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## AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 4.—The President directs the pension agency at St. Louis to be removed on January 1st to Topeka, Kansas.

The annual report of the Pension Bureau shows that on June 30th, 1881, there were 268,830 pensioners; net increase during the year, 18,028. The aggregate annual value of all pensions, \$23,769,967. The annual disbursements of the office, however, largely exceed this sum. For instance, the total amount paid for pensions during the year, exclusive of certain arrears in the claims allowed prior to January 25th, 1879, was \$49,723,147, the difference being arrears of pensions.

The Commissioner of Pensions recommends that Congress be asked to appropriate \$100,000,000 for disbursement by his office the next fiscal year, ending June 20th, 1883, in payment of annual and accrued pensions, and also that an incidental deficiency appropriation of \$20,000,000 be requested for the purpose of paying all arrears of pensions to claims and those whose case have or may be favorably adjudicated the current fiscal year. The Commissioner states that 40,000 pension claims will be allowed this year, and that with a further increase in the clerical force of the bureau, as many as 60,000 may be disposed of next year. Fully two-thirds of the pending claims carry arrears of pensions, amounting to nearly \$1,500 for each claimant, and the Commissioner believes that the interest of the country will be promoted by paying off the arrears as rapidly as possible, even at a cost of bringing up the total pension disbursements to \$70,000,000 this year and \$100,000,000 next, in order to reduce the annual charge upon the Treasury more speedily thereafter. It is estimated that the aggregate annual value of United States pensions at the close of the present year will be about \$33,000,000, and the total pension roll (excluding first payments on arrears) will never exceed \$40,000,000.

Bliss, for the prosecution, commenced argument, during which he said: The right to file information in some Cincinnati cases being clear, both under the statutes of the United States and under the decisions of the courts, the question remains whether crimes charged in this information is one coming within the class of which information is allowable. The only possible limitation to right to file information is found in the fifth amendment of the Constitution already quoted. The amendment prevents the filing of information, for capital or otherwise infamous crime. The offense charged in this information being clearly not capital, it only remains to ascertain whether it is infamous. Bliss gave numerous citations of decisions as to what crimes are infamous, and held there is no case holding conspiracy to defraud or conspiracy generally to be an infamous crime. We, therefore, say broadly the conspiracy to defraud has never been held by the courts to be infamous crime, and that any passage in the text books which seems to hold are not intended to apply to conspiracies other than those which affect the administration of justice.

Col. Ingersoll followed for the defense:

I first call attention to the question of probable cause, and in the examination of this question I not only have the right, but must necessarily inquire into what is charged in the information itself, because the Court will remember that the charges in the information were made a part of the affidavits, and the affidavits together with the information are all evidence, all probable cause in this case. I do not examine the information for the purpose of demurring to it, or for the purpose of moving to quash it, but simply for the purpose of showing how much it amounts to as evidence. What does it prove? What is there here charged against my client, Mr. Brown?

He took up seriatim the counts of information, criticizing and ridiculing them as he proceeded. His objection to the first count was, it left to the prosecution to say whether he be charged relative to expediting mail service were unnecessary. It was the question first to be decided by the Postoffice Department, whether it was necessary to carry mails one or seven times a week or two, three or five miles an hour. It was not for the pleaders to say if

was necessary; they must set forth the circumstances, and it was for the court to say whether or not it was necessary or improper. It had been remarked that mails had been carried when the amount received by the United States was a mere bagatelle. Was that the only evidence of extravagance charged? Did the Government carry mails for the purpose of making money, or did the people regard the carrying of mails as one of the instruments of civilization? His doctrine was the people of the West had as much right to a mail one week as his friend from New York (Bliss) has four distributions per day. It was not sufficient for pleaders to say the thing was extravagant; they must set forth facts in order that the court might judge as to whether it was extravagant or not. Ingersoll then proceeded to call the attention of the court to what he termed inconsistencies apparent upon the face of the information, asserting that it charged McDonough with conspiring to defraud himself; that it charged Brady and McDonough with conspiring, and then charged McDonough with paying his client, Brown, \$12,000 for influencing Brady to conspire. Was it possible that one conspirator would apply to an outsider to use his influence to get the conspirator to conspire? Did not the knowledge of human nature show it to be impossible? Does not the knowledge of the transactions of men prove it to be absolutely absurd? If it should turn out to be true that McDonough paid Brown to influence Brady to conspire, that allegation would be evidence to any court on earth that Brady had not conspired. The time had passed when the pleader could usurp the place of the court and oust a jury; and the time would never come when, in a case like this, the pleader could oust the grand jury.

Ingersoll concludes his argument to-morrow.

A. S. Solomons, chairman of the committee on ways and means of the National Garfield Memorial Hospital, received the following from Mrs. Garfield:

MENTOR, Ohio, Oct. 31, 1881.

Mr. A. S. Solomons:

Dear sir.—Your letter of October 22nd, giving an account of the action of the Memorial Hospital committee has been duly received. I regard the project as a grand tribute to the memory of General Garfield and one which would be to him most gratifying. The high character of those engaged in it is the best assurance of its accomplishment in the most worthy manner. It will be my pleasure to contribute to this object.

Very truly yours,

LUCRETIA R. GARFIELD.

LITTLE ROCK, 4.—The most extraordinary murder case ever tried in this State is now in progress at Arkadelphia. The defendants are Miss Sarah Stokes and Mrs. Elizabeth Shelton, who are charged with the murder of Miss Melinda Stevens. The tragedy occurred near Mineral Springs, in Howard County, one day last April. The Stokes and Stevens are prominent people living on adjoining farms. Sarah Stokes is a young and exceedingly handsome girl of 17, has a violent temper and is quick to resent real or fancied insult. She cherishes implacable hatred towards her enemies. Some time ago a sister of Miss Stevens made very derogatory remarks concerning Miss Stokes; this coming to the ears of the latter, she swore vengeance in a terrible manner. It is said that the girls were rivals. Miss Stokes mounted a horse and accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Sheldon, set out to find Miss Stevens, when they heard she was doing some shopping in a neighboring town. The two women reached the place after a short and rapid ride, but Miss Stevens had been warned that they were searching for her and was advised to keep out of their way, and had acted on the suggestion. After visiting all the stores in the village and without finding Miss Stevens, the women started to return home. Presently as the twain came by the dwelling of the Stevens, where near the roadside the mother of Miss Stevens was standing in the yard, Miss Stokes addressed a few passionate words to her. The conversation brought out Miss Matilda Stevens, a fourteen year old sister.

The girls soon became involved in a bitter dispute. Miss Stokes denied the statement made by the elder Miss Stevens, who warmly defended her absent sister. At last Miss Stokes stung Miss Stevens to the quick and she started impulsively forward. As she approached to open

the gate, Miss Stokes sprang from her horse and plunged a long, keen bladed knife, which she had concealed in her dress, into the neck of the advancing girl. Miss Stevens sank to the ground, the blood gushed from the wound in torrents. She died in a few minutes. The inquest disclosed a rock lying clasped in one of her hands. Miss Stokes and Mrs. Sheldon were promptly arrested and have been let out on bail, pending the trial.

The verdict of the jury is awaited with keen interest. The tragedy is said to have ruined the Stokes and Stevens families, the members of which are overwhelmed with grief.

The Herald's Washington special says: The recent letter by Secretary Blaine on the Panama Canal, and the discussion incident to it, suggests a retrospect which reveals some interesting facts. The question of the International Canal and the restoration of the Monroe doctrine was first acted on by a resolution passed by the House of Representatives, March 5, 1881. A resolution appointing a select committee for the consideration of the subject was brought forward by Floyd King, of Louisiana, and was passed the 16th of December, 1879. King, as chairman of the committee, then prepared a report and resolution reaffirming the Monroe doctrine, which goes further than the letter of Blaine in asserting that whatever the nationality of the corporators of the canal, or of the source of their capital, that the interest of the United States and their rights to the possession and control of said canal or other artificial communication will be asserted and maintained whenever in their opinion it shall become necessary.

King's action in this matter sketched the mercantile character and significance of the canal and the interest of England in controlling it as a key to the commerce of the western world, which, if held by her would give her power to lay the commerce of the world under tribute. That Beaconsfield at that time had conceived the idea of seizing the point as a supplementary move to the Suez canal cannot be doubted.

Blaine's statement of the case omits another feature, discussed at that time as a necessary factor in the political relations between this country and the States of Colombia, that is the possibility of a railroad through the Isthmus connecting North and South America.

Treasurer Egan, of the Land League, at Paris, telegraphs here as follows:

"Will Wendell Phillips come to Ireland to advocate 'no rent' during the suspension of constitutional liberties? The League will pay all expenses."

Phillips, in reply, says: "Ireland to-day leads the van in the struggle for right, justice and freedom. Let Ireland only persevere in her sublime patience, keeping ever within the limits of peaceful agitation, and her victory is certain. With an unbroken front let her assault despotism in its central point. Rent, honest rent, is the surplus left after the tenant has lived in comfort—material, intellectual, personal and social comfort. Ireland owes none to-day, certainly not to the class whose government is a prison and bayonet. How cheerfully would I do my part, how gladly would I share in the honors of such a struggle, but the state of my health obliges me to give up public speaking. I can only bid you God speed, and pray for your speedy and complete success."

The Herald says: It seems that there is no reason to doubt that President Arthur is here simply to arrange private matters requiring his personal attention, and having no relation whatever to politics. Since his accession to the Presidency, Arthur has maintained absolute neutrality with regard to the political quarrels in this city and State and none of his friends doubt his intention to carry out the policy of neutrality hereafter.

A furious and first snow storm aged all day in St. Lawrence county. The snow is a foot deep in the northern part. Snow squalls along the Hudson. The Catskills are covered. Eight inches of snow is reported in northeastern Ontario. Severe snow squalls at Norwich, Conn., and other points in New England.

SAN FRANCISCO, 4.—A Yuma dispatch says: In the injunction suit of the Southern Pacific Company, of Arizona, against the Texas & Pacific, the latter has filed in the office of the clerk of the District Court here a notice of motion to dissolve

the injunction. The answer denies that the plaintiff is or ever was owner or entitled to possession of real property claimed by plaintiff; asserts that plaintiff, or Central Pacific Co., is in wrongful possession of lands traversed by the road; denies that it ever was the intention of defendant to institute more than one suit; that defendant is insolvent; that defendant ever abandoned or ceased working the road; that the Southern Pacific Co. will, within one year, have a continuous line of transcontinental railway, extending from San Francisco to Galveston, or that the lands in Arizona over which passes the Southern Pacific are public lands; asserts that the routes of the Southern Pacific and Texas Pacific are identical; that by the doctrine of accession the road became the property of defendant, and as a counter-action the answer sets out the object of the incorporation of the Texas & Pacific Co., its privileges under the franchise granted by Congress and all the facts at length, going to show that said company has performed all the necessary acts required by the terms of their charters.

Thos. Neckerson, of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe and Atlantic & Pacific railroad companies says that neither of his companies is applicant for franchise for the Ocean Shore road to run from Santa Cruz to San Francisco. It seems to be understood, however, that while these companies are not applicants for franchise there is an arrangement by which they may in the future secure the benefit of it.

The Fourth regular artillery left by special train for the east.

Chas. Crocker, President of Southern Pacific Railroad has given the Academy of Sciences \$20,000 in Southern Pacific 16 per cent. bonds, the interest to be devoted to original scientific investigation on the Pacific Slope.

COLUMBUS, 4.—The attention of Gov. Foster being called to sensational special from Washington to the New York Sun, as to a purported talk on Blaine for next President, said the writer had drawn upon his imagination wholly for facts. He had no such conversation with any one. Has no knowledge of Blaine's purposes, beyond having heard him say, "so far as the presidential disease was concerned he had been discharged—cured."

BLOOMINGTON, 4.—The people are excited over a robbery and outrage four miles west of the city. A young woman, Nannie Burton, was tied to a chair and chloroformed, while the burglars went through the house, leaving her nearly dead with pain, exhaustion and terror. If caught, the perpetrators will be lynched.

KEOKUK, 4.—The most horrible accident in the annals of the city occurred this evening about 7 o'clock. The steamer War Eagle, going south, ran against a span of the Keokuk and Hamilton bridge, breaking it into fragments. The boat was completely demolished and eight persons are known to be drowned.

KEOKUK, 4.—At about 7 o'clock this evening, shrill and continued whistling at the Keokuk and Hamilton bridge, followed by the ringing of the fire bells, drew hundreds of people to the levee to find a steamboat load of passengers had miraculously escaped from death. The palatial passenger packet War Eagle, in attempting to pass through the draw, was baffled by eddies and cross currents, and so swung around against the bridge, breaking out one span and entailing a loss of \$150,000 to the bridge. Statements appended give particulars of the disaster. Several lives are supposed to have been lost, but names could not be learned.

Ciph Gregg, head clerk of the War Eagle, made the following statement to a Gate City representative, Captain Jerry Wood was in command with Hiram Beadle and W. M. Tibbles, pilots, both being in the pilot house, though it was Beadle's watch. I had just eaten supper, and went back into the cabin to talk to some ladies with whom I was acquainted, when I heard the whistle blow for the bridge and heard the bells ring to check her headway. Knowing that it was customary to drop inside the Long River, I felt no uneasiness until I heard the alarm whistle blow twice, which meant to back her strongly. About that time Wm. Holmes, third clerk, came through the cabin, which was almost deserted, there being only 10 or 12 ladies in the cabin at the time, the remainder being on the outside looking at the bridge. He threw up his hand and passed out of the starboard gangway. I paid no attention to it, knowing that

he was alarmed easily when passing through the drawbridges, but in a few moments he returned and threw up his hands and said, "She's gone this time." I ran out on the larboard gangway or to the larboard guard, forward of the barber shop, and saw that we were broadside to the bridge, and that the boat was backing strongly. I instantly ran into the cabin and threw up both hands to give the alarm. I caught hold of one lady and cried out to the rest to follow me, as the boat was going to strike the bridge. We all passed out of the after door on to the starboard guard, reaching there just as the crash of the collision of the boat against the bridge came. I kept calling to the passengers, who seemed bewildered, to get out on to the hurricane deck. They not seeming to understand, I led the way and they followed, with several ladies clinging to me. As soon as the boat struck the bridge the span gave way quickly with a fearful crash and I felt considerably relieved, knowing well that the chances for saving life would now be much better. I looked forward and saw that she was leaning on the west pier, her stern having cleared the east pier where the break in the bridge occurred, and saw the people climbing from the boat onto the bridge. I took one lady and the rest followed. I told them to come and we would all get onto the bridge. I ran forward on the larboard side down the steps abreast of the smoke stacks and assisted in passing the passengers out upon the bridge, until the boat swung off, one lady, however, refusing to go. Seeing that a greater part of passengers had escaped and were safe the second clerk, Alex. Robinson, and myself, determined to stay with the boat. In a very short time she swung clear of the bridge and we went down on the lower deck to see if she was making water or not. Some one had been down in the hold and reported that she was making water very fast. I went up stairs and quieted the fears of the remaining ladies on the boat and all forward so that in case the boat went down we could get them off without much trouble. She then floated with the current and rounded to, with her head down the stream, and drifted to a point a few hundred yards below the elevator where, with the aid of one wheel and the assistance of parties who came in a skiff and took a line ashore, she was made fast resting on the railroad track which is covered with water, the river on the outside being about fifteen feet deep. The dredge boat, W. D. Smith, came down and held her stern in until she was securely fastened. One wheel being entirely gone, I was afraid if she swung off she would topple over. The steamer Penguin, with Capt. Hutchinson aboard, arrived as soon as they could get up steam, and with a flat tuck off the baggage. I saw Clay Gillespie in a skiff, and he assisted in getting bodies to shore. Dan Leach took a line ashore. Capt. Wood remained on the roof, and all the officers, so far as known, stood bravely at their posts. Thomas Connors, first mate, was working manfully at the leak, and remained at his post until all danger was past. The deck crew got to terra firma as soon as they could. Capt. H. M. Hutchinson, the general manager of the St. Louis and St. Paul Packet Co. said it was impossible to estimate the amount of damage done.

OMAHA, 5.—Col. Watson B. Smith, clerk of the United States Circuit Court, was found dead at 2 o'clock this morning, lying outside his office door, where he had been shot by an unknown assassin. There is great public excitement and a mass meeting was called for this afternoon to express horror at the crime and take steps towards the arrest of the assassin. Col. Smith was a highly respected citizen and leaves an estimable family. He served in the war in a Michigan regiment, and has been clerk of the court for 14 years, has been chairman of the committee of citizens to enforce the Slocum liquor license law and very prominent in its aggressive work. Public opinion connects the two things.

IOWA CITY, 5.—This city was thrown into a great excitement this morning by a terrible tripple tragedy. A. Steen, a prominent figure in police circles for several months, cut his wife's throat, chopped up his mother-in-law and killed himself by poison. Steen and wife are dead and the mother-in-law may recover. Jealousy, insanity and liquor are the causes.

WASHINGTON, 6.—The Confeder-