

BY TELEGRAPH.

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AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 6.—The United States Supreme Court, in the case of Edwin A. Merritt, collector vs. Samuel Welch et al., commonly known as the sugar case, rendered against the position taken by the treasury department. The Supreme Court held that the dutiable quality of sugar is to be determined by their actual color graded by duties standard, and not by their saccharine strength, as ascertained by chemical tests.

The bankruptcy bill reported in the Senate providing that whoever without fraud shall become involved in debts beyond \$500 which he could not pay, he may apply by petition in equity to any United States district Court, setting forth the cause of his insolvency and scheduling liabilities and assets, and may surrender his estate for the benefit of creditors except such as may be exempt from execution, the court shall adjudge him bankrupt if good cause appear, and appoint a receiver and serve notice to all interested and distribute the estate according to the rules of equity, and if there was no fraud, petitioner shall be discharged as a bankrupt. When a person absents or conceals himself or fraudulently transfers his property, or otherwise attempts to defraud creditors, the latter may ask a petition against him. Insolvency shall exist only when the debtor's liabilities exceed the value of his property. The court may extend or stay proceedings. Preferred creditors may be made of those who loaned the bankrupt money for sickness or in good faith to avert bankruptcy or other necessity. If any creditor has oppressively sought to force the debtor into bankruptcy or obtain any fraudulent advantage over other creditors, the court may deny him participation in the estate.

Representatives of several House committees have been in consultation some time upon bills introduced looking to the transfer of all claims upon the Treasury now before Congress to the Court of Claims. It has been decided to recommend substantially the bill of Representative House, of Tennessee. The calendar is so loaded with all sorts of relief bills and claims it is practically impossible to consider any of them promptly. The design is not to confer upon the court power to decide and award, but simply to investigate and report testimony in each case, with the opinion of its rights for the guidance of Congress when it comes to consider them.

There are assured majorities in both Houses of Congress in favor of the desired Chinese Legislative action.

The Pacific Coast Senators continue to be entirely confident that the Senate will reach a final vote, and pass the pending Chinese bill this afternoon.

In the House Page presented petitions of citizens of the Pacific Coast, asking Congress to pass a bill to incorporate the maritime canal company of Nicaragua. Also a resolution adopted at a mass meeting of the citizens of Sacramento urging suppression of polygamy.

The consular appropriation bill passed by 122 against 77, the House having refused to strike out the item for ministers abroad, and also to insert instead of the provision for the appointment of such consuls and other commercial agents as the interests of the United States citizens require.

The President nominated Chas. Ewers, of Michigan, consul at Windsor, Canada, and withdrew the nomination of Jas. P. Swords, of the District of Columbia, as consul to Cadiz.

At an informal meeting of the members of Congress from the States affected, it was resolved to ask for an additional appropriation of \$4,000,000, and a resolution will probably be introduced in the House to that effect. A proposition is also made to ask for an appropriation to repair the levees at once. To do this promptly and effectively, so as to be of service to the people this year, would require not less than \$1,000,000. Consideration of this proposition was deferred until a formal meeting to-morrow.

Memphis, 6.—Commissioner Morgan said to-night that in 12 counties in Arkansas, he had information of about 20,000 destitute people, who would have to be fed by government for at least 40 days. Those counties do not include those bordering on Red River, where great suffering is said to exist.

Commissioner Hemingway, of Mississippi, said the inhabitants of ten counties in his State to the number of 15,000 were in like suffering condition. Those counties on the Mississippi are all above Vicksburg and there are other counties below that city that have suffered. The donation of \$10,000 by the general government will fall far short of supplying the needy until they can help themselves.

Memphis, 6.—The river rose four inches since yesterday. Great damage is expected.

A telegram from the postmaster at Vicksburg says the levee is broken all along the river and many are drowned.

CHICAGO, 6.—Henry Ward Beecher's lecture drew a crowded house at the Central Music Hall to-night. His subject was "The Moral Uses of Luxury and Beauty." He had proceeded in his talk about 25 minutes when he reached a passage about the difficulties of rich men in attaining salvation. He began, "There is an impression—" at this point he stopped, hesitated and appeared to stagger. Some one of the audience seeing he was about to faint gave the alarm and he was helped off the stage by a gentleman on the platform. Prof. Swing, who had introduced Mr. Beecher made a brief announcement that Mr. Beecher was suddenly indisposed, and moved that he be excused for the evening, a motion that was unanimously concurred in.

A banquet is to be given by the Iroquois Club on March 15th, commemorative of the anniversary of the birth of Andrew Jackson. It promises to be a notable affair. The following distinguished democrats have been invited to respond to toasts: S. J. Tilden, Thomas F. Bayard, Geo. H. Pendleton, Henry Watterson, Ex-Senator Thurman, of Ohio, Jere Black and Richard T. Merrick; also the following who have accepted invitations: Thos. A. Hendricks, Senator Lamar and Ex-Governor Palmer.

RACINE, Wis., 6.—Oscar Wilde, made his first appearance before a Wisconsin audience last night. There was not more than 70 persons in the hall. The Racine college lads had arranged to give him a sunflower reception, but were deterred by the professors. The lecture was only marked by the occasional snickering of an unappreciative audience. He broke down in the midst of his lecture, saying he was exhausted and could not read his manuscript.

MEMPHIS, 6.—Sandy Mathias, colored, was arrested for murder. He stole up beside Essick Polk, colored, split his head open with an axe, dragged the body to a certain pen, cut his limbs asunder and threw the pieces into a hole and buried them. Polk had tried to break up an improper intimacy of Mathias with a stepdaughter.

NEW YORK, 6.—The Jewish citizens of Brooklyn met to-day to protest against the persecution of Israelites in Europe, and appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions in aid of refugees arriving here. A liberal sum was contributed at the meeting.

NASHVILLE, 7.—Bob Sarver, colored, was lynched at Franklin, Ky., to-night, for attempt to rape a white girl, 16 years old, named Ruly.

OSBERLIN, Ohio, 7.—Fire destroyed \$40,000 worth of property.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., 7.—The gas works here were demolished by explosion.

ARKADELPHIA, Ark., 7.—In a shooting affray yesterday, one negro was killed and two mortally wounded.

COLUMBUS, 7.—The Attorney-General, to-day, received a verdict in his favor against Vanderbilt, in the case of the consolidation of the C. O. C. and I. & C. H. & D. Roads, and leased lands. This is a square defeat for Vanderbilt.

MEMPHIS, 7.—Captain Ed. Postal, of the steamer *Hard Cash*, which arrived this morning, reports that back water from the Mississippi River extends up White River to Clarendon, Arkansas, a distance of 135 miles from the mouth. The entire country intervening is under water, which is two feet higher than was ever known before. Great loss of the stock and damage to farming interests have occurred throughout the White River bottoms.

The river here continues stationary. The following telegram was sent this morning:

Senators Harrison and Jackson and Congressman Moore, Washington:

The suffering brought to our notice by the inhabitants of the coun-

ties in Tennessee bordering on the Mississippi River occasioned by the overflow calls loudly for assistance from the Government. What Memphis has done or can do will be made inadequate. We urge you to obtain authority to have rations purchased here for immediate distribution in order to save persons from actual starvation. Some three to five thousand are in absolute need and must be helped immediately.

(Signed) NAPOLEON HILL,
Pres. Cotton Exchange,
D. P. HADEN,
Pres. of Taxing District, and others.

PHILADELPHIA, 7.—The demand for wool is improving but prices are unchanged.

LAWRENCE, Mass., 6.—A freshet in Merrimac River to-day, caused a partial suspension of all the mills. The river is rising, and a general suspension is expected to-morrow. The ice carried away a span of the railroad bridge now building.

WASHINGTON, 7.—A prominent senator says Edmunds would have accepted the appointment if tendered him first. It is now thought that Judge Blatchford, of New York will be appointed.

Justice Miller, of the Supreme Court is ill again. Indications being that another operation similar to that of last year will have to be performed.

MEMPHIS, 6.—Commissioners Magnus, of Arkansas, and Hemingway, of Mississippi, sent supplies this afternoon to a point on both sides of the river between here and Greenville, Miss. Every day brings intelligence of widespread suffering and of the destitute condition of the people within the inundated region. The levee in front of Helena, Ark., is still intact, but the backwater from the overflow is gradually encroaching upon the business portion of the city. The levees between Vicksburg and Helena are covered with stock in a starving condition. Several rafts with whole families aboard have been seen floating down stream. The situation has become desperate in some localities, and now it is only a question of provisions or early starvation to both human beings and stock.

The Sheriff of Bolivar County has lodged his prisoners in jail here. He reports very few plantations in his county with even a strip of land above water, consequently the loss of stock there will be almost total. The levees are thronged with negroes and stock, whose condition is most deplorable. As its extent becomes known, this calamity begins to appal people. The tax sufficient to rebuild the levees above would be almost insupportable, but that is only an item.

Helena, Ark., 6.—The situation to-night is alarming in the extreme. The levee broke above the city last night and the water is kept off from the city by a cross levee at Walker Street. The water continues coming up. If Walker Street levee breaks to-night we will be in a sad condition to-morrow morning. A large force of men are at work and merchants are putting their goods upon shelves and otherwise preparing for a general overflow. Reports from below continue of a most distressing character. Two new breaks occurred to-day, and much damage is reported.

SUDBURY, Mass., 7.—A terrific explosion occurred this morning at the works of the American Powder Co. at Acton.

WASHINGTON, 7.—W. W. Danenhower received two letters from his son, Lieut. John Danenhower, of the *Jeannette* Arctic exploring expedition. The first one is dated Buleu, mouth of the Lena, Nov. 9th, 1881. There is added a postscript dated at Yakoutski, Dec. 17th. The trip up the river from Buleu to Yakoutski occupied 36 days and was made on sledges, with dogs, reindeer and horses. Lieut. Danenhower describes the journey as one full of severe hardships. There were stations at intervals on the way constructed of logs. He describes the last one of these, 17 miles from Yakoutski, the best of the lot, as a small log building with a cowshed attached. It was composed of one room, in which were about 20 people, when his party arrived. In the centre was the body of a horse, killed for food and brought into the room to thaw out. During the night the party stopped at this hut, and Jack Cole, boatswain, while laboring under aberration of mind, got up and started out to walk to New York to see his wife. The thermometer was 60 degrees below zero. At Yakoutski, Lieut. Danenhower says he found a man who un-

derstood French, and was taken to the Governor, who treated him with great kindness and consideration. He detailed a lieutenant with instructions to give the wants of the party special attention. They were quartered in a small hotel conducted on the European plan. Lieut. Danenhower speaks of his stay at Yakoutski as exceedingly pleasant and comfortable under the circumstances. Lieut. Danenhower says they had to travel 700 miles over ice from the ship to the mouth of the Lena. They landed in shoal water and were compelled to wade two miles to land. They were forced to travel a hundred miles further before they reached shelter, and he says he was up five days and four nights without sleep or rest. He mentions that out of 33 comprising the crew and officers of the *Jeannette*, only 13 are known to be living and one is known to be dead.

Justice Field in behalf of the United States Supreme Court yesterday rendered a decision in the case of the St. Louis Smelting and Refining Company vs. Kemp and Nuttall, which is of immense importance to all mining interests. This is the case heretofore referred to in these dispatches as having been decided by Justice Miller in the circuit court for Colorado, and taken to the Supreme Court on a writ of error for final review. The plaintiff relied for a reversal of the Circuit Court judgment upon three grounds: First, error in admitting the record of the proceedings of the land office to impeach the validity of the patent issued upon them; second, error in instructing the jury that a patent for a placer claim, since the act of 1870, could not embrace in any case more than 160 acres; and third, error in instructing the jury that the owner by purchase of several claims must take separate proceedings upon each one in order to obtain a valid patent, and that it was not lawful for him to prosecute a single application upon a consolidation of several claims into one, or for the land officers to allow such application, and to issue a patent thereon. Justice Fields, in delivering the decision of the Supreme Court yesterday said: We are of the opinion that these several grounds are well taken and that in each particular the court below erred. He then proceeded to deliver a very able and exhaustive opinion, discussing all the various points raised, reviewing the entire history and purpose of mining legislation, and setting forth the disastrous consequences which would result from upholding the reversed decision, and expounding the doctrines which the Supreme Court will apply to all similar questions hereafter.

Representative Harris has completed his report on the bill for the construction of new war vessels. The report covers about 80 legal cap pages. It begins by reviewing the present utter inefficiency of the navy and says: The naval committee felt the time for wise and energetic action had come. The work of reconstruction must be begun and pushed with vigor in order that the new vessels properly armed may be ready to fill the places of vessels of the present navy as fast as they become unfit for further service.

SANTA FE, N.M., 7.—Gov. Sheldon received news from Taos Pueblo, yesterday, which, if substantiated, is serious. It is to the effect that four days ago some Taos Pueblos became drunk, were arrested and placed in jail. They escaped, and Deputy Sheriff Meirs and Martinez started to Pueblo town to rearrest them. They and their posse were met by 59 armed Pueblo Indians, and a fight ensued, in which Deputy Sheriff Meirs was killed and Deputy Sheriff Martinez mortally wounded. The murderers have not yet been captured. The Taos Pueblo is one of the richest and largest in the Territory, and heretofore the best feeling has existed between the Pueblos and surrounding Mexican towns. Of late too much whisky traffic has been going on, which the United States authorities should stop. Gov. Sheldon has sent to Texas for the latest information, and news is hourly expected.

ST. LOUIS, 7.—The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Missouri Pacific Railway to-day elected the following board of directors for the ensuing year: Jay Gould, Russell Sage, F. D. Ames, W. F. Buckley, R. S. Hayes, S. H. H. Clark, Sidney Dillon, T. T. Eckert, Geo. J. DeForest, S. Sloan, A. L. Hopkins, H. G. Morgan and Geo. Gould. The meeting of the Iron Mountain Co. which was to be held to-day is postponed until the 14th when Jay

Gould will be here and the annual reports of both roads be represented.

CHICAGO, 7.—The fifty-first birthday of Lieutenant General Phelps H. Sheridan was celebrated last night with a dinner given by the Illinois Commandery of Loyal Legion of the United States, at the Union League Club rooms. Seventy covers were spread. The banquet was a strictly private affair, but speeches were made by eminent citizens, who served with the General in his sixty-four battles, and the evening passed most pleasantly.

The Chicago & Alton, the Atchafalpa, Topeka & Santa Fe and Southern Pacific roads formed a freight line from Chicago to California. Joint tariff will be established and all will benefit by the special rates and by the contracts made by the Central and Union Pacific and Northern overland line.

BOSTON, 7.—Mrs. Bell, it seems, did not receive the fatal wound in the street. Almost immediately on entering the house, and while she stood at the foot of the stairway, a stranger drew a long knife and plunged it into the neck of the unfortunate woman, who stood still a moment with the blood pouring out in a stream, and turned and found her way into the back parlor, where she sank into a chair screaming, "I am murdered." Her daughter, aged 13 years, says: "I heard mamma scream down in the front entry and ran down. As I was going down stairs I saw a man going out of the front door. His back was toward me, but I saw the side of his face and part of his mustache. He was a big man. When I got down stairs my mamma was sitting on a chair in the back room, and the blood was pouring out of her neck. She fell forward on the floor, and that was all I saw." Three arrests have been made, but the right persons are believed not captured.

DENVER, 7.—On Thursday, Arnold Howard and Frank Young, charged with cattle stealing, were arrested and placed in jail at Del Norte. The next day an attempt was made to break jail, but was prevented. On Saturday night 100 mounted men, said to be stock men from Rio Grande and San Luis Valley, rode down on the guards, ordered them to throw up their hands, and commenced firing in every direction. When the jail was broken open the prisoners attempted to escape. Young was mortally wounded and Howard killed outright. The body of the latter was thrown into the river. The windows of the jail were riddled with bullets. Howard has been arrested 12 times, charged with cattle stealing, and in every instance was cleared.

NEW YORK, 8.—The *Tribune's* Washington special says: It is expected that debate upon the Chinese bill will be concluded to-morrow, and that a vote will be reached upon the measure. There is no doubt of the passage of the bill, but it may be modified by the adoption of Ingalls' amendment limiting the suspension of Chinese immigration to ten instead of twenty years. All questions involving the general principles of the opponents of the bill, have gained undoubted advantage in the debate. The speeches of Hoar, Brown and Dawes were simply unanswerable, but these gentlemen are held up as mere theorists in regard to this question. Pacific Coast senators advanced little or nothing except bare assertions, often easily refuted, have ever borne themselves as representatives of the almost unanimous opinion of the people, who have experienced the alleged rub of association with the Chinese.

At the annual meeting of the Union Pacific R. R. to-day the following directors were elected: Sidney Dillon, Elisha Atkins, Frederick L. Ames, Ezra H. Baker, S. H. H. Clark, F. Gordon Dexter, David Dows, Grenville M. Dodge, T. T. Eckert, Jay Gould, Solon Humphreys, Russell Sage, Augustus Schell, Wm. H. Scott and John Sharp. At a subsequent meeting of the directors Sidney Dillon was reelected President, and a quarterly dividend of 1 1/2 per cent declared. The total earnings this year was \$24,258,817, last year \$22,455,184. Expenses this year 12,480,343, last year 10,545,119. Net earnings this year, \$11,778,474, against \$11,910,015 last year. The decrease in the net earnings is accounted for by the fact that this company laid \$500,749 worth of rails in excess of last year. The debt of the company is \$4,035,078, which is more than covered by available bonds and securities, and supplies on hand. The company holds securities of other roads \$51,778,000, of which \$22,000,000 are at par and