

BY TELEGRAPH.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

A MERICAN

WASHINGTON, 20.—The following official order has been made:

It appearing that certain persons have been practising systematic frauds on ex-Union soldiers and their widows and orphans or other heirs, by making false representations concerning pension claims and extorting illegal fees for services pretended to have been or promised to be rendered, and this Department having reason to believe that some postmasters have been aiding these fraudulent claim agents by furnishing them lists of names of ex-Union soldiers and others supposed to be entitled to pensions, and also by distributing for them unaddressed circulars; therefore postmasters are forbidden hereafter to furnish such lists or distribute any circulars of the kind indicated, unless they are addressed to some individual and are prepaid as required by law.

(Signed) W. C. GRESHAM, Postmaster General.

A decision was rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States to-day in the important "Mercer Colony" land case, Wm. C. Walsh, Commissioner of the General Land Office of the State of Texas vs. Wm. Preston. This was a suit originally brought by Preston upon an alleged contract between the Republic of Texas and one Charles F. Mercer, by which the latter agreed to bring to Texas a large number of immigrant families and settle them on unoccupied public lands, and the Republic of Texas agreed to give Mercer and his associates as compensation for his work 640 acres of land for every family thus brought within its limits. The court holds that inasmuch as there is no proof that Mercer ever brought enough settlers into the Republic of Texas to constitute even a shadow of compliance on his part with the terms of the contract, the State of Texas is released from all obligations which the republic of Texas may have assumed by virtue of such contract, and that claimant has no valid claim to equitable relief. Judgment of the U. S. Circuit Court reversed, the case remanded with directions to dismiss the bill. Opinion by Justice Miller, Justice Harlan dissenting.

The judgment of the Supreme Court of Louisiana is affirmed with costs in the suit of Folsom Bros. to compel the authorities of New Orleans to provide for the payment of two judgments recovered by the former against the city as indemnification for damage done their property by a mob in 1873. The decision of the court below was adverse to Folsom. The court also decided that the Alabama and Florida Railroad Company, which through successive transfers has come into the hands of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company, is liable to State taxation, and the present owners cannot claim immunity.

The report of the Comptroller of the Currency is in the hands of the printer. The portion furnished for publication relates mainly to State banks. From returns received from twenty-four States, it appears there are 793 State banks and trust companies, and 630 savings banks. Savings banks deposits, \$1,024,858,787, and deposits of State banks and trust companies, \$500,874,217. These returns don't include bank deposits. The deposits of National Banks Oct. 2d, 1883, exclusive of those due banks, were \$1,063,601,156. There are 749 private banks in the 16 principalities, with deposits of \$104,445,338. There are 2,611 private bankers in 34 States, exclusive of the above cities, will deposit \$181,370,757. The Comptroller estimates the percentage that will be lost by holders of National Bank notes from failure to present them for redemption after twenty years circulation will be from 1 to 1 1/2 per cent. Highest amount of the first issue of legal tenders outstanding at any one time, \$149,461,752; amount outstanding November 1st, 1883, \$311,473,855. At the percentage of 2-55 on the highest amount outstanding.

Issue of silver dollars last week, \$339,000, against \$940,000 the same time last year.

TOLEDO, O., 19.—Telegram, Swanton, Ohio: Samuel Hernay shot his wife, called the Widow Stevens, this afternoon, and tried to kill her daughter, Mrs. Libs, then shot himself. Both are dead. They had been married about a year, and had quarrelled.

Denver, 19.—Republican, Lead-

ville: Last evening S. H. White, civil engineer of the Denver & South Park Railway, was murdered by a tie cutter at Robinson. He has a brother in Chicago named Randall White, a justice of the peace.

El Paso, Texas, 19.—Demetrio Soto and wife were murdered while asleep at Paso del Norte. It is presumed for their money. An Indian pottery peddler is suspected.

Oxford, Ind., 19.—At the lynching of Nelling this morning, for the killing of Ada Atkinson, just before he was swung off, one of his executioners said to him: "Nelling, you must die; have you any further confession to make, or anything to say?" He replied: "No, nothing more than I have already said; but I want you to make a half-way decent job of this, and cut off my wind as quick as you can." Five minutes were given him. When strung up, a paper was pinned on his breast, with the words, "Warning to Murderers." At 10 o'clock the body was taken down.

The coroner's jury returned a verdict of "death by violence at the hands of a band of masked men, unknown to us." The body was interred in the county grounds west of Oxford.

Chicago, 19.—The Times Pittsburg special says: A. H. Rowland, clerk of court at Pittsburg, has been held for bail for embezzling \$48,000 during two terms of office.

Baltimore, 19.—Mrs. Zoe Hayward of Philadelphia, wife of the opera singer, attempted suicide at the Mansion House. She fired seven shots, one took effect in the left breast. The wound is serious. Deserion is the cause.

Boston, 19.—Charles N. Dewey, who absconded after many forgeries and defrauding of firms here and in Montreal, and was arrested in San Francisco when about to sail for China, to-day pleaded guilty to nine counts for forgery.

Buffalo, N. Y., 19.—The opinion prevails that the schooner James Wade, from Detroit Oct. 25, with the schooner H. F. Murray, went ashore near Silver Creek and foundered with all on board.

St. John, N. F., 19.—Saint Pierre announces a furious snowstorm on Friday and Saturday last, attended with loss of life and property. Ships were driven ashore and crews perished.

The ship Portland, lumber laden schooner, and brigantines, bound for France, were driven upon the reefs and wrecked. Several vessels were driven from their anchorage and partially wrecked. Trepassey advices report several bodies came ashore there and at St. Shott's; no identifications as yet. All were mutilated, the hands, arms and legs severed from the trunks. At St. Shott's a large vessel drove by dismasted; she looked abandoned. The steamer Capitan was detained four days by a hurricane, unable safely to face the northern gale. Three schooners went down in Trinity Bay and one in Captain Bay. The steamer Missouri, Boston, for Liverpool, passed Cape Race, Sunday. She reports frightfully stormy weather.

Montreal, 19.—Reports of the disastrous effects of the gale last week come in daily. The following fatal accidents are reported: Two sailors, St. Jean, residing at Sorel, were drowned. Mr. Fausignant, with wife and five children, were drowned while crossing the river from Gentilly to Champlain. Victor Nenillette, a sailor on board the schooner Charles Brown, fell overboard and drowned. It is reported the barge Alabama was found abandoned on Lake St. Louis; it is feared the crew perished. The gale played havoc with some light ships on Lake St. Louis.

Halifax, 10.—The Norwegian bark Plormedan was lost on the rocks off Green Island. Her captain and 10 men were drowned.

Montreal, 19.—A thousand sheep from Ontario for England are detained; fourteen are affected with scab.

New York, 19.—An assignment is made for the benefit of the creditors Moses Henlein & Company men's finishing store; preferences, \$50,728.

A schedule of assignment of Simon Lauterbach is filed; liabilities, \$171,500; actual assets, \$623,121.

Pittsburg, 19.—The Bessemer Steel Works, Homestead, Pa., closed down their rail department Saturday night, for an indefinite period, the remainder of the establishment continuing operations until the present orders are worked off, when there will be a general suspension for improvement in trade.

Pittsburg, 19.—The mills of Oliver

Bros. & Phillips, reported as having closed down last night, have suspended operations in all departments except the rolling mill, and D. B. Oliver, one of the firm, stated this evening that it was very probable work would be suspended in that department very soon if trade did not improve. Among other mills said to be preparing to close down about the 15th of next month are the extensive works of Everson, McCrum & Co., and the Union Iron Mills, operated by Carnegie Bros. & Co. It was rumored to-night that the Bessemer steel works at Homestead, Pa., had ordered their fires out, but owing to the lateness of the hour it was impossible to get anything reliable from that place. Interviews with numerous iron manufacturers developed the fact that the trade is passing through a period of unusual depression. Secretary J. D. Weeks anticipated a doleful equal to the four years succeeding the panic of 1873.

New Orleans, 19.—The Times-Democrat has received the following:

In the Everglades, via Jacksonville, 12.—The Times-Democrat expedition through the Everglades reached Lake Okeechobee on Nov. 1st. The expedition encountered two severe gales on the lake. Two boats were swamped but nobody lost. We found eight large rivers running from Lake Sault into the Everglades, which we partially explored. We made six unsuccessful attempts to cut through the swamp bordering the Everglades. On the 10th of November we went up T. D. River a distance of two miles. This river, which we named for the Times-Democrat, is on the extreme southern shore of the lake. From the banks of the river we cut through the surrounding marsh. The expedition is now within half a mile of the great sawgrass, and going at the rate of a quarter of a mile a day. There is neither water to float the canoe, nor land to stand on; nothing but mud and marsh. The grass is ten feet high. We are going through it in the power of mortal man. All well.

A subsequent dispatch from Fort Meyers indicates that the expedition is in great danger, if not lost, because of great fires in the sawgrass. This information comes from a gentleman who accompanied the expedition to the edge of the sawgrass region bordering the lake. The telegram is as follows: Fort Meyers, Fla., Nov. 19.—"I accompanied the Times-Democrat expedition until it cut two days' journey through the borders of the everglades. On the second day after leaving the party, and while sailing on Okeechobee, I discovered that the saw-grass marsh had been set on fire, and the country for miles is now one raging fire. If the expedition fired the grass purposely before getting in it, they acted wisely. If done by accident after entering it, or if it was set fire by Indians, not one of the expedition will ever live to tell the tale."

(Signed) S. H. MARSH.

The Times-Democrat telegraphed the Diston Company, now dredging along the upper border of Lake Okeechobee, to send a relief party in search of the expedition, and discover if it had been injured by the fire.

CINCINNATI, 20.—The discovery has been made in the county auditor's office of a peculiar scheme to defraud tax-payers. It is increasing the assessed valuation of the property of certain large taxpayers mainly incorporated companies, and then offering for a commission to get the excessive taxes refunded. The discovery was made two weeks ago, but kept quiet, and orders for the remitters given to the treasury in all cases found out. Two clerks of the late auditor Capellar are suspected, but no arrests have been made. The amount of money obtained in this way is very large.

New York, 20.—At the Northern Pacific preferred stockholder's meeting this afternoon, 352,428 shares voted in favor of the \$20,000,000 second mortgage bonds issue, and only 63 shares against it.

St. Johns, N. F., 20.—The brigantine Bonnie Lassie was lost in the recent hurricane, with Capt. Hogan and first officer Peary and steward Lehey. The brigantine Guelph founded in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The crew got ashore after terrible suffering, being 48 hours in a small boat with only one oar. Other vessels are reported lost, but the crew saved.

Pittsburg, Pa., 20.—Patrick V. O'Brien, the Irish giant, and Christina D. Dunse, the German giantess, were married in this city to-day.

The ceremony was performed in the German Evangelical Church, and was witnessed by a numerous concourse of people, including the mayor and council of Pittsburg, the mayor of Allegheny, John McCollough, Margaret Mather, the Aztec dwarfs, several Indians and a snake charmer. Outside the church the crowd gathered in such numbers as to obstruct the traffic, in spite of the efforts of a large force of police. O'Brien wore a full dress suit, and a medal presented to him by the Land League ornamented his breast. The bride wore orange blossoms, a wreath and a veil that covered a superb dress of white satin, while in her hand she held a bouquet of enormous size. After the service the bridal party drove at once to the museum and held a public reception.

The wedding cake is the largest ever made, measuring nine feet in circumference and three feet in thickness. A giant loaf of bread five yards long will decorate the table. This is the first marriage of giants in America, and the second in the world. The combined height of the bridal pair is 15 feet 3 inches, and they tip the beam at 549 lbs. The wedding ring weighed seventeen pennyweights and was five inches in circumference.

CHICAGO, 20.—The Daily News of Danville, Ind., says: Early yesterday morning unknown parties inserted dynamite cartridges under the Dewdrop saloon. The explosion blew the building to pieces and shook the entire town.

WASHINGTON, 20.—Commander Wildes resumed his testimony before the Proteus court of inquiry to-day, and Gen. Hazen questioned witness, who adhered to his statement made yesterday concerning the crew of the Proteus and the general lack of information shown by the officers of the Signal Service in regard to the equipment and general wants of the expedition.

The annual report of Admiral Porter is notable for a criticism of the new armored steel cruisers, designed by the Naval Advisory Board, as being deficient in canvass, and so constructed as not to work under sail. This in time of war would be a fatal defect, as all coaling stations would be closed against us, and in time of peace naval vessels should cruise under sail for the sake of economy. The Admiral believes in the immediate construction of a large number of swift vessels with powerful guns, and thinks we could build twenty large ships in two years. Prompt attention to our Lake defense he considers of prime importance, and sees no reason why we should not commence to build on the Lake Shore two of the heaviest ironclads with powerful guns and great speed. Upon this subject the Admiral says, there is every facility for constructing such vessels on Lake Erie, and one such ship stationed near Buffalo could case of threatened hostilities, day by day the month of the War, Canal and demolish the entrance docks, etc., rendering the work less for naval purposes. It should a vessel succeed in destroying the canal, it would be immediately destroyed. I would recommend one of the proposed ironclads on built on Lake Ontario, arm in the stocks ready for last case of necessity.

Medical Inspector F.

missed the naval service.

John B. Furey, Pa.

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part of the

20.—The Sentinel

MILWAUKEE publishes a tabulated

to-morrow the loss of life and

statement series of gales, Nov.

property, showing the loss of 55

lith to vessels. Only 11 of the

lives representing about 6,000 tons,

latter, of over \$300,000 tons,

and released. Twenty-six re-

having 9,000 tons, and a value of

pre-are total losses.

20.—The Republican Coal

mine, 20.—This morning Isaac Jones

at Pitt. Griffiths started down the

shaft of the Canfield coal mine for

the purpose of examining it. When

down 300 feet their lamps ignited

the gas, causing a terrific explosion,

Griffiths was stunned and badly

burned, but managed to escape.

Later Jones was found in the bot-

tom of the shaft dead. Jones is a

brother of J. G. Jones, of Beaco, Iowa, principal owner of the mine. San Francisco, 20.—A fire at Dixon, Cal., last night, destroyed the business portion of the town. Losses reported a quarter of a million; it is believed they are exaggerated.

Flushing, L. I., 20.—The old Charllo mansion, owned by Dr. Reynolds, is burned; loss \$40,000.

Locust Valley, L. I., 20.—The soles of the shoes of James Doyle arrested on suspicion of being the murderer of the Maybee family correspond exactly with the cast taken of footprints around the barn.

As the examination closed, the floor room crowded with spectators gave way, and all, coroner, reporters, officers, prisoner and people tumbled in a mass. The cellar full of barrels prevented serious casualties. The stove fell over adding to the confusion. There was great scrambling, many receiving slight injuries.

The coroner resumed the examination at the Nassau House. No new facts were elicited. The authorities are not satisfied that the criminal is secured. Search is diligently prosecuted. Excitement is unabated.

Chicago, 20.—The Times special says: J. F. Oakum, Baptist minister at Grand Chain, Ill., has been placed in jail at Mound City for concocting a scheme for swindling insurance companies, by representing that his accomplice was drowned in the Ohio river.

Trenton, N. J., 20.—A prize fight was fought early this morning of Bucks Co., Pa., by James Gillian Philadelphia, and Patrick were of this city. Sixty-five or more fought. The men were skillful. In the 65th round Patrick getting rather the worse was lashed claimed a fouled win—granted, and he was witnessed ner. About 300 peeped about the battle, which

two hours.

Omaha, Neb., Republic of

Grand Army is a mem-

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20.—The Post-Express

preven from a man who

Rec'd O'Donnell, soon to be

publ'w Dublin for killing Carey.

says, O'Donnell was one of the

the Molly Maguires of

Avania, and that in connec-

with Dan Kelly, Jim Carroll

Red Shirt, he was in several

His three confederates were

ed. O'Donnell, who formerly

himself Thomas Moran, is the

one left.

San Francisco, 20.—A suit involv-

ing \$20,000,000 was commenced to-

day by the widow and heirs of John

Bowie Gray against the Quicksilver

Mining Company, New Almaden,

Cal. Gray, one of the three origi-

nal proprietors of the mine, died in

New York in 1861. The action is

based on the fraudulent adminis-

tration of the property by Robert J.

Walker, formerly secretary and

treasurer, partner of the deceased

Gray, and till lately chief repre-

sentative of the company.

HACKENSACK, N. Y., 20.—The

Republican will contain to-morrow

an interview with Wm. Walter

Phelps, member-elect to the next

Congress, in which he gives expres-

sion to a general wish among repub-

lican members of the next House

that ex-Speaker Ketter should re-

fuse to be a candidate for the empty

honor of renomination. It seems

Phelps has written Ketter, at the

suggestion of members from differ-

ent parts of the country, some of

whom have served before, others

who enter Congress the first time.

They believe their party will be

strengthened by taking a new de-

parture, and that the House

of Representatives is the best

place to begin the new movement

for the selection of new names for

all positions. It is said the reason

why Phelps was selected to carry

on this correspondence was because

he is not personally acquainted with

the ex-Speaker, and being a New

Jersey republican he has not been

involved in any of the factional

quarrels of the party. He is there-

fore acceptable to both stalwarts and

half-breeds. In this interview

Phelps expresses the opinion that

the ex-Speaker, having the welfare

of the republican party at heart,

will not fail to recognize that its