

BY TELEGRAPH.

PER WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, 7.—Jay Gould said to a reporter yesterday, in answer to questions that the consolidation of the telegraph companies, against which Rufus Hatch asked an injunction, had been finally accomplished, so that it is not likely to be disturbed by any legislative or judicial action. It is a transaction completed on just and fair terms to all concerned, as well as to the public, and in compliance with law. It cannot be disturbed by legislation, and as you will see by the very able decision of Judge Barrett, which has been concurred in by the Attorney-General of the State, that the courts affirm the absolute legality of all that had been done. I am very glad to have the opportunity to say the object of the consolidation was to carry out a long cherished plan of developing in the United States an efficient system of cheap telegraphy on a great scale, both by sea and land. When I was in Europe in 1879, I was struck by seeing how much more freely the telegraph was used in ordinary private business there than in this country. This is especially true of Switzerland. Of course the distances to be covered in this country are so enormous and the population so sparse that we cannot for some time to come expect to see the work of covering the whole country with a telegraphic system done as cheaply here as in a little country like Switzerland, but I am sure under one system without conflicting interests to look after, and with the expenses of only one organization instead of three or four to be met, such economies can be introduced into American telegraphy that the rates to press and public can be gradually and systematically cheapened without impairing the efficiency of the service.

Reporter—Do you think, then, this will be the result of the change? Gould—Of course I do, for it will be the policy and purpose of the new company to effect this. I went into it with this view and I shall certainly use my constant effort and all my influence to make this policy and this purpose successful.

Reporter—Of course you know this is not the general impression, and there are movements in the produce, stock and cotton exchanges looking to new telegraphic projects? Gould—Yes, I know this, and I am not surprised at these projects nor at the solicitude with which merchants and business men have looked at the consolidation, about which so many stories have been afloat. If there had been any truth in these stories the exchanges would have had very good reason to set about organizing new companies, but when sensible people come to understand General Eckert's practical comprehensive plans for the future, which embraces establishing direct special wires between business exchanges all over the country, and putting them into direct communication with each other, and with the great markets of Europe, I think they will see matters in a different light. My idea of a telegraph system is to supply everybody who wishes control of telegraphic facilities, with those facilities giving private business houses wires of their own whenever they require them, and doing the same things for newspapers, exchanges and railways; in short, all interests. The new company now has under contract through a new cable company organized at Albany, two cables between this country and England, which are to be laid early in the coming summer. Cables will also be laid from Cuba, where they will connect with our present system to other West India Islands, to Brazil and other harbors of South America as well as from San Francisco to China, Japan, Oceania and Australia, with a northern line by way of Puget Sound to Alaska and Northern Asia, connected at Kamchatka with the Russian system, so that at no distant day St. Petersburg will be in direct communication with New York by way of Asia, as well as Europe, and England will reach her Australian colonies through New York and by our American lines, cheaper and more expeditiously than over English wires through the Red Sea and by way of India.

Reporter—Then you contemplate a general cable and telegraphic system around the world? Gould—Certainly we do, and we contemplate such system as an American system, of which New York, and not

London, shall be the centre. I see no reason why the United States should permit the position, which geographically belongs to us, to be taken away from us by England. While rival telegraphic companies in this country were fighting each other for domestic business, they could neither do the domestic business on sound principles, nor do anything to compete with great Britain for the general telegraphic business of the world. Now we have changed all this, how completely you may judge, when I tell you that since the consolidation \$10,000,000 has been subscribed to carry our cable connections into effect.

Jay Gould, this morning, changed his office to the Western Union, Vanderbilt remains a director. Gen. Eckert becomes general manager this morning. The American Union stockholders this morning ratified the consolidation.

The effort to pass the river and harbor appropriation bill through the House under a suspension of the rules, which failed Monday, will be renewed next Monday, with good prospects of success, as a change of only four votes would have made up the requisite two-thirds this afternoon, and the friends of the bill being entirely confident that it would pass readily as heretofore, had neglected to make sure of the attendance of all the members known to favor it. Horace Davis was one of the minority who voted against the measure, on the novel ground that it was unfairly constituted, and contained many items of no possible benefit.

The House postoffice committee agreed to appropriate \$1,000,000 for the encouragement of the foreign mail service the coming year, to compensate the various steamboat companies for carrying mail in accordance with the recommendation of the Postmaster General on condition the steamers be iron and American made. An attempt was made to provide they be American built, but it failed.

In the Whittaker court martial, General Schofield testified that the cadets appeared intensely indignant after the outrage was committed. It was as unfair to suspect them as to suspect the guests of a first-class hotel of complicity or sympathy with a great robbery. He believed the affair originated outside the limits of New York, and would continue to investigate the matter as long as he lived, until he reached the truth. He had his own theory and suspicions. He thought the motive of outside parties was much stronger than any motive Whittaker could possibly have had.

Major Pipes, officer in charge of West Point was the next witness. He gave a long account of finding Whittaker.

WASHINGTON, 8.—The committee on foreign affairs unanimously adopted the report of the sub-committee, Hill, of Ohio, chairman, upon the "Crapo" resolution, declaring the policy of the United States in reference to the inter-oceanic canal, and instructed Hill to report the same with the substitute resolutions accompanying, to the House, with the recommendation of their adoption. The report reviews the entire question and concludes as follows: "Your committee, therefore, as an affirmation of the Monroe Doctrine, believe that Americans must rule America, and that as a notice to all the world, the United States, cherishing a friendly spirit to all nations, will adhere to strict neutrality in all trans-Atlantic affairs, and expect like non-interference in all American affairs whether in the northern or southern, or western hemisphere, and that we recommend the adoption of the following resolution: That the establishment of any protectorate by any one of the Powers of Europe over any independent State of this continent or the introduction from that quarter of a scheme or policy which would carry with it the right of any European power to interfere with their concerns or to control in any other manner their destiny, or the transfer to any such power by conquest or cession or possession in any other way of any of those states or any portion thereof is a measure to which this government is opposed and should such an attempt be made it will regard and treat it as dangerous to our peace, prosperity and safety. That the construction of any public works connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans by any European power whether the same be constructed at Panama or elsewhere would be in violation to the letter of the Monroe doctrine and could not be sanctioned by the government of the United States. That

should any such work be constructed across the Isthmus of Panama or elsewhere this government will insist that it shall not be under the control of a European government or power, that it shall be free to the commerce of the world upon equal terms and that no discrimination shall be ever against the United States in peace or war. That the President be requested to take the steps necessary and proper for the abrogation of any existing treaties whose terms are in conflict with this declaration of principles.

BOSTON, 8.—The steamer *Bohemian*, reported wrecked on the Irish coast, was one of the six steamers of the Leyland line plying between this port and Liverpool. She was built at Belfast in 1870, and combined speed with large carrying capacity. She was 400 feet long and had engines of 500-horse power.

Only the second mate and 20 seamen of the *Bohemian* were saved, making nine persons drowned. The vessel was probably worth \$500,000 when wrecked. The cargo was worth \$238,000; insurance not known.

BUFFALO, 8.—Shortly after nine o'clock this morning the arched roof of the old New York Central depot, overweighted with accumulated snow and weakened by the removal of the former offices, which had formed a large portion of its support, fell, burying a number of cars and human beings beneath the tangled mass of iron, wood, glass, snow and brick work. The removal of the ruins was immediately begun by the fire department and the employees of the railroads. The first two bodies recovered were those of Capt. Byrnes and Henry Walters; shortly after the workmen found the mangled body of Wm. Wells, clerk for the car inspector, Howe, of the Lake Shore Railroad. Three other bodies were found later, John A. Jackson, colored, was in the closet of the waiting room, and immediately on hearing the crash smashed a window and jumped into the street. He was followed by Mr. I. Odell. J. Covey, who has charge of the news stand, escaped through the window by the smashing of the glass, in which he cut his hands severely.

ST. PAUL, 8.—The scout who followed Sitting Bull across the line reports him now safe in Woody Mountain with some 300 persons. The country has no buffalo and starvation awaits the hostiles. Crow King's band, 315 strong, surrendered at Fort Buford. He is the next chief to Sitting Bull and says the latter will soon come in. He wants his band settled on a reservation to live in the ways of civilized life.

NEW YORK, 9.—It is ascertained, notwithstanding their denials, that Vanderbilt, Gould, Sage and D. O. Mills had an important conference last week and agreed to sustain and advance the price of certain securities, including Gould and Vanderbilt's stock. Vanderbilt's friends believe the general outlook for the new year promising of great prosperity, and such a revolution will take place in the operations of all steel rail lines that henceforward America will be able to deliver grain and produce on the other side of the water much cheaper than it can be produced abroad. It is stated that some large lots of New York Central and Union Pacific stocks were cut up to small lots for export on order from London to Amsterdam.

WASHINGTON, 9.—The counting of the electoral votes in joint convention of the two houses of Congress to-day is not expected to occupy more than two hours and unless a considerably larger portion of the afternoon be thus consumed both branches will immediately afterwards proceed with their respective legislative business. The House will continue consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill and the Senate will endeavor to dispose of the pension appropriation bill, the debate upon which has been already prolonged beyond all expectation. The intention of the party leaders to bring forward the House funding bill with the Senate committee amendments immediately after passing the pension bill has been abandoned, and the postoffice appropriation bill is now on the Senate calendar ready for action and will be given precedence.

The resolution of inquiry into the New York Custom House appointments, which the Senate adopted yesterday, on motion of Conkling, is understood to be his parting shot at President Hayes' so-called civil service policy, and some very curious developments are predicted.

The Senate committee on educa-

tion and labor yesterday agreed to recommend the passage of Teller's bill, authorizing the state of Colorado to select under the agricultural college act ninety thousand acres from any surveyed public land in said State, not double minimum priced land or a proportional amount of double minimum land, provided that in no case shall mineral lands be selected.

The Secretary of the Interior has reversed the recent decision of the commissioner of general land office, respecting the Pueblo lands of Monterey, Commissioner Williamson decided that the northern boundary of the grant was at the great bend of the river three miles south of the line now established by Secretary Schurz, who holds that tract number three of the city lands was properly included within the official survey. On this tract are situated the wharves and warehouses of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company, who claim titles from the city, which is now confirmed.

KANSAS CITY, 9.—A delegation of influential stockmen in Colorado and New Mexico called at the office of the *Commercial Indicator* to authorize the denial of the report telegraphed in eastern papers, stating that hundreds of cows are dying with epidemic diseases. The facts are that few cattle are dying in Mexico from eating what is known as Loco weed, which starts earlier than the grass, and cattle feed upon it. It is confined to certain localities, is not general and disappears as soon as grass comes. Last May the *Indicator* published an analysis of the Loco weed, furnished by the Department of Agriculture at Washington, and all stockmen agree that while the disease caused by it is usually fatal, it is nowise epidemic. A petition is now being circulated in the west for the appointment of a commission to further examine into the matter and discover an antidote if possible.

NEW ORLEANS, 9.—The water has reached Franklin Street, the entire section west being submerged, between the new canal Bayou St. John. The water now covers all the west of Prieve Street except a strip of a few squares on Canal Street north of Bayou St. John and the old basin. The water covers almost the entire section west of Claybourne Street and far down the Elysianfield Street. All the vegetable gardens in the rear of the city are damaged and some loss of stock reported, no estimate can be made of the damage done by the overflow and even greater damage seems probable since the water continues rising. The Fair grounds are entirely submerged. Claybourne Street cars are only running to the bridge on the old basin, the balance of the road being impassable. The greatest difficulty is experienced by the inhabitants of the overflowed districts in securing provisions. This district embraced about 500 thickly settled acres lying along the Louisville and Nashville and New Orleans and Mobile railroads. It will probably be many days before trains can pass over the road from Michigan to the out stations.

The *Tribune* says though the declaration of the committee on inter-oceanic canal is less positive than was expected it is perhaps sufficient if Congress will put it into the President's hands the means of carrying these views into effect. If the announcement of them should be disregarded or will give prompt and practical aid to some American enterprise which can defeat the scheme of De Lesseps, the people of the United States are not willing to see the canal in hands which may prove to be unfriendly hands.

CHICAGO, 9.—Caleb T. Fay, a representative merchant of San Francisco, interested in the Geneva award fund, addressed the Chicago Board of Trade to-day, and leaves for St. Louis, to-morrow, to address the Merchants' Exchange of that place. His object is to urge commercial bodies to ask Congress to distribute without further delay the residue of that fund to the actual sufferers. Mr. Fay's mission is said to be endorsed by the Trustees of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

Three grocers on State Street, whose samples of butter had been analyzed and found to contain from 59 to 80 per cent. of hog product, were before Justice Wallace this afternoon and fined ten dollars each for violation of the statutes; the only defence they set up was that they were ignorant of the law. It is quite probable that the butterine and oleomargine business will be ruined by the vigorous and praiseworthy efforts of the agent appointed by the Butter and Cheese Association to ferret out these cases.

Senator elect Miller, of California, who passed an hour with President-elect Garfield, on Monday, said to a *Times* reporter to-day he believed that Gen. Garfield would make a President with whom the people would be amply satisfied. He declined to state the nature or substance of his interview with him on the ground that the talk was entirely confidential of California and her prospects. He talked freely of the gold mining of the State, and said it is progressing favorably. Both the quartz and gravel mines are yielding good returns. The Comstock lode, Nevada, is in bad condition, and the mines are yielding absolutely nothing at present. They are a constant decline in San Francisco where most of the stock is held. Taking away a million dollars a month in the way of assessment is the cause of the temporary depression in monetary affairs in San Francisco. Speaking of the treaty the Senator says: Californians do not think the Chinese in their midst worthy to be made citizens, and they will not be satisfied with any treaty which admits of their naturalization.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

Seventeen persons perished in a Whelfield, England, colliery explosion.

The Boers recently made another attack on the British, but were repulsed.

Five hundred cigar makers at Louisville have struck for an advance.

The heaviest gale for years prevails at Pensacola. Much damage to shipping.

They say now that Vice-President Wheeler is to be Sherman's successor in the Treasury.

The Atlantic and Pacific and Texas and Pacific railroads are vigorously pushing forward.

The Servian Congress has unanimously agreed to close all monasteries in its country.

Expenditures on the Brooklyn bridge since the commencement are over \$12,000,000.

The ship *Brewer* is wrecked at the Shetland Islands and 13 of the crew drowned. Seven were saved.

A fire yesterday nearly swept out of existence the town of Walnut, Iowa, on the Rock Island road.

The ice is so heavy at Long Branch that people walk out to sea 200 yards. The ocean pier is badly damaged.

The St. Louis *Times* sold at auction to-day for \$24,000, to Frank J. Bowman, attorney for the bondholders.

A train on the New York Central road this afternoon was wrecked near Niagara. Two passengers were hurt.

One hundred and forty-eight deaths from small-pox were reported to-day in New York—nearly double the average number.

Although terrorism is undiminished in the west and South of Ireland, there is a decided improvement in other parts of the country.

The government is prepared to defeat the Fenian schemes and many tenants are now paying rents, although heretofore refusing.

Most of the breaks in the New Orleans levees have been closed, but the water is still rising and is within four squares of Clapboard street.

The Spanish ministry has resigned because the King will not sign the bill for the conversion of redeemable loans into different interest-bearing bonds.

The loss by fire in Indianapolis, Feb. 8, of O. J. Ferguson & Co's pork packing establishment, is estimated at \$500,000. Two hundred hands are out of employment.

The Treasury Department directs the transfer of about four million of gold from the New York assay office to the Philadelphia mill for coinage into eagles and half eagles.

The storm at New Orleans yesterday was the heaviest recorded. Several breaks in the levee are reported. Tremé market and that part of the city is now flooded.

Benningson, national liberal leader of the Prussian Diet, challenged Von Ludwig, independent to fight a duel in consequence of the latter having charged him with a breach of his oath to the King of Hanover.