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LAST NIGHT'S NEWS

Col. Jones, of Jacksonville, Exposes the Dangers of a Government Telegraph.

Gladstone Handles His Opponents on the Irish Question Without Gloves.

The Peace of Europe Can be Endangered by Russia's Illegal Action.

Discussion in the Senate on the Amendments to the Alien Land Law.

By Telegraph to the NEWS.

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH.

Col. Jones Shows the Dangers of the Scheme.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 9.—"Government Control of the Telegraph" was the topic assigned to Col. C. H. Jones, of the Jacksonville, Florida, *Times-Union*, and he discussed it in a carefully prepared paper. He began by saying that he proposed to deal with the subject in a practical way, for the reason that he regarded it as very practical. The strongest argument in behalf of the government telegraph system, and the one that is most relied upon, is that it would be cheaper and most advocaters of government control seem to think the argument is closed when this assertion is made. The speaker, however, felt constrained to say that the experience of this and other countries with government work furnishes no reason for believing that exceptional cheapness would be a feature of it. The characteristic feature of all work done by government is

CUMBROUSNESS AND COSTLINESS.

Whenever governments want work done at reasonable prices that work is let out by contract. The government might make lower rates for telegraphing than would be made by any corporation, because the latter must make expenses and pay for better men and improvements or its place in the business world will soon be vacant. The government, if it so chooses, can fix a rate at less than cost and make up the deficit by taxation, and this is precisely what would be done by the United States government if the experience of other countries having a government telegraph system is any criterion. Col. Jones then gave statistics showing that in Great Britain

THE DEFICIT

in operating the government telegraph had increased from $562,625 in 1881, to $2,349,200 in 1886. This deficit must be made good by taxation, and such taxation is justified on the ground that it is a public benefit.

In 1887, over 47,000,000 messages were handled by the Western Union Telegraph Company, and these were sent by less than one million people. The whole of that telegraphing in the United States is done by less than two per cent. of the population. These figures make it plain that to cheapen telegraph by reducing the rates below cost and making up the deficit by taxation, means to tax ninety-eight per cent. of the people who never use the telegraph, for the benefit of stock brokers, speculators, gamblers, pool men, bucket shop proprietors, and sporting men generally, who send 87 per cent of the messages; that only is this unjustifiable on the grounds of public policy, but

IT IS UNJUSTIFIABLE

on purely business grounds. The men who send these messages make no complaint of the cost because it comes in as a part of the legitimate and necessary expenses of their business.

The only considerable body of men asking a reduction of telegraph tolls are the Knights of Labor. Not one in a hundred of them use the telegraph. These misguided people are simply asking the people to tax them for the benefit of a class of people toward whom they are so irreconcilable and hostile that membership in their organization is prohibited them. These are considerations which determine against the scheme of government telegraph on grounds connected with the public welfare.

The speaker then considered the subject from the point of view of a practical newspaper. The newspapers of the United States, he said, are now enjoying the cheapest and

MOST EFFICIENT TELEGRAPH

service of any newspapers in the world. The British telegraph press rate is 25 cents for 75 words during the day, and 25 cents for 100 words at night, to each place where but one paper is served, and four cents for 75 words during day and four cents for each 100 words at night, each additional paper served. Other figures were given by the speaker, which showed that, viewed in any way possible, the American press rate is now cheaper than the same service in England by from one-fifth to one-half. These figures apply to the service of the press association, the cost of special telegraph service in the United States being one-half cent per word, and in Great Britian one third or a cent per word. In the United States, however, the distance is an average of four times greater than in England.

The bill introduced by Senator Cullom provides that the night rate for newspaper dispatches when the dispatches goes to more than one office, shall be 25 cents per 100 words. This is more than

TWICE THE RATE

charged by the Western Union for transmitting association reports, and ten times the rate charged by the same company when the reports are delivered by leased wires to four or five papers in the same city.

The truth is, that the substitution of government telegraph service for that of the Western Union on the basis of the Cullom bill would speedily result in one of two things: either the bankruptcy of a large proportion of the newspapers away from the great centers, or in depriving the public of a very large portion of the news of the world which it now enjoys through the daily newspapers.

NOTHING SO FAR-REACHING

in its effect upon the press of the country has ever been proposed in Congress. It would be about the same as if Congress should enact a law legislating out of existence half of the daily papers of the country and putting the remainder on short rations, as regards telegraphic news service.

But even this is not the most serious objection from a newspaper man's point of view. The mere suspicion that news had been subjected to government inspection or censorship would reduce by at least one half the value of that news to newspaper publishers and to the general public.

A memorable illustration of the public resentment at the suspicion that news had been doctored, was furnished in connection with the election returns of the Associated Press at the presidential election in 1884. Whether rightly or wrongly—wrongly as the speaker believed—a belief gained credence that the Associated Press and the Western Union Company had

DOCTORED THE RETURNS

from New York State in the interest of Mr. Blaine. The feeling aroused by this was so intense in New York City that it came near leading to the mobbing of Jay Gould, and even in Jacksonville, where the speaker published an Associated Press newspaper, feeling ran so high as for a time to endanger the value of the franchise.

What value would the public attach to news in an emergency of this kind when they knew that transmission was through the medium of government employes which, under existing political methods, means the employe of the party in power?

It is no argument to say that there is no complaint against the government mail service in this respect. The contents of letters cannot be made known without violation and serious risk of detection. On the other hand, with the telegraph system

UNDER ITS CONTROL,

government officials would have every opportunity to become acquainted with every detail of the business of firms and corporations, and the secrets of political parties and party leaders.

To say that the officials would not utilize this opportunity even though they possessed it, is to exhibit the guileless innocence of the heathen Chinee and, moreover, it is contradicted by the facts and experience in other countries, where the telegraph system is under government control. In continental Europe this espionage is so notorious that every man who sends a telegram assumes as a matter of course that it will be scrutinized by government officials, if its contents are important or the least suspicious.

Even in England the same condition of affairs exists in a modified acuse. A fair inference from these facts is that in cases of the most useful and valuable news that is obtained by the newspaper publishers or editors, the supply would be

AT ONCE CUT OFF.

That it would enormously complicate the difficulties of running a political campaign in this country no one can doubt; that it would put an enormous advantage into the hands of the party in power, no one will question.

In conclusion, Col. Jones said: "That it would put into the hands of the politicians a deadly weapon against the press, which they would be constantly tempted to use, is too indisputably true to be denied. Political confidence in the trustworthy character of that news is perhaps the chief element of its value; anything that would tend to

IMPAIR THAT CONFIDENCE

would by so much impair the commercial value of the news. Speaking for myself as a vendor of news, I say, unqualifiedly, that I want no news that has been subjected to even the suspicions of government supervision of partisan espionage."

The paper was commented upon by Rosewater of the Omaha *Bee*. He avoided the idea of the government's taking control, and thought political contracts will not enter into the transaction of business, as had been suggested.

Prescott, Broedell and others also participated in the discussion.

Officers were elected as follows: Wm. M. Singerly, president; C. H. Jones, vice-president; L. L. Morgan, secretary; W. Bryant, treasurer; executive committee—S. N. Kauffman, J. H. Farrell, W. J. Richards, each for three years; E. P. Cole and Col. Scott, for one year.

Railroad Notes.

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—C. P. Huntington has issued a statement to the holders of Chesapeake and Ohio securities, giving as the cause for the steps to be taken for the reorganization of the property that the minority of the holders of "B" bonds refused to assent to a proposition to scale down the interest. He states that the mortgage securities on $15,000,000 of "B" bonds will be foreclosed. He approves the plan of reorganization which will be issued by the Drexel, Morgan Co. this afternoon. It will include the entire line from Newport News to Cincinnati, 750 miles of track and the bridge over the Ohio.

The published reports in regard to the opposition to the lease of the Oregon Navigation are officially stated to be incorrect.

Mexican Assassins.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 9.—Advices from Brownsville, Texas, give a brief account of the discovery of a recent attempt to assassinate General Martinezo, a Mexican revolutionist, who is in exile at that place. The story is that a major of the Mexican artillery was sent to Matamoras ostensibly to inspect the battery there, but that he was really under instruction from the capital to secure the assassination of Martinezo; and two deserters from the Mexican army were released from prison and were promised money to do the murder; and they and another Mexican undertook the job, but it was discovered by the general, and that two of the conspirators have been arrested and put in jail at Brownsville. The third man escaped to the Mexican side of the river. The affair is said to have created a good deal of excitement.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Salisbury and Gladstone in Debate on European Affairs.

LONDON, Feb. 9.—Gladstone, on entering the House of Commons, was loudly cheered. Lord Hartington at once left his seat and shook hands with him, when they sat down and entered into an animated conversation, which lasted for some time.

Mr. Ritchie, conservative, gave notice of the introduction of a local government bill.

Sir Charles Russell, liberal, gave notice that he would move for an inquiry regarding the Trafalgar Square meetings and the limits of interference by the government with public meetings generally.

Matthews, home secretary, in reply to a question, said that the convict Harkins had gained admission to the Speaker's gallery in August last under the name of McFinn. He was accompanied by Melville, alias Malone. Both were admitted on an order obtained from an Irish member of Parliament. Melville not only entered the gallery, but also spent some time on the river terrace and in the house in company with his introducer. This case, he said, proved the necessity of the increase in the safeguards attending admission to the House of Commons.

LORD SALISBURY,

in the course of the debate, referred to the Crown Prince of Germany. He said it was sad to learn the heir of the German empire, closely united with England in the bonds of sympathy, stood in a situation of peril, every where exciting deep solicitude. Among the leading features in the political field of Europe there was not one who excited so deep and affectionate an admiration as the crown prince.

Regarding the great issues of peace or war now pending in Europe, Lord Salisbury said he would not pretend to give fuller information than was conveyed in the recent masterly speech of Prince Bismarck. The Berlin treaty, as Prince Bismarck showed, was in the nature of a compromise. It was highly acceptable, at the time it was concluded, to the English government and remained so still. England had long had a polity in the east, from which the government did not intend to depart, and which they would consistently uphold. They had interested themselves for four generations in the fate of southeastern Europe, and would not show themselves more indifferent to those interests than the generations before them. He entirely shared the views of Prince Bismarck in favor of peace. Danger might arise, the speaker said, from some adventurous or

ILLEGAL ACTION

on the part of Russia, but they had the assurance from the most specific authority that Russia contemplated no such acts; but rather, that she would carefully abstain from them. In a brief reference to Ireland, Lord Salisbury charged Gladstone with misrepresenting the conservative party, in saying that they admitted that some kind of home rule must eventually be adopted. This was not true, and Gladstone would be the last man in the world to hear it if it had been true.

Gladstone said he rose to speak at this early stage of the debate, hoping he might contribute to expedite the business before the House. He could congratulate the government on some of the aspects of her foreign policy. Referring to Ireland, Mr. Gladstone said:

While the opposition is anxious to expedite the business, the government's policy in Ireland could not be lightly passed over. The address declares that crimes of an agrarian character are diminishing that conspiracy sensibly abated, through the careful execution of the crimes act. He was disposed to substitute for "careful" some very different word. (Cheers.) The whole subject of the administrative coercion must, through amendment, be abated. He would not anticipate the debate, but could not pass over the assertion that

THE IRISH PEOPLE

under coercion, become more reconciled to the law. (Cheers.) While he looked back fifty years upon the exuberance of crimes and the pressure of difficulties not less than now exists, he was amazed at the progress made in self-command and self-control, more and more becoming a habit of the Irish people. Owing to this fact the agrarian crime is lessened, but the government could not be congratulated on assisting to diminish the number of offenses. Under the coercion act 350 persons had been tried or sentenced. Was the House to believe these returns showed a diminution of the offenses compared with the same period last year? Could the government show they were not prosecuting the people of Ireland for acts of exclusive dealing frequently resorted to in Great Britain? If they were, what became of the theory of equal rights by England and Ireland which was the recognized basis of the Union? (Cheers.)

The royal speech promised local legislation for England. Why did not the government redeem its promises of the extension of

SELF GOVERNMENT TO IRELAND?

After declaring he would oppose all attempts to increase the number of Irish proprietors by direct dealings between the treasury and individual cultivators, Gladstone reviewed the legislation proposed by the government, and concluded by promising the opposition would assist in forwarding the local government bill and other measures, and making the session fruitful of beneficial legislation.

William Henry Smith said the government would be perfectly ready to discuss the whole subject of Irish policy, including Gladstone's arguments.

Other Notes.

The new procedure rules will be laid on the table Monday. It will be proposed to meet at 3 p. m. and adjourn at 1 a. m., with an automatic cloture on controversial business at 12:30. The majority necessary to apply the cloture will be reduced and the speaker's power over disorderly members increased.

The Parnellites today decided that Parnell should formulate an amendment to the Queen's address, raising the question as to the administration of the crimes act. Parnell stated that the object of his land bill was to reduce the term for the judicial revision of rents from fifteen to seven years, and to give tenants further rights over improvements.

A dispatch from Rome to the *Chronicle* says: The government has virtually decided to withdraw from Egypt all Italian troops except such as are absolutely necessary to hold the positions at Massowah and places in that vicinity. The men will be invited to volunteer for this service.

Getting Ready for War.

ROME, Feb. 9.—The announcement is made that every vessel in the navy has been ordered in readiness for active service, and that naval armament at Naples has assumed extraordinary activity. The preparations are in accordance with cipher instructions from the government.

Another Treaty.

VIENNA, Feb. 9.—The *Wiener Tagblatt* says it has received information that Russia and France are about to conclude a treaty of alliance similar to that between Austria and Germany.

The Prince's Throat.

SAN REMO, Feb. 9.—Doctors Mackenzie, Howell, Schroeder and Krause were present during the operation on the Crown Prince's throat. Dr. Mackenzie will send a report of the operation to the Emperor which will be of a cheerful character.

The physicians are pleased with the results of the operation, and are confident of the patient's speedy recovery. The Prince bore the operation bravely.

Another Polar Wave.

ST. PAUL, Feb. 9.—While the weather is moderating somewhat tonight, some low temperatures have been reported from northwestern points during the last 24 hours. At Duluth, the minimum was 34 below; last night at Pembina, Dakota, it was 62 below; at Montevideo, Minnesota, the mercury froze; at 6 a. m., it was 54 below at Crookston, Minnesota, at Neche, Dakota, 56 below last night; at Moorehead, Minnesota, 44 below; at St. Paul, the lowest was 32 at 7 a. m.

Tried for Poisoning.

BOSTON, Feb. 9.—There was the usual large attendance at the trial of Mrs. Sarah J. Robinson, the alleged poisoner, at East Cambridge to-day. Mrs. Robinson denied having had any conversation about Prince A. Freeman's insurance, and her father's testimony was a general denial of the allegations adduced in the evidence for the prosecution.

FIFTIETH CONGRESS.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Edmunds, from the committee on foreign relations, reported to the Senate a bill incorporating the Maritime Canal Company of Nicaragua, and said he would move to take it up early next week. Placed on calendar.

Manderson, from the committee on printing, reported a joint resolution for the disposition of the undisturbed copies of the "Records of the Rebellion," reports of the tenth census and reports of the public land commission. The resolution gave rise to discussion, in the course of which Vest gave expression to his ideas as to the value of the publications of the government printing office. He had a room in Washington in which there were several hundred volumes of public documents, bound in calf at the expense of the government, which books he could not give away; he could not trade them off; he could not dispose of them unless he put them in the fire. The upper portion of the Capitol was crammed to the roof with books, and yet there was a continual stream of these publications pouring out of the government's printing office. The money might as well be taken out and thrown into the Potomac River.

Teller admitted there was great waste in that direction, but his experience was not like that of the senator from Missouri.

Manderson suggested that Vest's statement was the best argument he had heard for the passage of the Blair educational bill.

The allusion by Saulsbury to the President's message and accompanying documents, as something which the people took no interest in, created much comment on the republican side of the chamber. Finally the first resolution was passed.

Riddleberger's resolution for amending the rules so as to allow the British extradition treaty to be considered in open session was reached in regular order. Riddleberger explained that the British lion's tail having been twisted by the vote of 29 to 21, the passage of the resolution was no longer necessary.

Senator Hawley and others called the Virginian to order, and he sat down, remarking as he did so, that he supposed he had the right to say so much, and that he did not like to be called to order every time he rose. Riddleberger's allusion was to the vote in secret session last night, by which the consideration of the treaty was postponed to next December.

The bill to authorize the sale to aliens of certain mineral lands was then taken up, and after a discussion hinging upon the fact that the non-democratic members of the committee were not present at its consideration, Edmunds moved to recommit to the committee on mines and mining. Edmunds suggested he could see no good reason why a distinction should be made between mineral lands and agricultural lands, and saying somewhat pointedly that if he wanted to obtain political influence he would prefer to be a mine owner rather than owner of an adjacent township.

Reagan argued that there was a strong popular sentiment to which the act of the last session prohibiting alien ownership of lands in Territories was a response. He would regret any abridgement of the provisions of that act.

The bill was also opposed by Plumb.

Stewart replied. A silver mine in the mountains, he said, was as worthless as a desert without capital. That capital, so far from interfering with the laborer and bearing him down, brought employment to him and raised the price of his labor. It was the laboring men of the Territories who were demanding the passage of this bill. They were asking that capital should not be kept out of mines, and themselves deprived of employment. The law of the last Congress was an unjust restriction on the development of the Territories, a discrimination against them which no State in the Union had put upon her own mining industries.

The bill was recommitted to the committee on mines and mining, and Stewart gave notice that there would be a meeting of that committee next Tuesday morning.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Glass (Tennessee), on behalf of the committee on agriculture, called up the House bill to promote agriculture. It provides that such portions of the consular reports as refer to agricultural matters shall be transmitted to the commissioner of agriculture for embodiment in his reports.

The next bill on the calendar was that requiring subsidized railroads to maintain and operate separate telegraph lines.

Dockery, of Missouri, said the simple proposition in the bill, in plain, unvarnished English, was to compel the Union and Central Pacific companies to construct the telegraph lines required by their charters, instead of contracting with the Western Union and giving that corporation a monopoly of telegraph franchises west of the Missouri River. He submitted that one of the most pressing questions before Congress was the hedging about and restricting of the powers and encroachments of the Western Union Telegraph Company.

Anderson (Kansas), author of the bill, vigorously supported it. The railroad companies had bartered away their franchises by entering into a contract with the Western Union by which the railroad companies refused to perform their telegraphic service, and by which they gave the Western Union an absolute monopoly over half the continent. Through the genius of the most unscrupulous pirate of the country, Jay Gould, that monopoly had been created. The pending bill was simply a proposition to inject a little bit of God's burning justice between the people and Jay Gould. The people of the country were praying for relief from the boweless, merciless grind of the most extravagant, enormous, unscrupulous, piratical set of incorporated scoundrels on the continent. This bill was a square blow between the eyes of Gould's Western Union monopoly, and each of the Pacific railroad companies, saying, "Gentlemen, there is power in wealth, and power in the combination of monopoly, but there is more power in the arm of the American people, and you shall obey the law."

White (New York) argued that viewing the matter in the light of public policy, it was unwise for the government, which was the largest creditor of the Pacific railroads and was interested in the management of that property, to enact legislation which would have the effect of reducing the profits of these roads. He then proceeded to make a legal argument to the effect that Congress had no right to interfere with contracts lawfully entered into. The matter then went over and the discussion will probably be resumed Saturday.

The House passed the bill to discontinue the coinage of three cent pieces. Adjourned.

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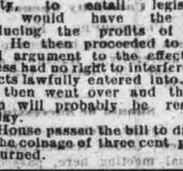
PERSONAL.

Mr. N. H. Frohlichstein, of Mobile, Ala., writes: I take great pleasure in recommending Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, having used it for a severe attack of Bronchitis and Catarrh. It gave me instant relief and entirely cured me and I have not been afflicted since. I also beg to state that I had tried other remedies with no good result. Have also used Electric Bitters and Dr. King's New Life Pills, both of which I can recommend.
Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, is sold on a positive guarantee.
Trial bottles free at A. C. Smith & Co's Drug Store. (1)



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