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## AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 26.—Representatives Randall and Long, of the sub-committee of the House committee on appropriations, having in charge the naval appropriation bill, had a conference with Secretary Chandler to-day in reference to an appropriation for the navy for the last six months of the present fiscal year. The sub-committee favored the combination of last year's appropriation bill for that branch of the service, but, it is understood, that Secretary Chandler expressed himself in favor of some of the Senate committee's amendments of last session, in respect to which the conference committees were unable to agree. Secretary Chandler will give his views to the full committee Monday.

The chief of the Bureau of Statistics has prepared a statement of imports and exports of the United States for the current fiscal year. The excess of the value of exports over imports of merchandise for the twelve months ending October 31, 1884, was \$81,583,688. The value of gold and silver coin and bullion imported into and exported from the United States for the first four months of the present fiscal year is as follows: July exports, gold, \$159,106; silver, \$2,860,658; imports, gold, \$2,233,103; silver, \$2,105,018; excess of imports, \$468,357. August exports, gold, \$175,619; silver, \$2,499,155; imports, gold, \$2,758,300; silver, \$1,248,157; excess of imports, \$1,331,083. September exports, gold, \$77,350; silver, \$3,330,042; imports, gold, \$4,772,072; silver, \$1,004,445; excess of exports, \$25,275. October exports, gold, \$192,533; silver, \$2,573,652; imports, gold, \$2,420,702; silver, \$1,942,503; excess of imports, \$1,006,470.

The annual report of the Comptroller of currency shows that during the year ending November 1st, 1884, 191 banks have been organized, with an aggregate capital of \$16,042,280; circulating notes have been issued to these new associations amounting to \$3,866,230; total number in existence on Nov. 1st, 1884, 2,671, the largest number in operation at any one time. Eleven national banks, with an aggregate capital of \$1,285,000 have failed and been placed in the hands of receivers during the year. The different items of resources and liabilities, as tabulated, indicate that the business of the National Banks during the past eleven years has generally increased; the items of United States bonds in circulation have decreased during the past two years. The aggregate of liabilities of the National banks to depositors and correspondents were reduced during the year upwards of \$94,900,000. This reduction of liabilities and general reduction of loans by banks, which amounted to over \$63,000,000 during the year, the Comptroller says, was doubtless occasioned by the financial troubles of last May, and general depression of business. During the same period the National banks increased their cash resources by about \$21,000,000 specie, and \$11,000,000 legal tenders and United States certificates deposited for the same. The total number of banks still in operation, organized under act of June 3d, 1864, and provisions of the Revised Statutes, the periods of succession, of which will terminate unless hereafter renewed, during the years previous to 1900 is 1,488, with a capital of \$321,461,145, and a circulation of \$194,745,305. The banks held on Nov. 1st, 1884, \$155,604,400 of three per cent. bonds, payable at the pleasure of the Government, of which \$9,586,200 have been called for payment, interest ceasing Nov. 1st, 1884. If these bonds are not replaced by others bearing interest, there will be an immediate reduction of circulation of 90 per cent. of their amount. On Nov. 1st, there were \$194,190,500 three per cent. bonds, payable at the pleasure of the Government. These bonds will probably be paid within the next two years, even if considerable changes are made in the tariff, and from 1887 to 1891, when \$250,000,000 of 4 per cent. mature, there will be no bonds which the Government can call in for redemption. There is no doubt that the accumulation of surplus revenue, if it continues to accrue at the present rate during the four years between 1887 and 1891, will be more than sufficient to pay off the 4 per cent. bonds; and from 1892 until 1907, it will be impossible for the Government to use any of its surplus revenue for the payment of its bonds, except at the option of their holders. It is apparent that the Government cannot accumulate and hold its surplus revenues, even during the short period from 1887 to 1892, without great disturbances to the business interests of the country, and much less can it do so during the longer period from 1892 to 1907. It appears, therefore, that the foregoing considerations should be given due weight in any plan for funding the four per cent. bonds maturing in 1907, and the Comptroller therefore suggests that the principal difficulties of the situation may perhaps be obviated, as well as a reduction of interest effected by funding these bonds into others, which shall mature in proportionate amounts at certain fixed intervals. Thus, \$738,000,000 four per cent. bonds might be funded into an equal amount of 3 or 2 1/2 per cent. bonds, one-fifth of which, or \$147,600,000, to mature at intervals of five years, the first instalments of \$147,600,000 each on the first of July in the last year of each succeeding period of

five years, viz.: 1902, 1907, 1912 and 1917. The average maturity of these five classes of bonds would be the same as that of the present four per cent. bonds, viz.: July 1, 1907. Whatever course may be deemed expedient by Congress in regard to the funding or future payment of the funded debt, the Comptroller is of the opinion that it is perfectly safe, and will afford great benefit to the public to permit an issue by the national banks of circulation to the extent of 100 per cent. of the par value of bonds deposited, instead of 99 per cent. Even admitting that the bonds representing the public debt, when funded at lower rates, might at times in the future be below par in the market, the government would be forced to redeem the notes of insolvent national banks, and always have the right to cancel the bonds on deposit as security for the same, and thus extinguish an amount of its debt equal, dollar for dollar, to the notes redeemed. It is further submitted that the profit on circulation may be increased to a point which will induce the banks to keep up their circulation to the maximum and stop the contraction of their circulation, which is now occurring, by repealing the law taxing such circulation at the rate of one-half of one per cent. semi-annually. The expenses of keeping up the national banking system by the Government are at present paid in part from the proceeds of this tax, and in part by assessment on the banks. If the tax be abolished, all these expenses should be paid by the last-named method.

In concluding this subject the Comptroller wishes to have it distinctly understood that he is not in favor of any measure which will cause inflation. He is of the opinion that the present aggregate of paper circulation, made up of legal tender and national bank notes, and gold and silver certificates, is ample for all the needs of business. He believes, however, that the sudden contraction of national bank circulation, which, without appropriate legislation, is imminent, will seriously embarrass the business of the country, and that if this contraction is permitted to go on it may result in an entire discontinuance of the issues of notes by national banks. The Comptroller believes that this form of currency, which can be increased or diminished in accordance with the natural laws which control business, should be continued in preference to any other now permitted by law. In regard to circulation based on silver, the Comptroller says: The people of the United States now hold a paper circulation based upon silver dollars equal in amount to more than one-third of the national bank circulation. If it is for the best interests of the United States to issue a circulation based upon silver, the Comptroller believes the circulation should be issued upon coin or bullion which contains a sufficient number of grains of silver to have an intrinsic value equal in the markets of the world to its nominal value. Some writers have suggested that a circulating medium might be based upon bullion, both gold and silver, and the Comptroller is of the opinion that, under certain restrictions and regulations it would be far more correct in principle to issue silver certificates based upon the deposit of silver bullion, to be valued in the exact proportion of silver to gold, than to continue the issue of certificates under the present law. If this were done, silver bars might be stamped at their market value and held in the Treasury for the redemption of certificates, which would call an amount of silver equal in value to their nominal or face value expressed in gold. Bullion represented by certificates should be periodically valued at its market price in gold, and a certain proportionate amount of silver so held might perhaps be coined to provide means for the redemption of certificates, if redemption was desired for business purposes. The Comptroller believes that the use of silver as money in this manner, and its periodical valuation would have more influence in appreciating the market value of silver among the nations of the world than the present arbitrary coinage of 412 1/2 grains of silver as a dollar. The issue of currency based upon silver should not, however, be unlimited, and the present laws making the purchase and coinage of a fixed amount of silver bullion mandatory are very pernicious in their effect, as the unlimited and continued issuance of full legal tender silver coin and certificates based thereon, of the intrinsic value of less than their face, has already caused the hoarding of gold, and will eventually drive it from the channels of trade, thereby causing a practical suspension of gold payments. There are many indications of this; notably, the uneasiness in financial circles in June and July last, caused by the reserve of gold in the Treasury falling so near to the point at which, under the law, the issuance of gold certification ceases. It will also be observed that, during the present year, national banks throughout the country have increased their holdings of gold, including certificates, in the sum of \$19,615,350.

The Comptroller concludes his report with discussion of the subject of bank examinations, and the consideration of the financial troubles of May, 1884. Rear-Admiral Jonett has submitted suggestions to Secretary Chandler concerning the movements of the North Atlantic squadron which, if adopted, will result in taking all the vessels under his command to New Orleans in the early part of February next. Some of the squadron will arrive in time to take part in the ceremonies attending the opening of the Exposition.

Count Oyama Iwas, Japanese Minister of War, is expected to arrive in New York in a few days on an official visit to this country.

About 15 Senators and 20 Representatives have returned to the city. Most of the others are expected by Saturday night. It is the opinion of a number of those who have returned, that the majority of the members of Congress will visit the exposition at New Orleans. They are in doubt, however, as to whether both houses will take an early adjournment for the purpose of making a visit.

NEW YORK, 26.—A meeting of the joint executive committee of the New York Associated Press and the Western Associated Press, called in New York to investigate the published charges of partisanship in their dispatches during the campaign, and their collection of election returns, was attended by the members as follows: Charles A. Dana of the New York Sun, chairman; Whitelaw Reid of the Tribune, secretary; James Gordon Bennett of the Herald, represented by Dr. G. W. Hamer; Richard Smith of the Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette, and W. N. Halderman of Louisville Courier-Journal. After a thorough investigation of the work, including circulars of instruction, correspondence with candidates, complaints from both democratic and republican sources, dispatches sent out, returns received by telegraph, and the originals filed by the senders in the several telegraph offices. Messrs. W. N. Halderman and Richard Smith of the Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette were appointed a sub-committee to summarize the conclusions reached by the members. They presented the following report, which was unanimously adopted, and the chairman and secretary of the joint executive committee were instructed to sign the same and transmit it to the members and clients of the two associations:

To Members and Clients of the Associated Press: The joint executive committee did not deem it advisable during a sharply contested campaign to take public notice of the misrepresentations and unwarranted criticisms published against the Associated Press, as observation shows that during such seasons of excitement men are moved by passion rather than by reason. Now that the party contest is closed, the committee deem it their duty to make public the following statement: A meeting of the committee was called for the twenty-fifth inst., to which David W. Stone, Esq., President of the New York Associated Press, and the Hon. Jos. Pulitzer, of its Executive Committee, were invited. The latter was, unfortunately, out of the city, but Mr. Stone attended and gave the committee the benefit of his counsel and experience.

A careful review of the work done, and of the official records warrant the statement that the high character and non-partisan fairness that have given the Associated Press its hold upon public confidence in the past have been firmly maintained, and that no improper influences, political or otherwise, have been permitted to enter into the management. The work—strictly confined within the limits prescribed by rules which experience has proved to be safe and just to all parties—has been larger than in any previous campaign. This was due to a greater number of party divisions and to the demands of the press for a fuller service. The State conventions, nearly a hundred in number, and the national conventions of all the political organizations, were reported with a thoroughness and rapidity surpassing anything ever before attempted. The subsequent official action of the party committees, the letters, addresses and movements of the candidates, were carefully provided for, under instructions similar in language and spirit. It has never been considered as within the legitimate functions of this non-partisan association to report ordinary campaign meetings, or to transmit scandals that spring up during such heated periods. All such have been rigorously excluded from the Associated Press reports. The charge that election returns in the State of New York were withheld are disproved by the fact that out of a total of 10,099 wards and towns in the State, the Associated Press received on election night returns from 630; whereas, in 1876, returns were received from only 245, and in 1880 from only 293. The extent, rapidity and substantial accuracy of this service were never equaled before in this State, the total vote of which in 1884 reached the enormous number of 1,167,003, so nearly divided between the two great parties as to leave to the victor only about 1,100 of a plurality. The investigation shows that, while there were some serious errors in the telegraphing of our reports, especially from remote points, due in part to their being transmitted over different lines of telegraph, and while these errors in the main diminished the apparent strength of Cleveland, there was but one error of importance in the office of the Associated Press. This was in a bulletin issued on Nov. 6, two days after the election, known as "Bulletin No. 14." In making this up one of the mathematicians employed, in the absence of full returns from districts, instead of continuing to estimate the percentage of democratic gains, as had been done before, undertook to estimate the actual plurality, and by this process figured out a plurality of 473 for Mr. Blaine. The sub-agent in charge of the office sent this out without sufficient scrutiny, but it was corrected as soon

as its inaccuracy was positively ascertained. In regard to this error, the committee find no evidence of any intentional wrongdoing on the part of the sub-agent. From first to last, there was no effort to control or affect the returns by any member of the committee in any interest, nor any interference of any sort; and the general instructions under which the work was done was strictly fair and non-partisan, and more thorough and minute than ever before.

(Signed) CHAS. A. DANA, Chairman.  
WHITELAW REID, Secretary.

General office of the Associated Press, New York, Nov. 26, 1884.

CHICAGO, 26.—After hearing further evidence in the Leman-Brand contest, including that of E. B. Washburne and other well known citizens, the jury this evening adjourned till Monday. The local papers will publish a statement to-morrow to the effect that there is good authority for the statement that the jury, before adjourning, found indictments against the three judges and two clerks of election in the second precinct of the 18th ward, on the charge of making fraudulent returns to the county clerk, and instructed the U. S. district attorney to draw up the papers. If the case should be decided in favor of Brand, the Illinois legislature would be democratic; hence, also, the successor of Gen. Logan, and if decided in favor of Leman, the legislature will be a tie.

TORONTO, 26.—The superintendent of the Canadian Pacific railway states that the road has got all of its supplies, such as rails, fastenings, etc., for the winter north of Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains. Twenty thousand men will be employed in construction all winter. The section north of Lake Superior will be completed between now and April 1st, and the Rocky Mountain section by October 1st next.

PHILADELPHIA, 27.—W. D. Jones, of this city, the largest individual landowner in the mountain region of southwest Virginia and Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee, who has just returned from a visit to his property, to-day made some interesting statements about the mysterious malady which has caused such fatality among the people there. The country, he says, is wholly unlike anything he has ever seen or heard of in the United States, and, in his opinion, its physical and geological peculiarities are responsible for the trouble. The waters of five good-sized rivers, which have their rise within a very narrow radius, are very largely mineral, and the hills are full of iron and copper ore and coal, lying, in many instances, close together. During the summer and autumn, for a period of three months or more, great drouth prevailed, and nearly all the streams dried up, so that not only the people, but animals suffered for want of water. All sorts of experiments were resorted to. Most of the water secured was from caverns and small lakes. The little water that remains in the most active springs became so thoroughly saturated with various mineral substances that it was almost sure death to drink it in any quantity. Even the best of this dangerous stuff had to be hauled five and six miles. Mr. Jones says that in all about 200 deaths have occurred from mineral poisoning, and there are about 300 persons still sick. In all cases persons have complained for a day or two and have then been seized with violent hemorrhage and nausea, dying in a short time. The doctors all agree that it is mineral poisoning and have treated it as such, in many cases successfully. Children and women suffer most, while men of strong constitutions manage to get over the attack. The only outside relief that has been tendered the afflicted locality is \$1,200 from the Cattle Convention in session at St. Louis.

WASHINGTON, 27.—Dr. J. B. Hunnibell, of the Red Cross Association, left here to-night to visit the locality of the mysterious disease prevalent in Virginia, and afford relief to the sufferers.

OWINGSVILLE, 27.—A party of a dozen armed men, calling themselves regulars, went to the house of John G. Hughes, Pine Grove, Rowan county, Tuesday night, on the pretense of whipping him. Hughes resisted and was killed. Three of the men have been arrested, charged with the crime.

BENNINGTON, Vt., 27.—State Attorney Edward L. Bates was shot to-day while returning from riding. A man named Bennett, of Shaffersburg, rode past on horseback and fired at him twice, one shot taking effect on his chin. The wound is not serious. When further down South street, Bennett fired the remaining barrels of his revolver in the air. No possible provocation is known. Officers are in pursuit.

PHILADELPHIA, 27.—Falco Sylvester, an Italian, was stabbed by Katerno Castini, an Italian woman. Sylvester was held by the woman's husband and another man, and seventeen wounds inflicted.

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio, 27.—Dr. John Maxwell yesterday afternoon, after sending his wife to town to shop, administered to his four children, aged from four to thirteen, a combination of aconite and chloroform; then placed cloths saturated with chloroform over their faces placed them on a bed. He then administered a similar dose to himself and laid down to die with them. When Mrs. Maxwell returned the eldest girl was dead, and the others unconscious. Assistance was summoned and every effort made to revive them. During the night two more of the children died. Maxwell revived somewhat, and was placed in

hail. He refused to talk. He left letters saying he was tired of life and wanted his children to go with him to avoid suffering. He had recently been indicted for libel by another physician, and this together with business embarrassment, are supposed to have been the incentive.

HALIFAX, N. S., 27.—Discrepancies are reported to have been discovered in the accounts of the Annapolis branch of the Union bank of Halifax. Agent Alexander Shearer has been missing since Monday, and it is believed, has absconded. The amount of the defalcation is not yet known.

WASHINGTON, 27.—The general superintendent of the life saving service in his annual report says: The total number of disasters during the year was 439; total value of property involved, \$10,607,940; total value of property saved, \$9,171,354; total value of property lost, \$1,446,586; total number of persons involved, 4,432; total number of persons saved, 4,412; total number of persons lost, 20; total number of persons succored at stations, 522; total number of days' succor afforded, 1,319; number of vessels totally lost 64. Investigations held after each case of loss of life show that the twenty persons who perished were severally beyond human aid, and that in no instance could their loss be attributed to any failure in duty on the part of the life-saving crews. The number of disasters during the year exceed by 23 the number the year preceding, which was 71 more than any previous year in the history of the service. The amount of property involved was \$3,365,220 greater than in the preceding year, but the amount lost was \$124,434 less, while the amount saved was \$3,489,654 more. The assistance rendered during the year, in saving vessels and cargoes, has been much larger than in any previous year, 390 vessels, which is 53 more than in the preceding year, having been worked off when stranded, repaired when damaged, piloted out of dangerous places, and similarly assisted by station crews. There were, besides, 240 instances—115 more than in preceding years—where vessels running into danger of stranding were warned off by the night signals of patrols, most of them thus being probably saved from partial or total destruction.

In conclusion Superintendent Kimball says: "The splendid efficiency of the corps is attributable mainly to its being made up entirely on grounds of professional qualifications, the policy of keeping the service entirely exempt from political influences having been steadily continued."

BALTIMORE, 28.—A report has reached here that Geo. Briscoe, colored, was lynched on Wednesday night at Newbridge, in Anne Arundel County, in this State. He was charged with robbery, and when delivered to the constable to be taken to jail at Annapolis the crowd waylaid the constable and took Briscoe and hung him. He had previously been warned to leave the country because of frequent robberies in the neighborhood.

NEW YORK, 28.—3's, 101 1/4; 4's, 14 1/4; 4's 22 1/2; Pacific 6's, 29; Central Pacific 34 1/4; Burlington, 21; Northern Pacific, 18 1/4, pfd, 41 1/4; Northwestern, 91 1/4; New York Central, 89 1/4; Oregon Navigation, 17 1/4; Trans-continental, 14; Pacific Mail, 52 1/4; Panama, 98; St. Louis and San Francisco 21; Texas Pacific, 13 1/4; Union Pacific, 50 1/4; Fargo Express, 7; Western Union, 60 1/4.

BALTIMORE, 28.—The steamship Decatur, H. Miller, Captain Clark, which sailed from this point yesterday afternoon for Boston, was sunk one half mile from the lower Craghill Channel, by collision with the steamship William Lawrence, Capt. Hooper. Both vessels belong to the Merchant's and Miner's Transportation Company. The Lawrence was from Savannah.

MIDDLETOWN, N.Y., 28.—The Middletown National Bank has failed; the doors closed this morning. The failure was caused by President Thomas King, who accepted large drafts from Benj. D. Brown, grain dealer, of Indianapolis and Burlington, without security. Brown has made assignment. Capital \$200,000, surplus \$115,000. The extent of the loss is not known yet definitely. Depositors will lose nothing. President King takes all the blame on himself. His recent advances were made without the knowledge of the other officers and directors. The bank examiner is on the way from Washington. There was a slight run on a savings bank here, but the latter is in no way involved.

WASHINGTON, 28.—The annual report of Treasurer Wyman, of the United States, shows that the net revenue of the government was less than in 1883 by \$49,767,712. The decrease in receipts from customs is \$19,739,007; in receipts from internal revenue, \$23,134,248; and in receipts from miscellaneous sources, \$8,549,248. From the aggregate of these items should be deducted an increase of \$1,854,840 in the receipts from sales of public lands, leaving the net reduction as stated above. The net expenditures aggregated \$244,126,244; decrease from the amount in 1883, \$21,281,893; the surplus applicable to the reduction of the public debt amounted to \$104,393,625; a decrease of \$28,485,818 from the previous year. The items of expenditures showing a decrease are as follows: On account of the War Department, \$9,481,779; Interior Department, \$11,493,930; interest on public debt \$4,581,752. There was an increase of \$2,242,411 in expenditures on account of civil and miscellaneous, and \$2,009,161 in expenditures on account of the Navy Department. The disbursing of