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GERMAN TOPICS.

Attention Again Turned to the Army Bill.

CAPRIVI A SECOND BISMARCK.

His Wonderful Tactics Said to Stagger His Opponents.

THE EMPEROR CRITICISED.

People Do not Admire His Crushing Phraseology. Enormous Decrease in Business.

BERLIN, Jan. 7.—When the holiday season came to an end public attention was again turned to the army bill. No measure of recent years affects so closely the home life of the German people, for, should the Reichstag reject it, and Chancellor Von Caprivi carry out his threat and insist upon the full three years' service in the army, it would mean much to the young men who are poor and are, in many cases, the sole support of sisters and widowed mothers.

The Reichstag will resume its sittings Tuesday. The committee of the house to which was referred the army bill will meet on Wednesday. Chancellor Von Caprivi requested the president of the committee to expedite deliberations in order not to retard the final decision of the Reichstag. The chancellor having nothing more to tell, the committee ought to report promptly, but the members representing the clerical party remain in a state of indecision, expecting the chancellor to offer an inducement that will suffice to excuse their surrender when they are called upon to face their constituents. None of those within inner political circles believes the chancellor has committed himself. In private dealings with the leaders of several parties the chancellor is displaying much tact, and the course of his action is such as to elicit admiration even from his adversaries.

Nothing is now heard of the chancellor's retirement from office. His position with the Emperor is stronger than ever, and his development and personal resources, finesse and audacity stagger his opponents, who are becoming weak under apprehension that the bill will be passed without a single concession of importance being made by the government.

Opposition papers are trying to raise a popular storm over the emperor's recent use of the phrase, "I will crush those who oppose me." The Freisinnige press assumes that the words mean that the emperor intends to overrule the vote of the Reichstag, should it be hostile to the army bill, by resort to the application of the article in the German constitution by which every able-bodied man may be compelled to serve in the army, and another article which enables the emperor to fix the strength of the army. The abundant partisan query extended over the much-discussed phrase, seems wasted, since the official paper suggests that if the language was used at all it was directed at military personages who are unfriendly to the bill. It is probable that the emperor used the threat generally if he used it at all, not designing to attack the privileges of the Reichstag or any particular person.

The war office is taking action anticipatory to the passage of the bill. In ten centers new revision councils are being formed with a view to the extension of recruiting. The emperor, beyond doubt, means that the bill shall become a law in the course of a year.

The proprietors of the leading stores in Berlin concur in the statements that the holiday season just passed showed an enormous decrease in the business usually done at that period of the year. The annual reports issued by the various chambers of commerce in Germany state that depression prevails everywhere in the empire. The strike of the Saar miners is expected to collapse next week owing to the lack of both popular and trade support. Thousands of strikers and their families are in a starving condition, and this fact tends greatly to weaken the backbone of the strike.

A VIENNA CLUB RAIDED.

Aristocracy and Royalty in the Hands of the Police.

VIENNA, Jan. 7.—The police yesterday evening made a raid on the Jockey Club on suspicion that illegal games were being played in the rooms. The card-rooms were crowded at the time with the elite of the aristocratic and diplomatic circles of Vienna and large sums of money were at stake. The police seized 450,000 florins in cash and checks and took the names of those present for future action. Prince De Montenovo, president of the Jockey Club, hastened to the offices of the ministry of justice to protest against the action of the police and explain that the action was unjustifiable. They sanctioned the raid. The Prince thereupon promised that gambling would cease at the club. The money seized will be returned to the owners.

A CLEVER SCHEME.

How the Chinese Intend Fooling Uncle Sam.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 7.—A clever scheme of Chinamen to evade the Chinese registration act has been discovered by government detectives in the city. The act requires the Chinese to have their pictures taken and file them at the office of the international revenue collector. A Philadelphia Chinaman is taking lessons in photography and in the art of using a preparation that will cause the photographs to grow dim and fade in a year. When the registration act goes into force next May the Chinese of Philadelphia will have an artistic countryman photograph them and after applying the fading preparation to the picture it will be filed with Collector Brooks. Within a year the picture will be so dim that it will be almost unrecognizable and Collector Brooks will be unable to tell whether a man before him is the original of a photograph or a recent importation from China. It is said that the scheme has been transmitted to the Chinese in all the large cities of the country and photography is being seriously studied by Celestial inhabitants.

GOLD IN ARIZONA.

The Richest Strike Yet Found in the Country.

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz., Jan. 7.—A rich strike has been made in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado about seventy miles north of this town. A prospector named Frank Foulke discovered a ledge very rich in quartz bearing free gold in large quantities. Specimens brought to Flagstaff are declared by old prospectors to be the richest yet discovered in the country.

Cannot Do Anything for Ireland.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—John Morley, chief secretary for Ireland, in the course of a speech tonight regarding Ireland, said the government had been persuaded that migration was preferable to immigration and the government would do its best to meet the wishes of the Irish, but he feared it would be impossible to do anything in the matter in the coming session of parliament.

The Panama Affair.

PARIS, Jan. 7.—M. M. Baihaut, Blondin, Fontaine, Cottu and Chas. De Lesseps were examined simultaneously by Magistrate Franqueville today. The confrontation of the men led to vehement altercations, the noise of which could be heard outside of the courtroom. Magistrate Franqueville afterwards held a conference with the procurer general. If it shall be decided to prosecute Ex-Minister Baihaut the government will leave it to the chamber to decide if he shall be prosecuted before the senate or before the assizes.

Carlisle Says He Has Not Resigned.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 7.—Senator Carlisle tonight very emphatically denied the report that he had resigned his seat in the Senate to accept the position of secretary of the treasury in Mr. Cleveland's cabinet. Replying to the question as to whether he minded saying whether he would resign, the senator replied: "I do for the reason that I do not know myself."

Additional Quarantine Powers.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The bill granting additional quarantine powers and imposing additional duties upon the marine hospital service was taken up and the formal amendments agreed to. This brought the Senate to an amendment which empowers the President to suspend (for such time as he may deem necessary) immigration from countries or places where cholera or yellow fever exist. Mr. Kyle, a Republican of South Dakota, moved to strike out "yellow fever" and insert "other contagious or infectious diseases," and spoke of the prevalence of typhus fever in Mexico. After a desultory discussion the amendment was agreed to and also the section as amended. An amendment was offered by Mr. Squire of Washington designating the supervising surgeon general of the marine hospital service as an officer by whom certain duties be executive. There was considerable discussion and some unpleasant criticism of Mr. Wyman, which was resented by that gentleman's friends. Finally Squire withdrew his amendment. Several minor amendments were offered by Chandler and agreed to, also one appropriating $1,000,000 to be expended by the President to meet the exigencies in the execution of the provisions of the bill. A formal amendment having been offered by Mr. Platt, the yeas and nays were demanded by White of Louisiana, who stated frankly his purpose was to prevent action until some gentleman from New Orleans who is in opposition to the bill reached Washington. After some interchanges of views an agreement was reached that the special order as to bills on the subject of quarantine and immigration be continued until Monday, and the anti-option bill will be resumed on Tuesday. Finally Mr. Platt's amendment was agreed to and the amendment went over until Monday. The Senate then adjourned.

The House employed the entire day in the consideration of the District of Columbia appropriation bill and adjourned without disposing of it.

BANKING AND CURRENCY.

The House Committee Discusses a Bill to Increase the Circulation.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The House committee on banking and currency discussed this afternoon the bill to increase the circulation of the national banks and repeal the silver purchase section of the Sherman act.

Mr. Townsend of Colorado offered an amendment in the shape of the Stewart free coinage bill, which was almost unanimously rejected.

Mr. Brosius of Pennsylvania moved postponing consideration of the repealing section until the conclusion of the international monetary conference. This proposition was also rejected. The proposition of the state of Arkansas to amend section 4 by providing for the coinage of all silver bullion now in the treasury was reached, but not voted on. The committee adjourned till Monday, when it is expected some definite action on the bill will be taken.

Winter in Wisconsin.

ASHLAND, Wis., Jan. 8.—The most terrific snowstorm of the season has been raging for the past ten hours, and as yet, showing no signs of abatement. All trains are blocked by the snow. Ashland's streets are almost impassable on account of the blinding storm. Charles Slack was fatally frozen. The amputation of his hands were necessary and his feet must be amputated, in which event the physicians say he cannot live. Snow on the Gogebic range is now over four feet deep on the level. Several persons endeavoring to reach Washburn from Ashland by driving across Chequamegon bay, a distance of six miles, were lost and would have perished but for a chance rescue. Others are still on the ice, unheard from.

CORRIGAN NOW.

Charges of Grave Character Preferred

BY ARCHBISHOP IRELAND.

A Widespread Conspiracy Said to Exist against the Pope.

AN APPEAL TO ROME.

The Case Will Have Serious Consequences whether the Prelate be Found Guilty or Not.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—A Chicago special to the Sun says:

"Formal charges of the gravest character are preferred against the Most Rev. Michael Augustine Corrigan, Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, by a brother prelate of his grade in New York. He is accused by the Most Rev. John Ireland, Archbishop at St. Paul, of having engaged in an unlawful conspiracy to weaken or undermine the effect of the Pope's decisions in the respect of the church in respect to matters in America and having had recourse to methods unbecoming a bishop, designed to discredit and disgrace Archbishop Ireland and Mgr. Satolli. These charges, duly formulated, are now on their way to Rome, where they will be presented to the highest tribunal in the Roman Catholic church that has power to pass upon the accusations and fix the punishment of the accused if they be sustained. If Archbishop Corrigan be found guilty as charged, his fate as well as the future of the great province of New York, over which he has so long presided, will become an object of eager surmise. Should the charges fail the consequences can scarcely be less serious to Archbishop Ireland, nor will the consequences in either case be limited to the provinces of New York and St. Paul.

The differences between Archbishop Ireland and Archbishop Corrigan were of long standing. The partners of Archbishop Corrigan in the conspiracy are now alleged to be priests of his immediate entourage, notably Father Michael Joseph Lavelle, rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral, who is especially named by Archbishop Ireland as a conspirator, and possibly Father Gerardo Errante, Archbishop Corrigan's Italian secretary. It is said other priests are involved.

As regards Archbishop Corrigan there is documentary evidence which will be produced against the distinguished prelate. If they are interpreted aright by Archbishop Corrigan's accusers they prove the existence of a conspiracy of which the Archiepiscopal residence in Madison avenue is the center, and which extended in numerous ramifications throughout America into France and Italy, and even to the shadow of St. Peters itself.

Continuing, the article says that upon the arrival of Mgr. Satolli it was for a time supposed that the differences between Archbishops Ireland and Corrigan would be ended. Friends of Archbishop Ireland felt elated. Then came rumblings of discontent from the Corrigan faction. An anonymous letter with disagreeable insinuations regarding Mgr. Satolli published in the daily press. The storm of indignation reached its climax when Father Edward McGlynn was restored. It was soon learned, so the article says, that Archbishop Corrigan was sending anonymous letters to be published in Chicago criticising Archbishop Ireland and the views of his letters dated at Philadelphia, will suffice, they say. Archbishop Corrigan's Philadelphia article was speedily found a magnet, attracting to itself a considerable mass of other documentary and verbal evidence bearing upon the case in very much the same way. Laymen whom the Archbishop of New York honored with his confidence proved to be only Roman Catholic citizens of Chicago whom it was deemed desirable to enlist in the anti-Ireland propaganda.

Representatives of this journal found very little trouble in gaining the confidence of several persons who within two or three weeks past had received more or less direct proofs of Archbishop Corrigan's trust in his own persuasiveness and antipathy to the scholastic thought and practice which is supposed to be represented by Archbishop Ireland and Mgr. Satolli. The letters do not have the signature of Archbishop Corrigan, but they are signed by Father Michael Joseph Lavelli, St. Patrick's cathedral, New York. They appeal to the various addresses to use their influence, as they have secured publication in the press (both secular and religious). The articles protest against the unfortunate influence obtained by Archbishop Ireland at Rome and against Mgr. Satolli's experience in American Catholic affairs, which is described as offensive and annoying.

At length the friends of the archbishop of St. Paul became convinced that Archbishop Corrigan was the center of the propaganda, whose purpose is to discredit Archbishop Ireland in the estimation of the Roman Catholics of America and the Vatican and to create such an alarm at the Vatican as may result in the recall of Mgr. Satolli and the reversal of the pope's expressed policy in respect to religious education in America.

IRELAND IS SILENT.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 8.—Archbishop Ireland would not talk today about the story that he had forwarded charges to the pope that Archbishop Corrigan and others had organized a conspiracy for the overthrow of Mgr. Satolli and himself. He read the story but would say nothing about it. However, the Rev. Dr. John Conway, editor of the Northwestern Chronicle, who stands the nearest Archbishop Ireland of all ecclesiastics in the Northwest, gave the following statement to the Associated Press.

"The news from Chicago regarding the conspiracy against Archbishops Satolli and Ireland was received in St. Paul with surprise. Journalists directly interested in church matters knew by journalistic intuition that a conspiracy was being hatched and people at large heard the rumbling noises, but never dreamed of such a plan of concerted action. As to the statement that Archbishop Ireland had preferred charges in Rome there is no necessity or thing so because the pope's representative is here in the person of Archbishop Satolli. Moreover, he has just warned clear evidence from papers upon which charges could be based."

CORRIGAN REFUSES TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.

NEW YORK, Jan. 8.—Archbishop Corrigan refused today to discuss the published statements that Archbishop Ireland had sent charges to Rome accusing the New York prelate of conspiring with others to defeat Satolli's mission to this country. The archbishop said he declined to discuss any such questions in the newspapers, and that if any charges had been preferred against him it would be time enough to consider them when he received official notice of their existence. Father Lavelle dictated the following statement:

"With regard to the article I have this to say on my part at present. Archbishop Corrigan and the bishops, priests and people who believe with him in this controversy, will yield to no men in this world in point of respect and loyalty to the holy see and its accepted representative, Monseignor Satolli."

A NARROW ESCAPE.

Chicago Marvelously Saved from a Water Famine.

CHICAGO, Ill., Jan 8.—The calamity of a water famine was marvelously averted, and it would have been a famine which in all probability could not have been relieved before spring. Captain McKee, keeper of the crib at the Chicago pumping station, was discharged this morning by City Engineer Clark because the men under him intended to allow ice to accumulate around the intakes so the supply would be cut off and then they intended to strike, demanding the removal of McKee, whom they claim treated them badly. Such a strike would have been disastrous, as the cold weather would soon form a mass of ice around the intakes that nothing but dynamite or a spring thaw could remove.

Captain William H. Dahl was appointed in McKee's place. When he, accompanied by other officials, arrived at the crib and made known his mission, McKee asked fifteen men who were at work keeping the ice from the intakes to go with him. The men were not unanimous in responding to the invitation, and only five accompanied their late chief. The officials of the water department deny that there was any conspiracy to allow the pipes to freeze up.

Troops at the Chicago Fair.

WASHINGTON, Jan 7.—The secretary of war sent to the Senate today a communication from Adjutant General Douglas of Maryland suggesting that Congress enact a law to provide for the encampment of 100,000 United States and state troops at Chicago on the occasion of the World's Columbian exposition. The views of Major General Schofield were attached. He says probably 5,000 regulars could be spared from their duties to participate in the movement, and in connection with state troops would equal in numbers a large army, and doubtless would constitute the most interesting and imposing of all displays to be made at the Exposition, but thinks the encampment of such a large body would make it difficult to find territory for them and involve much expense. No staff officers in the limited time suggested could give the instructions to make the manoeuvers effective. "In short," concluded General Schofield, "it is not believed that for the purpose of instruction of the troops the results obtained would be at all commensurate with the necessary expenses involved. Hence, if the proposed measure is carried out, it should be mainly if not solely, for the purpose of adding a grand and imposing feature to the Exposition."

HOME RULE NOT WANTED.

J. W. Russell Denies that Ireland is an Abused Country.

BOSTON, Jan. 8.—At an Anti-Catholic meeting in the Music hall today, Hon. J. W. Russell, a member of the parliament for Tyrone, Ireland, delivered an address in opposition to home rule for Ireland. Mr. Russell stated he was not soliciting the active interference of the people in America to the present home rule contest in Ireland.

The common idea of Ireland everywhere is that she is a much abused nation, misgoverned and trampled upon. This indictment the speaker emphatically denied. He claimed that there was two Irelands, the Ireland of law and the Ireland of lawlessness. The latter he intimated is the party which is the loudest in the clamors for home rule. He claimed that this measure was now admitted to be an impossible one to pass even by those who are its strongest advocates; that to decree Ireland representation out of the English parliament as that bill would have to do, would be to encourage separation.

He thought before self-government should be given to any nation, loyalty should be shown by its people, and this he claimed is not shown by the home rule advocates. He said the industries of Ireland had prospered under English rule.

McGlynn's Sunday Address.

NEW YORK, Jan. 8.—Cooper Union was crowded tonight with people anxious to hear Dr. McGlynn's Sunday address. Before beginning his remarks he defined his own position with regard to the Union Labor party, and Anti-Poverty society, and then said:

"It was a kindly and gracious act of Archbishop Satolli to rebuke the raking up of the old controversy on the day of peace and good will. I am very much touched by his charity and I am thankful for it. Justice requires that I should state that the things attributed to me in the publication referred to by Archbishop Satolli were never said by me. For instance, I never called the pope an 'old woman' or an 'old lady,' nor did I ever call him a 'poor old bag of bones.' I swear it."

JAMES G. BLAINE.

Once More in the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

NO MORE HOPE ENTERTAINED.

Alarming Statement Authorized by the Physicians.

DR. JOHNSTON INTERVIEWED.

Anxious Friends Calling at the Mansion.—Three Relapses During the Night.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—James G. Blaine has once more passed into the valley of the shadow of death, and even those most sanguine in anticipation now hold no hope of his recovery. Notwithstanding the hopeful views which the family and attending physicians, by direction, from time to time have given out for publication no expectation of Blaine's ultimate recovery is entertained by any one in a position to acquire a knowledge of the facts in his case. Many more or less well-founded assertions of failing and dangerous relapses have found publicity. But none were officially admitted until last night, when the physicians admitted that Blaine was worse and much weaker. Even the admission was qualified by the announcement that no immediate danger was anticipated. The case, however, changed, and from the hour of 1 o'clock this morning one or the other of the physicians remained in constant attendance at the bedside. At noon the physicians

AUTHORIZED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"Yesterday Mr. Blaine lost strength, but last night his weakness became more decided for a few hours and he seemed in danger of speedy termination. Since morning, however, he is somewhat stronger, and at the present moment shows more decided evidences of rallying. But no great hope can be felt unless the improvement shall become more marked than the present symptoms."

The doctor's bulletin was alarming, as it was the last of many facts to be supplied outside of inquiries.

At about midnight his condition became so alarming that the trained nurse had Dr. Johnston aroused and hurriedly summoned. Johnston arrived at 1 o'clock and found Blaine sinking rapidly and he worked over him for some time before signs of any recovery became evident. His condition was so alarming that the family fearfully looked for the end and remained awake and within immediate call of his bedside all night. The powerful heart restoratives applied by the doctors were successful in rallying and making more steady the feeble and fitful pulsations of the heart, so that by the time churchgoers passed the family residence Blaine's condition was a shade better. He was still, however, so weak and prostrated that the doctors did not dare leave him, at the same time fearing another attack and the final summons might come at any moment.

To a reporter who intercepted Dr. Johnston on his way to breakfast he said Blaine was in really

A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

At that time he was so low there was cause for apprehension of the worst, and the probabilities were in the direction of the patient's failing instead of rallying. Dr. Johnston returned shortly before 10 o'clock and soon afterwards Dr. Hyatt emerged. He said Blaine had rallied somewhat since early morning and his system responded more freely than heretofore to the remedies administered. They revived him to some extent and the action of the heart was better.

Representative and Mrs. Hitt, intimate personal friends of the family, were about the earliest callers of the day, and when leaving Mr. Hitt sorrowfully admitted that he did not think either Mrs. Blaine or the members of the family hoped for his ultimate recovery and said Mrs. Blaine was evidently prepared for the worst. Robert Blaine, a brother of the sick man, called later and on leaving the house said the family felt more hopeful than earlier in the morning. Soon after 11 o'clock intimate friends of the family sent telegrams to relatives and friends of the family, announcing the latest state of illness. These stated, it is understood, that the family were without hope that Blaine would recover. Secretary of State Foster called and on leaving stated that Blaine had somewhat improved and was better than last night.

A warm personal friend of Blaine and one who has access to what transpires in the sick room said this afternoon:

"Blaine has not had a connected thought for thirty days past. His heart, while nourishing the other organs, is not strong enough to furnish blood for the brain. But Blaine

DIES LIKE A PHILOSOPHER

at last. Distasteful as the subject of death has been to him in other and stronger days, a few weeks since he called his family about him and calmly told them he did not expect to recover and went over his affairs in detail, and said to each of his children all he had to say. When the history shall be written of Blaine's illness, the touching devotion of the wife and mother will be one of the interesting chapters. All during the afternoon visitors were coming and going from the Blaine mansion, among them being Vice President Morton and Secretary Halford. Towards evening Blaine rallied slightly from the attacks of the morning. The rally was effected by the doctors administering a nitro-glycerine stimulant for the heart, which it is believed is almost clogged by uraemic poisoning. After the noon hour Blaine gradually fell into a semi-stupor sleep, becoming more restless as it continued, and at 5 o'clock Dr. Johnson said the patient's condition showed a slight improvement over this morning. As the day drifted into twilight and the shades of night fell upon the great red mansion, a dim light appeared in the sick room on the third floor south. The visitors became fewer and the people in the street hurried by the house in the shivering cold, only stopping a moment to ask his condition from the newspaper men about the house. It is ascertained that there were

THREE DISTINCT RELAPSES

during the night. At 1 o'clock in the morning, when he was first seized with failure of the heart, the physicians thought the end had come, but by the aid of stimulants, chafing and the usual accessories he rallied. He soon after, however, relapsed into a stupor. Suddenly, at 5 o'clock this morning, he opened his eyes which were as clear as ever, and seeing the physician exclaimed, "Doctor, I am glad you have come." The tone of his voice was remarkably clear and strong for a man almost in extremes. Five minutes later he sank again into a stupor, and thirty minutes later he had another attack of heart failure. Strange to relate he again rallied, only to be seized a third time three hours later.

At midnight Blaine's physicians issued the following bulletin:

"Blaine's condition was more favorable this afternoon. He is now, at midnight, sleeping quietly and shows a fair degree of strength. The probabilities are that no change for the worse will take place tonight, although no positive assurance can be given on the point. As compared with last night and this morning he is better."

Both physicians will remain through the night, and the family will probably renew the vigil of last night, or at least remain accessible at a moment's call. In view of conflicting statements which have been made concerning Blaine's religious views, the statement that Rev. Dr. T. S. Hamlin, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, was called to the bedside of the dying man has more than usual interest. At 6 o'clock this morning when the family feared that Blaine was dying, Dr. Hamlin went to the house by request and prayed by Mr. Blaine's bedside. From the time of the issuance of the midnight bulletin no one has left or entered Blaine's house and every indication points to some hours of tranquility.

At 2 o'clock this (Monday) morning all is quiet at the Blaine mansion, and but one light is visible.

At 3 a. m. all is quiet in the Blaine mansion and there are no evidences of any unusual occurrences within.

HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

Officials Still without Salaries—The Lottery Bill.

HONOLULU, Jan. 1.—The legislature will meet again on the 3rd inst. and it is expected there will be a definite move to show the policy of the opposition in the house. An extra night session was held last week to complete the reading of the appropriation bill for the period ending March 31, 1894. The work was finished as far as the legislature was concerned, and the bill was forwarded to the queen for her signature. It was supposed that she would sign it so that the government employes could receive their salaries for December, but the bill yet remains unsigned and the employes are without pay. The queen's failure is thought to be the forerunner of another political move in which the composition of the cabinet is to be again changed.

The lottery bill is expected to come up for consideration next week. Homer's banking bill, which proposed the introduction of fractional paper currency has been killed. An opium license has been adopted which permits the importation of opium in bond by any one. Places for smoking opium may be established under certain restrictions. The income of the government under the bill is estimated at $2,000,000. The total footing of the budget for the period ending March 31, 1894 is $3,779,000.

Wire Rods and Cut Nails.

PITTSBURG, Jan. 8.—A movement is on foot to form a combination of manufacturers of wire rods and cut nails. The western firms in the cities of Cleveland, Joliet and Pittsburg consolidated about a year ago and a proposition has been made to the latter company with the Washburn-Moen company. It is proposed to consolidate the three industries with a capital of $25,000,000. The reasons given for the combine are over-stocked markets and ruinous prices prevailing.

Attempt to Blow Up a Train.

COLOGNE, Jan. 8.—An attempt was made this afternoon to blow up the Cologne express near Rauxel. A dynamite bomb was placed on the track about 300 yards from the station, but exploded prematurely. The track was torn up for some twenty yards and the buildings near by shaken from their foundations. It is believed that the explosion was the first gun in the strike of coal miners, which is expected to begin here early next week.

More Miners Will Strike.

BERLIN, Jan. 8.—The coal miners of the Ruhr district will strike, in sympathy with the men of the Saar district. At a meeting of the miners held in Essen today a resolution to strike tomorrow was passed unanimously.

Typhus on the Border.

TORREON, Mex., Jan. 8.—Nearly all the towns and cities in northern Mexico except Monterey and Durango are effected with an epidemic of typhus fever, and the rates of mortality from the disease are alarming. The epidemic has even reached Eagle Pass, Texas, and the American consul is sick with it.

The health authorities of the government, aided by those of different cities, are using every means to control and stamp out the epidemic.

More Deaths from Typhus.

NEW YORK, Jan. 8.—Six deaths from typhus fever occurred during Saturday night on North Brothers' Island. Three new cases were reported today.

CAPITAL NOTES.

Electors Performing their Duties Today.

CONGRESS THIS WEEK.

Interest Centered in the Anti-Option Bill in the Senate.

SPECIAL ORDERS IN THE HOUSE.

Senator Kenna of West Virginia Reported Better Yesterday.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 8.—Tomorrow the electors selected in every state in the Union will meet and carry out the will of the people as expressed at the polls last November.

Congress is required to be in joint session to count the electoral vote at 1 o'clock on the second Wednesday in February after the meeting of electors, which will be February 8th. The President of the Senate will preside over the joint assembly with the Speaker of the House sitting at the left. The certificates will then be opened and read and the result noted.

Possible objection may be raised to some of the votes from the states of California, Kansas, Michigan, Ohio and Oregon, and in this event the law provides that the two houses shall separate, consider the objections and report their findings. The count cannot proceed until each objection is disposed of. After the certificates are all read the tellers will deliver the result to the president, who, in accordance with the facts, makes the proper announcement. The announcement is declared by law and will be the sufficient and constitutional declaration of the election of Grover Cleveland and Adlai E. Stevenson. This will conclude all the formalities prior to the inauguration.

PROGRAMME OF CONGRESS.

Interest in the proceedings of Congress this week centers in prospective treatment of the anti-option bill in the Senate. The bill is now in a critical position and in the judgment of a large number of senators it must pass within a few days or give way to other matters, as the patience of the Senate is well-nigh exhausted.

The quarantine bill will come up again tomorrow as a special order, unless an adjournment is caused by unforseen events, and may occupy two or three days of this week. So it may be that the anti-option bill will not be taken up before Wednesday at the earliest, but the indications are that when it is taken up there will be a vigorous contest brought on by the effort of the friends of the bill to force it to a vote. The McGarrahan bill will fill in the morning hours perhaps during the remainder of the week, although it appears that it is really approaching a final vote.

McPherson's postponed speech on the proposition to suspend silver bullion purchases is set for tomorrow.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE HOUSE

for the week has not been mapped out and will not be until tomorrow when a number of special orders will be arranged by the committee on rules in Congress if Congress is in session. The Baum report on the bill for the election of senators by the direct vote of the people, and the commerce committee with the omnibus eight hour bill will be given the day.

SENATOR KENNA.

This evening the report as to Senator Kenna of West Virginia is that he passed a more comfortable day than for several days past.

THE OHIO RIVER.

An Ice Gorge Breaks and Causes Damage to Property.

CINCINNATI, O., Jan. 8.—The ice gorge in the Ohio river broke tonight and forty loaded coal barges worth, with their cargoes, $18,000, sixty empty barges, worth $20,000, and one towboat, valued at $10,000, were wiped out of existence.

The gorge began to move at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Repeated cracks in the ice, each as loud as a musket shot, gave warning of impending danger, and the river men who had been on board night and day since the forming of the gorge were given warning of the impending danger. Twelve large river pockets and a number of towboats were fully exposed to the weight of the sea of ice which came grinding down the river at the rate of six miles an hour. All were saved with the exception of the towboat Mattheson. It was a narrow escape for some packets, and some of their chains parted, but the prompt action on the part of their crews made good the damage, and all save the Mattheson were saved with the loss of nothing but the paint on their hulls. There was no salvation for the coal barges, however. There was not a cent of insurance on any of the property destroyed. Bridges were shaken but escaped without material injury. At 9 o'clock tonight ice is still floating down the river, but the danger to bridges and boats in this vicinity is over.

Depression in England.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—The extreme depression into which the shipping industry is passing in England has fallen is shown by the startling array of statistics just made public. There are numbers of idle steamers in every port in the kingdom. The total number of vessels laid up in English and Scotch ports is 479, and the total tonnage 556,-000. Besides these there are laid up in continental ports ninety-nine steamers, with a total tonnage of 109,000. As the result of laying up so many vessels there are 300,000 men idle, which means a loss of thousands of pounds in wages monthly.