

public before the congressional investigating committee. It showed that the closest secrecy was to be observed in all the proceedings. Even the men hired were cautioned not even to tell their families on what mission they were bound. Many of them did not know their ultimate destination when engaged. The mustering point was at Ashtabula, Ohio. There all arrangements were made, and there the plan of campaign laid out. And from there the friend of Norris disclosed the whole plot.

PREPARED FOR THE CONFLICT.

THOMAS HENRY CARTER, of Montana, has been selected as chairman of the National Republican Committee. He is a native of Ohio, and about thirty-eight years of age. His election seems to give general satisfaction to his party. He is known as an earnest, energetic and aggressive party worker. He defeated Maginnis in Montana for representative, and the latter is recognized as one of the most popular Democrats in that State.

Wm F. Harry, of Pennsylvania, has been chosen chairman of the National Democratic committee to succeed Senator Calvin S. Brice, who occupied the place during the past two years. Harry is known in his own State as a successful party politician, and it is to his strategy and generalship, as many are willing to accord, that Pennsylvania now possesses a Democratic governor.

The chiefs on both sides are able men, and the opening battles of the campaign might be looked for any time now. Chicago, it is said, will be made a Western headquarters for both parties, and from there both will dictate their respective plans of battle.

The People's party is also moving. Its candidates, Weaver and Field, will appear tomorrow at Denver, Colorado, and open the campaign on their side. They intend stamping the whole State of Colorado before leaving it.

HOME RULE FOR CUBA.

CUBA, the gem of the Antilles, has a Home Rule question on her hands. For fourteen years she has been struggling bravely to achieve independence of Spain. A political party on the island has been endeavoring by agitation to get some sort of an autonomic measure. Failing in this, it is said that revolutionary methods will once more be tried. There exists an organization of Cubans in the United States and Mexico pledged to support a revolution in Cuba, and it is stated that active work will soon begin.

This recalls the fate of the last revolutionary expedition to Cuba from the United States. It was a most deplorable affair. The Spanish government had detectives among the Cubans and their sympathizers in New York, and when the expedition started the Spanish consul was apprised of it ten minutes after. Several ex-American soldiers were executed by the Spanish authorities on that occasion. The Pinkerton records could perhaps tell some interesting stories about revolutions in Cuba, for employees of that agency worked with the leaders.

VOLCANIC ACTIVITY.

THE telegraph is daily bringing word about eruptions of Etna, and of damage done by this great volcano. It is situated on the eastern coast of Sicily and presents a majestic appearance as viewed from the steamers that go through the strait of Messina. The height of the mountain is given as 10,874 feet, and it has a circumference at its base of 90 miles. Several eruptions of this volcano are recorded. In 1169 Catania and its 15,000 inhabitants were destroyed. In 1527 two villages were buried and a number of people perished. A series of eruptions occurred between the years 1664 and 1673, when many villages were buried and a number of lives lost. The last great disturbance took place in 1852, when the surrounding country was covered with ashes, or dust, and vast torrents of lava flowed down the eastern flank of the mountain. One of these was measured and found to be at one time two miles broad and 170 feet deep. This will give some idea of the vastness of the powers of destruction that slumber beneath the surface of the earth.

The volcanoes are considered the safety-valves of our globe. But for these, it is thought the earth would be unsafe as a habitation, on account of constant explosions and consequent fractures of its crust.

RUSSIAN RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION.

THE Russian authorities, who, one would think, have all they can do in fighting the epidemic that decimates the country in various places, manage to find time to wage war against an unoffending religious sect known as "The Stundists." The minister of the interior, says a Russian paper, is busy forming a plan of campaign against the obnoxious society and is aided by the holy synod and the department of justice.

The "Stundists" claim to be endeavoring to build up a church on New Testament principles, in Russia, but the authorities are against it. The sect was inaugurated by a peasant in 1865 and has grown to such large proportions as to excite the jealousy of the fanatical Greek hierarchy.

THE SITUATION IN ENGLAND.

A MEMBER of Parliament writing from London to the San Francisco *Chronicle* gives the following particulars of the political situation in England:

"I believe the present determination of Lord Salisbury is not to resign, but to call Parliament together early in August and go on with business in the usual way. A speaker will be elected who shall be sworn in, and there will be a Queen's speech and a long debate upon it, and the Gladstonians will move an amendment designed to turn out the government.

"All this will occupy three weeks. Many of the Conservatives do not see why they should be kept in London for the sake of fighting a hopeless battle, but the object is to get Mr. Gladstone committed to some definite statement about

his Irish policy. Some of his own followers will want to know what he means to do, and the anti-Parnellites, though few in number, will make it warm for him.

"If Lord Salisbury were to resign without summoning Parliament Mr. Gladstone could practically avoid meeting the new House till next February, and thus gain nearly seven months for drilling his forces and shaping his course. First of all, however, he must go to Midlothian as soon as he is appointed prime minister, to get elected again, and as his majority was so terribly cut down the other day, this is not a pleasant ordeal to face. The same remark applies to Mr. Morley, who may very possibly be beaten on a new election.

"Thus the troubles of the Gladstonians have already begun. Moreover, I am assured on good authority that the leader has suffered not a little from his exertions during the late contest, and that his health is in anything but a satisfactory state. A contested election is bound to find out a man's weak spots, especially when he is in his eighty-third year."

SEX, COLOR AND ALIENISM IN THE SOUTH.

ACCORDING to the figures of the last census the total population of the four States, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, was in 1890 4,997,358, or very nearly \$5,000,000. Of this number only 45,000 were foreign born, making not even one per cent. If any troubles, social, industrial or political, exist in these States, they cannot be attributed to the presence of foreign born citizens.

Of the 5,000,000 comprising the total population of the four States mentioned about 2,700,000 are white and 2,300,000 colored. The sexes are also pretty evenly divided, the males being 2,493,000 and the females about 2,504,000.

A very marked decrease in the rate of increase of the colored population is observable. For the decade ending 1880 the rate of increase in North Carolina was 35.54 per cent., and for the decade ending 1890 only 5.84 per cent. South Carolina shows a decrease from 45 per cent. to 14 per cent. for the same decades. Georgia shows a similar decrease. Florida shows some increase, but the population as a whole shows a corresponding enlargement.

Taking the distribution of sex in the four States separately, it is seen that the two Carolinas show a slight predominance of females, while Georgia and Florida show the reverse.

In North Carolina the whites number 85 per cent. of the population, blacks 35. In South Carolina whites 40 per cent., blacks 60. In Georgia whites 53.25 per cent., blacks 46.75. Florida, whites 57.47 per cent., blacks 42.53. There are seven cities of 8,000 and over in which the blacks outnumber the whites.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND CONGRESS.

GLANCING at the political situation from a People's party standpoint the prospect seems, to say the least, interesting. The leaders of the party frankly acknowledge that they have no hope of electing their candidates,