built in 1884 was 1,271, about 100 of which were for exportation. The most trustworthy figures show that there are 29,227 locomotives of all kinds belonging to railroads in North America. As the life of a locomotive is about twenty-five years, about 1,169 locomotives must be constructed every year to maintain the stock.

The Secretary of State, in a communication to Congress, seeks to repel the criticism that the participation of representatives of the United States in the Congo conference at Berlin, conflicts with the injunction of Washington in his farewell address, which had been hitherto observed. He declares that the government of the United States only instructed delegates to attend the conference on the understanding that the conference was not to have plenipotentiary functions, that its objects were to be simply discussion and accord, and that the United States would be free to decline to accept the conclusions of the conference. The Secretary further declares that the United States government has not, in taking part in the conference, departed from its traditional policy of avoiding entangling alliances, and he subjoins some extracts from a dispatch lately received from Minister Kasson, which go to bear out his own statements.

The distressful condition of the unemployed workmen in Great Britain is beginning to assume very serious proportions, and just now the propagandists of Socialistic theories, particularly in relation to the land, are as active as they can possibly be. There can be no doubt whatever that the number of the unemployed is very large, and that hundreds of thousands of mechanics and laborers have been reduced by the long spell of industrial depression to virtual starvation. Most of the newspapers effect to believe that the distress is not by any means so widespread as the demagogues and their leaders would lead us to imagine, but the meeting held at Birmingham a few days ago—usually one of the most prosperous of England's industrial centers—in which upwards of 4,000 unemployed persons took part, proves conclusively that the distress has reached unprecedented dimensions.

Leopold Damrosch, musician, is dead at New York. The week's failures numbered 273 against \$30 the week previous.

The mercury has touched fifty-eight below in Winnipeg this winter.

Irish laborers in England are suffering from the effects of dynamite outrages.

A 10 per cent reduction of wages caused a strike of 225 iron workers at Cleveland.

At Forsythe, Mo., Prosecuting Attorney T. C. Spellings was fatally shot by Lawyer Price.

Postmasters Commissioned—Cann J. Rose, Alcester, Dak.; H. O. Stangland, Cecilia, Neb.

The tide of the North river Monday morning was higher than it has been for many years.

Gen. Bolling, postmaster of Petersburg, Va., was put under bond to prevent his fighting a duel.

Official reports show that England will be forced to import a good deal of wheat this year.

John Parselle, the first "old man" at the Union Square theater, N. Y., died of heart disease.

At Fall River, Mass., fire in the blue dye house of the American print works caused a loss of \$40,000; insured.

Langtry will not come to the United States this season, and gossip says she and Freddie have had a final falling out.

Schedules in assignment of Henry Levy & Son, fancy goods, New York, show liabilities \$250,000, and actual assets \$222,104.

Col. Andrew Jackson, grandson of the president, sues Montgomery Blair for the possession of some of his ancestors' papers.

The First National bank of Billings is about to erect a handsome block from stone quarried in the town. It will cost \$23,000.

E. O. Halstead, manager of the White Pine Lumber company, Creston, Iowa, is in quod on the charge of embezzlement of \$13,000.

The White Earth Indians who went to Washington to get the Great Father to feed them have been sent home to work for a living.

At Eufalla, Ala., Sheehan's warehouse was burned, with 1,900 bales of cotton. Nothing was saved. Loss, \$100,000; insurance, \$80,000.

While Frank Brown, a brakeman at Billings, Mont., was coupling an engine and mail car he was so badly squeezed that he died soon afterward.

At Wilkesbarre, Pa., Coles' Hotel and W. C. Kress' residence were burned and the Methodist church was badly damaged. Loss, \$35,000; insurance, \$25,000.

For many years Joe and Dick Brannan have been terrorists in Western Texas. Joe was killed in Hickory county, Mo., while resisting arrest by United States officers.

The house committee on invalid pensions will report favorably the bill providing for an increase of the pension to the widow of Gen. George H. Thomas to \$2,000 a year.

Two negroes of Middletown, Del., went to steal chickens of a farmer, who shot and killed one, and the other in his hurry to escape, fell over the fence and broke his neck.

Near Elizabethton, Tenn., Mrs. John Young locked her two children in the house, went visiting and returning found the house had been burned and the children cremated alive.

At Salem, Mass., the Mercer shop of Joseph E. Arnold burned; also the morrocco shop of Christopher Carter and the currying shop of George Hull & Co. Loss, \$40,000; insured.

At Toledo a fire broke out in the Woolson Spice company's mill, and the building was damaged to the extent of \$5,000. Stock and machinery valued at \$20,000 were destroyed.

Mrs. Emma Harris, who has been keeping house for Waddell Bros., six miles below Philbrook, Mont. committed suicide by shooting herself with a gun, while temporarily insane.

Near Shelbyville, Ky., Will Adams and his sweetheart, Tinnie Wilmoth, were found dead near the railroad track. A murder and suicide, growing out of a lovers' quarrel is given in explanation.

A fire at Marshall, Ill., destroyed some \$30,000 worth of property. The principal losers were Gorham Bros., grocers; Dr. J. M. Jones, building, occupied by J. C. Provost, dry goods; Patrick Smith; J. W. Graham.

Miss Ada Armstrong, daughter of ex-State Senator James M. Armstrong of Cincinnati, committed suicide recently by shooting herself with a pistol. She was led to the deed by fear that she was going to lose her eyesight.

At Montreal, the building occupied by Woods Bros., jewel case makers; Somerville, printer; Howe, electric bell company and Schwarz & Reinhard, jewel case makers, was destroyed by fire. Loss estimated at \$35,000, partially insured.

A letter from Congressman Rankin of Wisconsin, at Thomsville, Ga., reports his improved health and great enjoyment of the change of climate and surroundings. The heat there has been rather uncomfortable, if anything.

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SENATE.—The day was mostly devoted to the Indian appropriation bill. The provision for the payment of claims for Indian depredations was struck out.

The nomination of E. A. Kriedler, to be marshal of Montana, was taken up, and, at the request of Senator Cameron of Wisconsin, was laid over till Monday.

The house passed the postoffice appropriation bill to-day. The advocates of the steamship subsidy clause made the most determined efforts to overcome the adverse vote of yesterday in committee of the whole, but their efforts were unavailing.

The principal objection to this clause was that the entire amount of the appropriation—\$800,000—would be absorbed by the Pacific Mail Steamship company, in whose special interest it was charged the clause was drawn.

This allegation was given color by the fact that Mr. Louderback, a prominent director of the company, has been here most of the winter nursing this scheme, and it was given further confirmation to-day by his presence in the corridor, surrounded by professional lobbyists and notorious strikers, all of whom were actively working for the subsidy clause.

Under Louderback's orders. Considering the persistent and bare-faced operations of this Pacific Mail lobby it is creditable to the house that the action of yesterday in eliminating the subsidy clause was confirmed by an increased vote to-day. Many of those who voted against this clause are favorable to granting proper aid in the form of liberal compensation for carrying the United States mails, but in the case under review no benefit would have followed to the commerce of the country, and no additional facilities would have been furnished the postal service.

The paragraph providing for the reduction of the rate on newspapers reads as follows, and forms part of the paragraph above quoted:

That upon all publications of the second class, except as provided in section 27 of the said act, when sent from the publishers thereof and from the office of publication to bona fide subscribers, or when sent from a news agency to actual subscribers thereof, or to other news agents, shall be reduced to one cent per pound, to be paid in advance, and after July 1, 1885, be entitled to transmission through the mails at one cent a pound or fraction thereof, postage to be prepaid as now provided by law; provided, however, that publishers of publications may mail sample copies of such publications at the rate of one cent for each four ounces or fractional part thereof, to be prepaid by ordinary stamps affixed thereto; and all acts, so far as they fix a different rate of postage than herein provided upon such first and second-class matter, are to that extent repealed on and after July 1, 1885, and any article or item in any newspaper or other publication may be marked for observation except by written or printed words, without increase of postage.

SENATE.—The Indian appropriation bill, after protracted consideration, passed. Mr. Dolph introduced a bill making Seattle and Tacoma, Wash., ports of delivery.

An amendment was yesterday proposed by Senator Morgan to the anti-silver coinage bill. It strikes out the present provision for the suspension of the coinage of the standard dollar, and authorizes the president, on and after April 1, 1885, and in any succeeding month until April 1, 1886, to suspend the secretary of the treasury to suspend, in whole or part, the purchase of silver bullion for the coinage of standard dollars.

HOUSE.—The senate amendments to the army bill were non-concurred in. The bill amending the statutes relating to the transportation of dutiable goods passed. Mr. Slocum (Dem.) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill placing Gen. Grant upon the retired list.

After debate this was lost—158 to 103—not the necessary two-thirds in the affirmative. The bill regulating the letting of mail contracts passed. The bill passed last winter by the senate to place Gen. Grant on the retired list of the army was defeated by a vote of 158 to 103, two-thirds having failed to vote for the motion to suspend the rules. The bill was brought up by direction of the committee on military affairs, on motion of Gen. Slocum. It was originally passed by the senate and reported favorably to the house prior to the veto of the Fitz John Porter bill; and in order to overcome the constitutional objections of the president the senate passed a second bill, which was framed by Senator Edmunds, in which the name of Gen. Grant does not appear. This bill is now on the speaker's table awaiting the action of the house. A large number of votes cast to-day against the defeated bill came from those who favor the placing of Gen. Grant on the retired list, but who were not inclined to send to the president a measure drawn in such language as would require him, in view of his negative action on the Porter bill, to withhold his approval. The objection of these gentlemen was to the form and not to the object of the bill.

SENATE.—The bill authorizing the sale of part of the Winnebago reservation in Nebraska passed. The bill prohibiting the importation of foreign contract labor was considered at great length.

A vote was then taken on a motion of Mr. Bayard to strike out sec. 3, which prescribes a penalty of \$1,000 for violation of the act, and the motion was not agreed to—yeas 12, nays 40. Those voting to strike out were Messrs. Butler, Coke, Colquitt, Garland, Groome, Hampton, Harrison, Maxey, Morgan, Saulsbury, Slater and Williams. Democrats voting with Republicans to retain penalty were Messrs. Brown, Call, Camden, Fair, George, Gibson, Jackson, McPherson, Pugh, Ransom and Vest.

HOUSE.—The senate amendments to the Indian bill were non-concurred in. A bill was introduced regulating the coinage and promoting the circulation of gold and silver equally. The legislative, executive and judicial bill passed, having been so amended as to make Tacoma and Seattle, Wash., ports of delivery.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The joint resolution providing for an alcoholic liquor commission, which was to-day reported back adversely by the house committee having the matter in charge, is accompanied by a report in which the committee says:

The power to regulate retail liquor traffic has from the foundation of the Union been regarded as the exclusive rights of the states rather than the general government. Attempts have been made by some states to entirely prohibit the manufacture or sale of spirituous or malt liquors, but with little apparent success; and the interests of temperance and sobriety, so much to be desired, would seem to demand wise and stringent restrictions and effective safeguards in connection with liquor traffic rather than impracticable efforts at absolute prohibition. To the several states of the Union properly belongs the right to enact such local police regulations as will throw every proper restriction around the liquor traffic compatible with the personal and property rights of citizens; but uniform police regulations enacted by congress, practically suited to the different wants and requirements of the people of all the various states, would be difficult to frame and more difficult to enact. Any attempt to control the personal habits and private conduct of the individuals should be opposed so long as he does not interfere with the personal rights of others or the peace and order of society in general. As it is a matter of grave doubt whether congress

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has a right to regulate the liquor traffic in the several states of the Union, and as there seems to be no great pressing or urgent necessity for the passage of this bill, your committee holds it is not advisable to attempt to exercise doubtful powers, which appear most properly to belong to the states themselves.

SENATE.—The consideration of the bill prohibiting the importation of foreign contract labor was concluded, and the bill passed by a vote of 50 to 9.

Mr. Lapham offered an amendment providing that the whole penalty recovered shall be paid into the United States treasury, instead of, as by the bill, permitting one-half of the penalty to go to the person who may first bring the suit. The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Blair offered an amendment making it the duty of the United States district attorney of the proper district to prosecute at the expense of the United States every case of violation of the act. Agreed to; yeas 42, nays 15.

The nays were: Butler, Groome, Hampton, Morgan, Williams, Sawyer, Vance, Williams.

The nomination of Emory Speer to be United States district judge of Georgia, kept the senate in a general uproar for two hours and a half this afternoon. At half past six a vote was taken and Mr. Speer's nomination was confirmed by 27 yeas to 26 nays. Brown being the only Democrat voting for Speer. Democratic Senators say the quarrel between Brown and Colquitt will not extend to the party in Georgia, but will die with the winter.

HOUSE.—In the McLean-Broadhead contested election case (Missouri) the committee reported in favor of the latter, the sitting member. Nearly the whole day was passed on the river and harbor bill. On motion of Mr. Price the appropriation for the harbor at Superior, Wis., was increased from \$12,500 to \$28,000.

SENATE.—After the consideration of the Des Moines river lands bill, the bill to forfeit the land grant of the Texas Pacific Railroad company was debated at much length, and finally passed, the vote being 56 to 2. The nays were Blair and Bowen. During the debate Senators Morgan of Alabama and Beck of Kentucky had a passage. Morgan said: He had been in the Democratic party before the senator from Kentucky (Mr. Beck) enjoyed the privileges of citizenship in this country. He had been a true and faithful Democrat and it did not rest with the senator from Kentucky to impeach his Democracy.

Mr. Beck, disclaimed any allusion to Mr. Morgan or any other senator. "He is not quite so important," Mr. Beck said, "in my estimation in regard to these questions as he may think I think he is. I did not happen to be born in this country, but I was not consulted about my birth. I have been a citizen of the United States since 1838. That is a good while ago. The senator may have been a very important man at that date, but I doubt if I have endeavored to perform my duty as a private citizen and public officer to the best of my ability since that time, and if the senator thinks it adds anything to his dignity or diminishes from my standing to make the suggestion that I was born in Scotland instead of the United States he is welcome to all the honor he thinks he has made by that fling at the place of my nativity."

HOUSE.—The committee on elections reported in favor of Frederick, who contested the seat of Mr. Wilson, the sitting member from the Fifth Iowa district. The river and harbor and naval bills were considered at length.

A New Device for Making a Living.

Blakely Hall tells of a new device by which a clever but unscrupulous woman in New York makes a living:

A clerk in the counting room of a prominent New York paper told me an ingenious scheme the other day which I imagine has never been exposed. A respectable dressed and prosperous looking woman came into the office as if she owned it, and was rather proud of the fact, stammered down an advertisement with the requisite change on the counter, and smiled affably on the clerk. "Still another?" asked the clerk, brightly. "Still another," repeated the woman. "This time it is a beauty, too. Come to me, you know, when you want one." She smiled again and drifted out of the room. "For three years," said the clerk, "that woman has had an advertisement in the paper every day announcing that she has for sale at her residence a piano which will go at a bargain. The advertisement invariably states that the instrument has only been in use a week and is in every respect as good as new, but that sudden reverses in fortune and a decision to move out of town force the owner to sell at once. I thought for the first five or six weeks that her lilyship was having a hard time to sell her piano. Then I began to smell a mouse. One winter night she was obliged to wait here a long while for a car, and a talk led her into the confession that she sold pianos in this way as a regular business. She has an arrangement with the manufacturer, by which he furnishes her a fresh piano as soon as the last one is sold, and as they are all of cheap make, but rather showy, they manage to go off very well. She is anxious to keep her business very quiet, but it has noised abroad, until she has several competitors, and the Sunday papers will invariably have the names of four widows who are obliged to sell their piano at once. Every one of them makes a good living by it. Piano makers, it seems to me, have rather a tempestuous time, anyway. If my memory serves me, the life and death struggle which goes on among the makers of these instruments began at the centennial—according to the advertisements. Since then all sorts of devices have seen the light, but the employment of alleged indigent widows is probably the most original.

A capital bill is related in the life of Dr. Sims, of a countryman of his own, for whom he perscribed an emetic, who said, with great simplicity: "My dear doctor, it is of no use your giving me an emetic; I tried it twice in Dublin, and it would not stay on my stomach either time." This calls to mind the story about a singer who, being rapturously encored, repeated her songs. A stranger who had been at the opera was asked how he had been pleased with her. "Not at all," said he. "Not at all! why she is the first singer in Europe." "That may be," replied the man, "but she sung so bad last night that they made her sing her songs all over again."