

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

MUNICH, Feb. 16.—An explosion, which occurred in the Kreuzgraben coal mine near Kaiserstern, Bavaria, killed forty persons. Thirty-six men were rescued.

VIENNA, Feb. 16.—Several hundred students clamored for admittance to the galleries of the Parliament House here today during the debate on the government bill placing certain restrictions upon the students' clubs. They demolished the railing about the ticket offices and made their way into the conservation rooms of the House. Deputy Patai then went out and admitted a number of them, although they were unprovided with tickets. But during the debate the students who gained admittance were so noisy that the presiding officer threatened to clear the galleries.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—In the Commons, Labouchere asked further questions regarding England's position toward other nations.

Under Secretary Ferguson again declined to produce the correspondence between the government and foreign powers.

Labouchere then gave notice to offer an amendment to the address to the effect that the House be informed definitely that no correspondence was exchanged with Italy, resulting in binding the action of the British Government in the event of war between Italy and France, or if any assurance has been given it may be communicated to the House.

Ferguson further said he was happy to inform the House that the fishery treaty had been signed in Washington. The government believed it satisfactory, although yet unaware of the precise terms.

Wm. O'Brien resumed the debate on the address in reply to the Queen's speech. He said Balfour had failed to smash the Irish organization, weakened the spirit of the Irish people or degraded them in the eyes of the world. Abject discomfiture and disgrace attended the crimes act, the operation of which proved it one of the most horrible measures ever directed against human liberties. He did not feel wounded nor in the least disgraced by his own imprisonment. While in prison, he resented and felt keenly Balfour's stealthy, loathsome insinuations that he (O'Brien) sheltered himself under the plea of illness. Now they were

and he challenged the government to produce the prison doctors to prove the truth of the insinuations. [Parnellite cheers.] It has been asserted that an imprisoned Leaguer tried to secure a distinction between the treatment given him and the imprisoned peasants, but there was no foundation for the assertion. When the government asked them voluntarily to acknowledge their kinship with criminals they answered, "We will die first." You will have to learn the difference between representatives of the criminal classes and Irish political prisoners, even if it takes a coroner's jury to announce the distinction.

Attorney General Webster said O'Brien's speech doubtless was animated by some real passion, but it was impossible to doubt there was a good deal of acting about it. At any rate, if not acting, it was neither more nor less than an incitement to violations of the law. It is strange to hear the Parnellites profess approval of the Irish remedial measures after the contempt with which they treated last year the proceedings to defend the administration of the crimes act. Webster said the question was not whether the branches of the league are suppressed, but whether they had ceased to operate. It is certain they did not now expose men to popular odium, as before; in fact, the meeting being held secretly was a great gain for law and order. Webster was interrupted many times by the Parnellites.

Morley next took the floor and commented on

**BALFOUR'S SILENCE**  
regarding O'Brien's charges, though he had risen once to repel them. Amid the loud cheers of the Parnellites, Morley described Thomas Russell, Member of Tyrone, as the spokesman of the Rump Ascendancy party in Ireland, which went about beating an Orange drum in one hand while it plucked at the sleeves of Monsignor Perisco with the other. He refuted the statements of Webster regarding the league, and said the Plan of Campaign continued to be a success. Surely it was a strange doctrine to say it was a good thing to increase the tendency of Irishmen toward secret societies which are the bane of the country. He strongly condemned the outrages perpetrated on the dignity of the House last Friday, by the arrest of two members of Parliament. The government professed to be contending against the tyranny of the League. In reality they were contending against the opinion of the country, and by their coercion were driving hundreds of thousands of citizens of the idle classes who hitherto refrained from politics, to rally to the nationalist cause. Irishmen would be loyal when they had institutions worth being loyal to. In congratulating himself upon the success of coercion, Balfour was in the same fool's paradise that Foster and Spencer had been.

The House agreed to Lord Randolph Churchill's amendment asking a special commission to inquire into the board of public works scandals.

**THE NEW RULES.**  
The new parliamentary procedure

rules, in the main, meet with approval. The Parnellites will not oppose them. They are confident the new rules can be used in the future to gag the conservatives.

The government's new rules of procedure provide that the Commons shall sit from 3 p.m. until 1 a.m., with a dinner hour; that the closure rule may be applied if there is a majority of 100, instead of 200, as at present; that the Speaker may suspend for the sitting disorderly members. Other rules greatly increase the Speaker's power.

The new local government bill, in its final form, as unanimously adopted by the cabinet, creates

**NEW COUNTY BOARDS**  
on a purely elective basis, the conditions of suffrage at the election of members of the boards to be the same as at the parliamentary elections. These boards are to have entire control of the police force within their jurisdiction; to issue and annul publican licences. It also provides for the adoption of the principal of local option, accompanied with a provision for the compensation of publicans for the loss of their licenses, unless these privileges be annulled in consequence of violation of the law.

Baron De Worms, on his return from the continent, will be appointed parliamentary under-secretary for the colonial office.

The *Daily News*, referring to O'Brien's speech, says his wondrous display of magnanimity will certainly appeal with irresistible force to the English people. The Tories will be unable to complain of any bitterness on his part although the occasion would justify bitterness.

PARIS, Feb. 16.—An earthquake that occurred at Manéon in the Pyrennes made a frightful panic among the inhabitants, but no loss of life is reported.

DUBLIN, Feb. 16.—Thirteen persons have been sentenced to one month's imprisonment each for riotous conduct at Gwedore at the time of Father O'Brien's arrest last month.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The attorney general today sent to Congress estimates aggregating \$10,000 for the improvement of the penitentiary at Boise City, Idaho.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The fisheries treaty is the subject of much speculation and discussion at the Capitol today. While declining to give any specific information as to its provisions, Secretary Bayard said tonight to an Associated Press reporter that for many years the great contentions among American fishermen had been for the fair and just construction of the treaty of 1818, and that the present treaty had been framed by the American negotiators with a view to meet the needs and necessities of the American fishermen, and he believed that if the treaty is ratified, that end will have been accomplished.

From a trustworthy source it is learned that the American fishermen are secured all the commercial privileges for which they have been contending, with the exception of the right to purchase bait in Canadian waters, which is expressly withheld. Their right to enter Canadian ports for fuel, water and repairs, is conceded. Certain of the bays, which are specified, are to remain under the exclusive jurisdiction of Canada. There is nothing in the provisions of the treaty, it is said, which necessitates the removal of the duty on Canadian fish or in any way changes the American tariff system. In its important features, the treaty, it is stated, is favorable to the United States, and while new and valuable privileges have been acquired, this has been done without any costly sacrifice on the part of the Americans.

Secretary Bayard said tonight that published reports purporting to give the essential features of the treaty were unauthorized and wholly wrong. The American negotiators left for their homes today. Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Chamberlain will remain in Washington a few days longer, the latter expecting to sail for England in about a week.

DUBLIN, Feb. 16.—While Pyne was being taken to the depot for conveyance to Clonmel last evening, a large mob gathered and stoned the police. One of the missiles struck Pyne on the head, severely injuring him.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 16.—The socialists made a public demonstration against the militia law to-day. The police interfered and dispersed the crowd. Several were injured. A number of arrests were made.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—General Manager Potter of the Union Pacific, is now in this city. He has resumed his official duties, and his first act was to order Union Pacific agents to refuse to interchange freight with roads which charge less than schedule rates.

SAN RAMO, Feb. 17.—The Crown Prince had a good night's rest and is free from head ache or fever. He will rise to-day, but will remain in his room.

DUBLIN, Feb. 17.—A packet containing gunpowder, to which was attached a leaden ball, was thrown into the house of Police Inspector Kelly, at Skibbereen. An explosion followed, wrecking the furniture and filling the house with choking fumes, from which the inmates barely escaped with their lives. The windows in the house of Mackay, Crown Solicitor for County Donegal, were smashed by unknown persons on Wednesday. Mackay was in Falcargagh at the time of the outrage, prosecuting the case against Father Stephens, convicted of flogging tenants not to pay rent.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 17.—The steamer *City of Peking*, arrived from China and Japan this morning, with several cases of smallpox among the passengers, and was placed in quarantine. This is the fifth successive China steamer which has arrived with smallpox. The *Belgie*, which came in two weeks ago, was released from quarantine yesterday. The steamer *Shenandoah*, formerly a United States man-of-war, has been fitted up as a quarantine boat and is now occupied by several hundred Chinese who have arrived here on infected vessels.

SAN FRANCISCO, 17.—The steamer *City of Peking*, which arrived this morning, brings advices from Hong Kong to Jan. 17, and from Yokohama to Jan. 28. China papers state that a syndicate is said to be active again. It is reported that an Associated National Bank will be organized and a railroad will be constructed from Tung Chong to Tientsin.

Smallpox is prevalent to a considerable extent in Hong Kong, but is not regarded yet as an epidemic.

It is reported from Canton that the viceroy of Two Kwongs has set out with nine gunboats and four thousand troops for Hunan to restore order on the island and punish the parties, who are to be held responsible for the murder of Commissioner Tsung Kang Pia, sent out by the viceroy.

Great drought prevails in the north of China, which is having the good effect of facilitating the repairs of the destruction caused by the Yellow River inundation.

WESTERLY, R.I., Feb. 17.—A destructive fire raged here early this morning, causing the loss of \$150,000. The fire started in the Wells Building on Broad Street, thence spread to Segar Block adjoining, then turning the corner of High Street, it destroyed the Stillman Buildings, Bradford Block and the Natick Bank building. The thermometer marked 34 degrees below zero, causing severe suffering to the firemen.

SCRANTON, Pa., Feb. 17.—Owing to Powderly's illness the executive committee this week came here to confer with him on the Reading strike situation. Masterworkman Lewis called on Powderly last night, and it is probable from the reports of the interview that have leaked out, that the miners' strike will be declared off.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 16.—The inquiry of the Congressional committee appointed to investigate the strike on the Reading Railroad and in the Schuylkill and in the Lehigh coal regions, was resumed this morning with General Manager Whiting of the Reading Coal and Iron Company as first witness.

After giving some statistical information regarding the output of the coal mines under his control, he said he has nothing to do with selling coal and did not know whether there had been an increase in the price of it since September last or not. He said in regard to the miners' strikes that the first uneasiness of the miners was apparent when the trouble arose with the railroad men, who were members of the same order of labor organizations, principally the Knights of Labor. He then detailed at length the story of the miners' strike and its causes.

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—The police are at last positive that they are on the track of the murderer of millionaire A. J. Snell, and the developments are of the most startling character. Chief of Police Hubbard tonight issued the following circular:

Two thousand dollars reward! Look out for and arrest Wm. B. Tascott, alias Guthright, alias Moore, alias Scott, alias Clark, alleged murderer of A. J. Snell, 22 or 23 years of age, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, 165 pounds weight; a slim built, very erect, full round face, heavy eye brows, very fair complexion, dark brown hair, thin on top of head and cut short; large blue eyes; small, thin, dark moustache, may be dyed; wore, when last seen, brown and gray striped pants, stripes, one-half inch wide; dark coat, vest and overcoat, black silk hat, square top ring set with garnets and pearls, one pearl missing; he may carry a cane with round head engraved with W. D. T. in monogram; also, a russet-colored valise eighteen inches long and eight deep, hung by a strap over his shoulder. The above reward will be paid for his capture and detention until the officers arrive.

The startling features of the case are that William B. Tascott, the man wanted, is the son of a prominent and wealthy citizen, Col. J. B. Tascott, a leading wholesale paint merchant of this city. He was born and raised within a few blocks of the murdered man, Snell. Though well educated, he early displayed a liking for the companionship of wild boys. It is said that he has served a term in the Kentucky penitentiary for burglary. He returned a few months ago and his family and friends tried to reform him. One of these friends, Mrs. Henrietta Owsly, invited him to her house and young Tascott returned the kindness by robbing her. The theft was discovered by Mrs. Owsly. She refused to prosecute. For several weeks before the Snell murder Tascott boarded with Mrs. Wickers in the same neighborhood, under the name of Scott, and is thought to be the one who committed all the burglaries which took place in the vicinity before the murder. Since then no trace of him can be found.

Mr. Snell's estate was probated to-day. It is estimated that \$4,500,000, but of this three millions were conveyed to his wife four years ago. He left no will, and the balance of the estate will be divided among his widow and four children.

EL PASO, TEXAS, Feb. 17.—Louis M. Fleury, late postmaster of Paso del Norte, Mexico, was arrested yesterday on the charge of robbing the mails and smuggling into Mexico. He is charged with stealing two lots of diamonds passing through the mails from Hamburg, Germany, to the City of Mexico. One lot was valued at \$25,000. There are also many other charges against him.

DEER LODGE, Mont., Feb. 17.—Marlin S. Scott, wife murderer, was hanged today.

WINNIPEG, Feb. 17.—Gideon Bourdeau, the Queen's printer for Manitoba, has been found short in his accounts and has emigrated to the United States.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17.—Collector of Port John S. Hager today made a written statement of his views upon the charges which have recently appeared in the local papers to the effect that large quantities of opium, aggregating several hundred thousand dollars, have been smuggled into this port during the past year by a "ring," composed of several prominent individuals who, it is intimated, have been aided in the alleged fraudulent operations by a deputy surveyor of port.

The collector disclaims all responsibility for legal or illegal transactions in the surveyor's office, as that officer is appointed by the President. He states that the charges which have been recently made in the local press have been brought to his attention during the past six months, and that he has inquired into them with a view to laying the matter before the United States Attorney, but has been unable to formulate charges, owing to the want of personal knowledge of the facts and the names of witnesses who could establish the truth of the report. The collector invites all persons to acquaint him with any facts concerning the matter of which they may be possessed.

WATERTOWN, N. Y., Feb. 17.—M. F. Holliman, special agent of the Treasury Department, sent here to investigate the opium smuggling, has secured evidence that the smugglers have confederates in New York. One or more government officials on the Pacific Coast are said to be involved. A carpenter's tool chest, which has been traced back and forth across the St. Lawrence several times, was seized by the officers at the house of Samuel Gardiner, Erwin's bondsman. The chest came from the Pacific Coast, where it was once seized and found to contain opium. Gardiner claims to have bought it from the government at auction, and now the government takes it from him in connection with his offenses.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 17.—The trial of Frederick Anschlag on the charge of murdering Charles B. Hitchcock and wife near Santa Ana, a few weeks ago, has been in progress here for several days. The defense claimed that Anschlag was insane and the trial was stopped temporarily and a commission appointed by the court to examine the question of defendant's sanity. The commission heard the testimony of physicians and others today and decided that Anschlag was a sane person and responsible for the murder of Hitchcock and wife. The trial will be resumed tomorrow.

NEW YORK, 17.—The Norwegian bark *Mande* passed Sandy Hook this morning with colors reversed. At quarantine here the commander stated that six sailors had mutilated and refused to do duty. They were in frons and the captain wanted them arrested. The vessel left Savannah February 4 for Hamburg. One day out from Tybee the men refused to obey orders, claiming the vessel was unseaworthy. The captain then decided to put into this port.

ST. PAUL, Feb. 17.—Edmonton, Northwest Territory, advices state that S. Cunningham, member of the Northwest Council, who has just returned from a trip to Lac la Biche, in the far north, reports the condition of the Indians there as deplorable. These Indians have been cut off from government assistance since the Riel rebellion, their horses, cattle and everything given them prior to 1888 taken from them. They are now raiding the settlers or eating them out of provisions by begging. The state of affairs in Edmonton district is no better. The Indians are actually dying of starvation.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 17.—Ex-President Smith, of the Reading Railroad Company, was the first witness before the Congressional Reading strike investigation committee. Smith said he had been president of the Reading Railroad from 1881 to 1889 and director in 1870. He resigned the directorship because he discovered that the company was publishing false reports and cooking its accounts in the interest of stock gambling. In the reports the truth was suppressed, the floating debt was not reported, and while the road was not earning any money, it was paying dividends on its stock. Some of the directors were gambling in stock, and other influences in the management were compelled to pay these unearned dividends through vanity. The company had borrowed \$15,000,000 to pay dividends which had not been earned. Smith said the railroad company was managing the Coal and Iron Company at the same time, and he explained how the railroad company obtained possession of the mining company.

In reply to the query if the company, in arranging its business to meet its obligations, was not forcing the public and its employees to pay interest on money which the company never had received, witness said he supposed it

was true; that in 1869 the company was doing a profitable business, was perfectly solvent; paid 10 per cent earned dividends and the interest on the debt, which was less than \$9,000,000.

"How, then, has it happened that this present enormous debt of \$180,000,000 has since been accumulated and the road sent twice into bankruptcy?"

"By doing a losing business and borrowing money right and left."

Witness was then asked his opinion as the ability of the Reading Company to pay its enormous debt and the value of its securities. He replied: "I would not own a dollar's worth of its bonds except the very early ones. The others are worthless. The company cannot, in my opinion, pay its debts, and will go back into the hands of a receiver at least within a year."

Secretary Duffy, of the joint committee said: I can't give you details but the Reading strike is now to be settled in short order.

After Sweigert finished, Austin Corbin was recalled, and during his examination grew angry and refused to answer many questions. He denied the right of the committee to go into the road's private business; he declined to say how the company could get along without its coal business. After a long series of interrogations, Tillman drew from the witness the statement that the interest charges and other fixed charges of the company amounted to ten million dollars a year, and Corbin stated in reply to further questioning that without the coal trade the company could earn its fixed charges, which were over seven million dollars.

"But do you expect," was asked, "to make more than ten million dollars with your miners out?"

Mr. Corbin—"No; but our miners will be back, and if your committee will stay here ten days, it will find them all at work again."

Corbin denied absolutely that there was any ground for assumption that it was to the interest of the company to have a strike at this time; that it might be advantageous to the company to have a strike in view of the company's financial condition in order to offer that as an excuse for it.

The next witness examined was Thomas M. Richards, general sales agent of the Reading Coal & Iron Company. His examination developed that the price of coal at Philadelphia had raised from \$1 to \$1.75 per ton since the strike began.

The next witness was George W. Jones, former vice-president of the Reading road. Jones entered into the history of the requirement of the coal lands by the Coal & Iron Company, under the control of the railroad company. He said that this was Mr. Gowan's scheme. Robert McCalmont had loaned Mr. Gowan 80,000 shares of the Reading Railroad Company's stock in 1860, with which to purchase coal lands. This was the beginning of the policy which led to the acquisition of the Schuylkill coal lands, which ultimately led the company into the hands of a receiver, and piled upon it a debt of over \$100,000,000. He corroborated the statement of Mr. Smith, made in the morning, that in 1869 the Reading Railroad Company had only a small debt, was paying interest on it, and the earnings paying dividends of ten per cent. It was dealing in coal lands and the purchase of coal lands which could not be utilized for many years, and attempting to force a small part of them to pay interest on the whole investment, which wrecked the company. Witness related at some length the history of several coal combinations in the past, which had been made to restrict the production, and thus make higher prices. He said that the last one did this by mutual agreement to shut down the mines a certain number of days in the year. Until he had heard the testimony of the witnesses, he had been certain that this sort of combination existed now, and that the Reading was a party to it, and he believed it, notwithstanding the testimony of the witnesses before the committee.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—Maxwell, of Austin Corbin's office, said this afternoon: "We have received a brief message from Philadelphia to the effect that the Reading strike is ended. This is all we know about it. Corbin has not supplied us with particulars."

LONDON, Feb. 17.—In the House of Commons this evening Balfour resumed the debate on the address in reply to the Queen's speech. He commented upon the vehement character of O'Brien's remarks last evening, and said it was nothing but what he was accustomed to from the same quarter. He consoled himself with the reflection that attacks of even a worse character had been made against O'Brien's present allies. *United Ireland* had compared Trevelyan to a skunk.

**CUTTLEFISH AND HANGMAN.**

O'Brien had likewise drawn a comparison between Gladstone and Judas Iscariot, and for continuous weeks *United Ireland* more than insinuated that Trevelyan and Earl Spencer conspired to shield men guilty of the most horrible and nameless crimes.

O'Brien—"I stated the result of their misguided action was to shield those persons, but I never alleged that they did so wilfully."

Balfour said he would refer to *United Ireland* to prove his statements, but in reply to cries of "Quote, quote," said he would never think of sullying his lips by repeating such language as had been used. He denied in toto the allegations that Earl Car-