

## BY TELEGRAPH

PER WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE

## AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 4.—The committee selected by the Secretaries of War and Navy, consisting of General Hazen of the army and Lieutenant Reeder and Commander Hoff of the navy, to report on a more desirable code of signals for the service of the United States, has held several meetings the past week. It was agreed to procure different codes to those now used by the different governments of the world, and to instruct a certain number of men at Fort Myer in the use of each of them. When sufficient time has elapsed the committee will hold a sort of competitive examination to ascertain which Power in their estimation has the best system. It will then be the duty of the three officers to endeavor to devise one better than that selected at the trial. Their report will be submitted to the Secretaries, who in turn will submit it to Congress for action. By this course it is hoped that a simplified and improved code of signals will be produced to be used in both naval and military services.

The most interesting or important feature of the present week in the House of Representatives will be the announcement of the membership of the various committees which will formulate the work to be done by the Forty-ninth Congress. Throughout the holiday recess Speaker Carlisle has been engaged in forming the committees and to-day he occupied one of the rooms at the Capitol and denying himself to all callers, devoted himself to the completion of the task. Unless something unforeseen should happen the result of his labors will be announced to the House to-morrow immediately after the reading of the journal. Then in obedience to the order of the House, the call of states for the introduction of bills and resolutions will be resumed at the point where it was interrupted by the adjournment for the holidays. The call will probably not be completed until late Wednesday afternoon. The 1,004 bills introduced the day before recess, were introduced by 89 members an average of over 11 bills to each member. Should this average be kept up, nearly 3,000 measures will be referred on Tuesday and Wednesday to the newly appointed committees. The Hoar presidential succession bill remains upon the Speaker's table, and though an attempt may be made to pass it, by unanimous consent, it will, in all likelihood, be referred to the committee having jurisdiction over its subject matter. Should this be done, the House will find itself Thursday without any business before it, and an adjournment until Monday will probably be taken to enable the committee to organize and to consider and to report on the proposed legislation. The bill to fix the salaries of the judges of the district courts, and the resolution of inquiry with regard to the action of the authorities of Dakota are the unfinished business of the Senate. The committees of that body are expected to begin work in earnest during the week, and it is expected that not much legislative work will be undertaken in the Senate other than the consideration of the two measures named. Probably a large part of the time of the Senate will be spent with closed doors, in an endeavor to dispose of the accumulated nominations.

The State of California to-day filed with Secretary Lamar complaints against the Commissioner of General Land Office for not preparing patents for lands granted to the State of California by Congress, and subsequently confirmed to her by a special act and approved to her by Secretary Brown in 1866 and certified to the State by Commissioner Wilson in the same year which land Commissioner Sparks has recently decided may be still further contested by any one desiring to claim them under other laws.

It is said at the Treasury department that the President will probably nominate an Assistant Treasurer for New York City to-morrow or next day, with a view of having the new appointee, if he shall have been confirmed by the Senate, assume charge of the sub-Treasury next Monday. The count of the moneys and securities which began this morning, will be continued until completed, and it is hoped the formal transfer of the office to Acton's successor can be made during the progress.

The Secretary of State has just received and sent to Ericsson, the distinguished inventor, the grand cross of the order of naval merit recently conferred on that gentleman by the late King of Spain.

The Supreme Court to-day rendered the following decision: No. 73 Herman Presser, in error, vs. The State of Illinois, in error, to the Supreme Court of Illinois. The principle involved is the right of a State to prevent an armed assemblage of its citizens and their parading as military companies, when not organized as such under the laws of the State or of the United States. The court affirms the judgment of the lower tribunal, holding that the State may prevent such assemblages. To deny this right, it says, would be to deny the right to disperse assemblages organized for sedition and treason, and the right to suppress armed mobs bent on riot and rapine.

In response to a request from Senator Harrison, chairman of the Senate committee on Territories, Governor Zulick of Arizona has published a statement of the Territorial debt, how

incurred, etc. The statement shows the Territory has outstanding warrants amounting to \$120,948, upon which it pays interest at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. In the tabulated statement of the bonded and floating indebtedness, appear the following items: Insane asylum bonds, \$100,000; Gila river bridge, \$15,000; Apache wagon road, \$12,000; Territorial University, \$25,000; the expenses of the last Legislative Assembly in excess of the Congressional appropriations is shown to have been \$51,152. The indebtedness of the several counties of the Territory aggregates \$1,101,625. In concluding his report Zulick says: "The enormous increase of the debt by bonds and appropriations may be properly characterized as useless and extravagant legislation, a wanton misappropriation of public funds to the purposes from which the people receive no corresponding benefit. The insane of the Territory are cared for at the asylum at Stockton, California, for \$8 per week for each patient, which is much less than we could keep them ourselves had we an asylum built. We require neither a university nor a normal school. The wagon road and bridge bonds are properly county and Territorial charges. The appropriations for expenses for the last Territorial Assembly in excess of the Congressional appropriations for that purpose are, in my judgment, in clear violation of the federal statutes. We have a debt, when all appropriations of the last Assembly are provided for, of nearly \$700,000, upon which the Territory must pay an annual interest of over \$50,000, a result of the recklessness and extravagance of the legislative government."

The register and receiver of public lands at Pueblo, Col., reports to the General Land office that he has had a hearing in 24 cases of illegal homestead entries which had been investigated by agents of the Department, none of the claimants appearing.

Jacob Frolich of Little Rock, Ark., has been appointed Chief of the Mineral Division of the General Land Office.

During the holiday recess of Congress and since his speech in favor of silver coinage, Senator Beck has received more letters than any other member of the Senate. Letters have come to him by hundreds daily, all commending him for the position he has taken and urging him to stand firm in support of the silver dollar. While the bulk of these letters have come from the South and West, not a few have been sent by residents of the East. Among the tributes of commendation is one from the youngest daughter of Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi. It is a neat little water color painting representing the silvery moon looking down through a sheen of silvery clouds on a prosperous landscape. Underneath was written in Miss Davis's hand, "Diana's tribute to the champion of silver."

KANSAS CITY, 4.—Keene's manager decided to-night to cancel his engagements for this week and next. The following week is to be played in Memphis. The actor's malady is complete paralysis of the right side, and while it is not considered dangerous, yet his memory and speech are somewhat impaired temporarily. One of the attending physicians describes the trouble, which was reported to be in the head, as motor paralysis of a form which sometimes afflicts pedestrians. He did not consider Keene's illness alarming and expressed the opinion that he would be able to appear to-morrow night.

DETROIT, 4.—Developments in the Koch murder case to-day are of a somewhat startling character. The skull of the mother who was said by the county physician at the post mortem to have been killed by a blow on the head, was brought to the city to-day and examined by a quartette of physicians. They declare that death resulted from pneumonia, and the fractures which County Physician Owen found were produced by himself in removing the skull to examine the brain. The two sons, Herman and Gustave, who were placed under arrest yesterday, have accordingly been released.

CHICAGO, 4.—It was rumored here yesterday that the Rock Island road had decided upon an important addition to its system, namely, an extension of its main line into Kansas and the construction of short lines from Larkin to Atchison and St. Joseph so as to make river connections at these two points. To-day the report was confirmed by a responsible official of the road. The number of miles of new trunk line projected is about 400. The extension will be virtually a complete line and in its charter which places the capital stock at \$15,000,000 the company is named as the Chicago, Kansas & Nebraska. The move is regarded as highly important as it will bring the Rock Island road into competition with all the big lines west of the Missouri.

SAN FRANCISCO, 4.—The city council to-night passed a resolution to print an order introduced by Supervisor Farwell, author of the work "The Chinese at Home and Abroad," making it a misdemeanor with a heavy penalty attached to continue holding the sand lot meetings, which have done so much to create a false impression in the East, by making it appear that all persons in this city opposed to the Chinese are sand-lotters.

Farwell read a letter from Congressman Morrow, in which the latter indicates the difficulties he has to encounter in making the eastern people comprehend that the real and substantial sentiment of the Pacific Coast is anti-Chinese, and that the efforts of the people of the Coast to settle the

question are neither incendiary nor violent. Morrow points out that it will be a hard matter to amend the existing restriction act, unless the Pacific Coast Congressional Delegates are able to give the assurance that the people engaged in this agitation will be content with legal methods, in the settlement of the Chinese question.

KANSAS CITY, 4.—The Times Washington correspondent states that the question of superceding Gen. Crook in the Department of Arizona is under consideration by the War Department, and that General Miles is likely to be called to take charge of the campaign against the hostile Indians in that section.

EL PASO, TEXAS, 4.—While Mr. Roberts, of the firm of Bossillier & Roberts, brewers, at Paso Del Norte, was in his office to-day, he was approached by several masked men armed with revolvers, and ordered to open the safe. He started to comply, when his partner, Bossillier, entered and interposed. The robbers fired and killed Bossillier and badly wounded Roberts. The assassins escaped. The murdered man was one of the most prominent citizens of Paso Del Norte.

WASHINGTON, 5.—The President nominated the following postmasters: William C. Browe, at Salt Lake City; Susan Mitchell, at Visalia, California.

PITTSBURG, 5.—A Bradford special says: Heavy rains for the past two days and large quantities of snow in the timbered hills have conspired to produce the most violent floods known in many years. Along Driftwood and Sannamahoning Creeks thousands of logs owned by the mills have broken from their fastenings and are going down the swollen streams at a terrific speed. The loss to lumbermen will approach \$3,000,000. At this place there is over two feet of water in many of the streets. All telegraphic communication to the east is lost and trains on the Philadelphia and Erie railroads are obliged to flag their way east. A dispatch from Hammond states that the greater part of that place is under water and the residents are in great fear lest their houses will be swept away.

2:50 p.m.—Many residences had to be vacated. A million feet of logs were torn loose and swept down. Hunts Run saw mills and dams, at various places along the banks, are much exposed and in immediate danger of being carried away. The water is well up in Driftwood where considerable damage has been done.

PITTSBURG, 5.—Pension Agent Everett yesterday issued to Alex. Gilchrist, of Indiana, Pa., the largest pension ever paid a private soldier. The back pay aggregated \$12,151, and the money came to a blind, crippled old man, who has been an inmate of a poor house for 12 years.

YICKSBURG, Miss., 5.—Deputy United States Marshal Baum has attached the property of W. K. Iugersoll in Issaquena County, upon judgment from the United States Court. The attachment was upon a judgment in favor of A. G. Hamerlin, a broker of Detroit, Michigan, for \$15,000. Mr. Iugersoll is one of the leading attorneys of this city and his plantation and mercantile interests in Issaquena County are very large in which place his liabilities are \$300,000, and his assets \$1,220,000.

LAMAR, Mo., 5.—Page, the Golden City express robber was held under guard in Golden City until yesterday morning, when he was brought to Lamar for preliminary trial. Yesterday afternoon the justice's court was crowded with those anxious to see the prisoner and hear the testimony. He waived trial until the convention of the February Circuit Court, and his bond was fixed at \$2,000, in default of which he was remanded to jail.

NEW YORK, 5.—The visible supply of wheat as reported by the New York Produce Exchange is 58,645,325 bushels, an increase of 213,512 bushels.

ST. LOUIS, Me., 5.—In the case of East St. Louis against the Western Union Telegraph Company, in the charge that the company's poles and wires was a nuisance in violation of city ordinance, Justice Shea gave a judgment for the city of \$50 and costs. An appeal was at once taken. The case will probably be carried to the Supreme Court, and the question definitely settled whether the company has a right to maintain its poles in the city.

WASHINGTON, 5.—Muller, of New York, made his appearance in the House this morning for the first time and took the oath of office.

After the reading of the journal, the Hoar presidential succession bill and the Senate resolution proposing certain joint rules, were referred to appropriate committees.

The President has sent the following nominations to the Senate:

Wiley J. Tinnins, Surveyor of Customs for San Francisco; Orlando W. Powers, to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Utah; H. M. Jewett, of Massachusetts, Consul in Switzerland; to be postmaster, A. J. Rowe, at Norway, Maine; Frederick A. Childs, at Brattleboro, Mass.; Isaac Collins, at Adams, Mass.; Chas. C. Cressey, at Gloucester, Mass.; D. W. Northrup, at Middletown, Conn.; Edward C. Brown, at Moodus, Conn.; Julius Wasserman, at Amsterdam, N. Y.; Calvin F. Stowell, at Olean, N. Y.; Arthur Bronson, at Clinton, N. Y.; Milan F. Hill, at Cowanda, N. Y.; A. J. Greenfield, at Oil City, Pennsylvania; Wm. R. Dawson, at Tedioute, Penna.; Camille Moeller, at Donaldsonville, Louisiana; Julian Field, at Fort Worth, Texas; Mrs. L. Smithson, at Sherman, Texas; James F. Shepherd, at Brenthorn, Texas; E. L. Jennings, at Marshal, Texas; Albert

Nan, at Pittsburg, Ks.; Francis Baasen, at New Uim, Minnesota; Andrew J. Hill, at Hot Springs, Arkansas; A. P. Cramer, at Avoca, Iowa; Thos. H. Lantry, at Algona, Iowa; John C. George, at Dwight, Ills.; D. W. Gould, at Moline, Ills.; James Haines, at Pekin, Ills.; Jos. Dunham, at Geneseo, Ills.; Robert McNeil, at Rock Falls, Ills.; John Westermeyer, at Carlinville, Ills.; Thomas Henneberry, at Bralwood, Ills.; Mil's J. Finlan, at Streator, Ills.; Jos. Ostheiler, at Sheboygan Falls, Wis.; A. W. Weisbrod, at Oshkosh, Wis.; Harvey M. Brown, at Columbus, Wis.; D. C. Hill, at Painesville, O.; W. Long, at Cardington, O.; Geo. L. Phillips, at Bethany, Mo.; Wm. A. Wright, at Moberly, Mo.; Jno. S. Hamlin, at Eaton Rapids, Mich.; A. T. McGinnis, at Minden, Neb.; John F. Welsh, at Humboldt, Neb.; J. G. Shaver, at Canon City, Col.; Marie Hollingsworth, at Silverton, Col.; B. E. Goodall, at Leadville, Col.; Susan Mitchell, at Visalia, Cal.; Wm. C. Browe, at Salt Lake City, Utah; H. P. Albert, at Stuart, Iowa; John R. Smith, at Kendallville, Ind.; Wm. H. Bennett, at Bluffton, Ind.; Dennis Eagan, at Liberty, Ind.; Jas. F. Eldred, at Richmond, Ind.

The Secretary of the Treasury has appointed a board consisting of Roswell A. Fish, Assistant Register; F. B. Elliot, Governor of Arkansas; C. L. Caron of the Division of Loans and Currency, and M. L. Melhman of the Treasurer's office to prepare a detailed history of all expenditures for interest, premiums discounts, and expenses incurred in connection with each National loan from 1836 to 1885.

Speaker Carlisle said at 3 o'clock this afternoon, that the committees would not be announced to-day. It is understood that the list is not fully made up, and that it may be subject to change until the last minute. There seems to be no doubt but that it will be ready for announcement to-morrow.

The well known excursion steamer America burned about 3 o'clock this morning at Alexandria, Virginia. The vessel was owned by the Land and Coastwise Company of Baltimore, and was valued at \$30,000.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., 5.—The prisoners who knocked down the guard at the jail Sunday night and escaped, were arrested by detectives yesterday evening and jailed this morning.

NEW ORLEANS, 5.—Two million feet of lumber are on fire at Poitevant, Favre & Co.'s mills at Pearlinton, Mississippi. The mills are threatened.

CINCINNATI, 5.—Rev. Dr. J. W. Hall, formerly president of the Miami University of Oxford, Ohio, died yesterday in Covington, Kentucky, aged 83.

PHILADELPHIA, 5.—Joshua B. Lippincott, the head of the book publishing house of Joshua B. Lippincott & Co., died this morning.

SAN FRANCISCO, 5.—Charles A. Watmore, chief vicinicultural officer of California, left to-day for Washington via New Orleans to represent the views of the board of State vicinicultural commissioners, respecting legislation on vicinicultural matters that may come before Congress. Watmore, with other members of the vicinicultural board, has been engaged in preparing a bill on spurious wines, which Congress will be asked to take action on.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., 6.—Wm. Kennedy, student at Tusculum College, was in a dormitory last evening with a number of companions, when one of them picked up an old army pistol from his trunk and began flourishing it, supposing it was not loaded. It was accidentally discharged, whereupon Kennedy clasped his hands to his breast, crying: "I'm shot," and fell back dead.

MONTEAL, 6.—A number of speculators and brokers have been badly victimized by purchasing land scrip granted to volunteers that served in the Northwest rebellion. Some of these claims have been sold several times. One volunteer is credited with having sold his claim and got money for it from nine different persons.

AUGUSTA, Maine, 6.—Two 172 feet spans of the railroad bridge across the Kennebec river at this place were carried away by a freshet at 8 o'clock this morning. Late in the fall repairs were commenced on the bridge, and at the time of the accident the two spans rested entirely on trestle work built up from the bed of the river. Much delay will occur to travel.

PHILADELPHIA, 6.—The owners of the steamer City of Nassau, which is now twelve days out on her trip to Jacksonville, Florida, is believed to be lost. The trip, under ordinary circumstances, occupies only five days. The steamer was commanded by Captain Thomas R. Paine. The chief officer and remainder of the crew, with the exception of the steward, were from this city. She was valued at \$50,000. She had no cargo.

PRINCESS ANNE, Md., 6.—In the wind and rain storm which prevailed on Monday night, three men were drowned near Rock Creek, while trying to make the shore in a small skiff from their vessel, which was anchored a few hundred yards from the shore. The surf was very strong.

COLUMBUS, 6.—The republican senatorial caucus to name a candidate to succeed Sherman in the U. S. Senate, will be held to-morrow evening.

NEW YORK, 5.—State Railroad Commissioner O'Donnell this morning called at the office of the Elevated Railroad and informed the superintendent that under the charter of the company, trains on the Second and Ninth Avenue lines could not be withdrawn without a violation of its provisions. There was a hurried consultation be-

tween the superintendent and such of the directors as could be found, which resulted in the sending out of an order that the employees of the two lines should at once report for duty and begin running trains.

At 1:30 p. m. the committee on grievances conferred with Col. Hain and Treasurer Galloway, and it was agreed that the Elevated Railway Company would submit a proposition to them at 3 o'clock to-morrow. It is thought that the matter is settled.

WASHINGTON, 6.—The Chair laid before the Senate a letter from the Postmaster-General complying with the call of the recent Senate resolution in respect to the appointment of postmasters in Maine alleged to have been procured through the influence of S. S. Brown, chairman of the democratic committee of that State.

The communication having been read, Hale said that before it went to the country he desired to say a few words with regard to it. It was every day becoming the belief of the people he said, that the civil service of the Government should not be the result of party service. Above all, the country desired that we should have a pure civil service. There should be no taint of bargain and sale about it. All parties had recognized this, and the party rallying cries had been based on this thought. The rallying cry of the democrats was, "Turn the rascals out," which could only mean that if rascals were in office they should be turned out. A singular state of affairs, Hale continued, had arisen in Maine within six months. There were a few large offices in that State. There were but 37 presidential postoffices, but several hundred fourth-class ones. No department of the government came so near the people as the Post-office Department, and no department was more interested in a pure administration. When President Cleveland came into office the business was generally well conducted. He (Hale) made no appeal for the men that had been turned out. The republicans had expected to go out. The clamor of the democrats for office had been so great that they expected to go. The Administration had taken a conservative course, and the President, though pressed to make a general sweep of the postmasters in Maine, had declined, but the people of many places had waked up one morning in Maine and found that persons had been appointed whom nobody wanted and nobody recommended. In one case it was found that the chairman of the democratic committee, S. S. Brown, had given up his law practice, closed up his office and had come to Washington to superintend the distribution of patronage under the civil service system. When it was found that this one man power was the source of removals, Hale received letters from democrats and republicans alike, complaining of the new state of affairs.

Hale read several letters, one saying that the people had sent to the Postmaster-General a petition signed by eighty-four persons, praying for the appointment of a person who, however, was not appointed. When Hale came to Washington one of Brown's letters was handed to him, (Hale,) the letter which became the basis of the present inquiry. He had made the inquiry for the purpose of putting before the Senate full information on the subject. Out of one hundred of the larger postoffices in Maine, it now seemed that Brown had recommended 87 of the new appointments. Hale acquitted the Postmaster-General of any endorsement of Brown. Brown had come to Washington endorsed by the democratic party or its committee. The Postmaster-General had turned these matters of appointment over to his assistants, who relied on Brown, but the Postmaster-General had not made a complete answer to the resolution of the Senate. He had not stated whether the wishes of the people had been respected in the new appointments. No explanation had been made of the infamous system on which the proceedings complained of had been based. Hale read what he termed "the most extraordinary exculpatory letter" ever heard of, a letter to the Portland Argus, stating among other things that the democratic committee of the State of Maine and Brown had arranged that persons who received appointments should pay something for the expenses incurred in their behalf, and also stating that he (Brown) had secured a large number of appointments to post offices. Hale referred to the severe denunciation which, on a former occasion, had been expressed by Beck in the Senate, at a circular issued by the republican committee, the chairman calling merely for voluntary contributions. What was the issuance of such a circular compared to the condition of affairs shown by the facts in this case. One may have muddled the water, the other poisoned the fountain. The republican party had not always been perfect, but in 24 years Hale had never heard that public offices had become matters of public sale.

Vest said President Cleveland had honestly and conscientiously endeavored to carry out every particle of the pledge made by him to the people of the United States before his election, and he (Vest) was astonished that any complaint of him in that regard should come from the republicans. It was certain that much complaint had come from the democrats because he had not made removals enough.

The debate then closed, and on motion of Hale, the communication of the Postmaster-General was referred to the committee on civil service reform. Vest said it was impossible that the