

ergy from favoring excessive popular demand.

ST. PETERSBURG, 10.—At the trial of the nihilists on Saturday, Assistant Prosecutor Muravieff denounced the revolutionary doctrines and deeds avowed by the accused, demanded the severest penalty for the implicated, and concluded by declaring the fidelity of the people to the imperial throne was unshaken, and that the efforts of the terrorism party in this direction proved absolutely abortive. The prisoners listened unmoved. Jeliaboff and Kibischatz took notes. After recess, counsel for the defense spoke two hours. Jeliaboff spoke in his own behalf. He was several times interrupted by the presiding judge. When Jeliaboff finished the court asked the accused if they had further defense to urge, and they replied the negative. The court retired for consultation, and returned at 2:30 this morning. Twenty-four questions for determination concerning the prisoners' guilt was then read. The court again retired to consider the verdict. After three hours' deliberation they returned at 20 p.m., with a verdict of guilty against all, and sentence of death, by hanging, was pronounced. Sophie Pleofsky's sentence will be submitted to the Czar for confirmation, because she is of noble birth. Muravieff, for the prosecution, occupied seven hours. The court will assemble on Monday to explain the motives of its decision.

Prisoner Jeliaboff, in a speech at the conclusion of the trial of nihilists, asked as a favor that his last speech in his defense might be printed and published, word for word. Sophie Pleofsky asked that she be dealt with regardless of her sex. The prisoners received their sentence in perfect calmness and indifference.

Sentence of death was finally read today in the presence of the prisoners. They were allowed 34 hours of appeal.

Prof. Solovieff caused some excitement among the students of the University of St. Petersburg by condemning capital punishment and expressing a hope that the Czar would show mercy.

WASHINGTON, 12.—In the Supreme Court to-day, a decision was made in the case of Thos. Wardell, appellant, vs. the Union Pacific R.R. Co., et al., an appeal from the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Nebraska. On the 6th of July, 1868, Oliver Ames, President of the Union Pacific R. R. Co., acting by direction of the executive committee of the board of directors, entered into a contract with Wardell and others by which the latter were empowered to occupy and work, upon extremely unfavorable terms, the coal lands belonging to the company along the whole line of the latter's road. Shortly thereafter a stock company, under the name of the Wyoming Coal and Mining Company, was organized, with Wardell and a number of directors of the U. P. Co., as its leading stockholders. To this corporation Wardell transferred his contract without consideration, on the 3th of March, 1874. The officers and agents of the railroad company, by order of the U. S. directors, seized the mines, bonds, papers and personal property of the Mining Co., and have held and used them ever since. Wardell sues under the contract for damages resulting from such seizure and from the attempted abrogation of the contract. The railroad, as its main defense, urges that the contract was void on account of fraud; that it was executed for the company by an executive committee of its board of directors, a majority of whom, by previous agreement, were to be equally interested in it; that for that reason its terms were made so favorable to the contractors and so unfavorable to the railroad company as to enable the contractors to make very large gains at the railroad company's expense; and that the organization of the Wyoming Coal and Mining Co., was a mere device to enable those directors to participate in the profuse contract, which, as agents of the R. R. Co., they had executed, and which, as contractors, they proposed to make money out of. This court holds the argument utterly illegal and indefensible. From the character of this contract, it was a scheme to enable the directors who authorized it to divide among themselves and contractors large sums of money which should have been saved to the railroad. All arrangements by the directors of railroad companies, by which a new company is framed as auxiliary to the original one, with the understanding that the directors

of the original company, some of them shall take stock in it, and then that valuable contracts should be given it in the profits of which the directors as stockholders of the new company shall share, are so many unlawful schemes to enrich their promoters at the expense of the stockholders and creditors of the original company, and they will be condemned whenever they are brought before the courts for consideration. The complainant Wardell can derive no benefit from a contract tainted as this with fraud, or sustain any claim against the railroad company for its repudiation decree. The judgment of the court below is affirmed with costs.

St. LOUIS, 11.—The *Republican's* Little Rock special says: A body of armed and masked men rode into Toledo, Dorsey County, 60 miles south of here, at daybreak yesterday morning, and while a part of them surrounded the Court House, as guards, the remainder broke into the treasurer's office, blew open the safe, abstracted therefrom \$5,000 to \$10,000, mounted their horses and escaped. The alarm immediately sounded and a large number of officers and citizens started in pursuit. The robbers were well mounted, but as the whole country is aroused it is believed they will certainly be captured.

The commission recently appointed by Postmaster General James to make an inspection of the postal services has for its object an inquiry into the necessities of the service with the view of remedying any defect which may exist, and of adding to its efficiency. The pet notion of the new Postmaster General is to administer the department on business principles. While he has no idea that he can make the department absolutely self supporting, he is firmly impressed with the belief that the usefulness of the postal service can be further extended among business classes. It will be the province of the commission to enquire into the efficiency of the clerical force of the department and recom-

mend for dismissal incompetent officials and the strengthening of the force by increasing it if needed. In short the duty of the commission is to examine minutely into all the branches and details of the postal department and submit their conclusions in writing to the Postmaster General.

St. PAUL, 12.—A Poplar River special to the *Pioneer Press* says: that McDonald, of the Canadian mounted police, has just arrived at camp, and announces that Sitting Bull will come to Buford with the shattered remnants of his band, and surrender as soon as he (McDonald) returns to Woody Mountain. This news is confirmed by official advices received at headquarters.

Fort Buford, 12.—A courier just arrived from Poplar, reports that Captain McDonald, of the Northwestern Mounted Police, with a party of three Indians, one a nephew of Sitting Bull's, arrived at that point to arrange for the surrender of Sitting Bull. Captain McDonald says, should these coming with him report favorably of their treatment and that of the other captives at Buford, on their return to Sitting Bull, that chief will undoubtedly surrender immediately his whole camp, probably starting for Buford on his (McDonald's) return. Capt. McDonald is expected at Buford tomorrow.

IOWA CITY, 12.—Hattie Duello finished starving to death at noon, after 47 days of fasting. During the 24 hours preceding her death, Miss Duello drank no water, it seeming to sicken her. Her pulse in the morning was imperceptible, respiration 35 per minute. She was able to communicate with her friends by means of her fingers, and said she was not hungry. Her last moments were very peaceful and her mind was clear.

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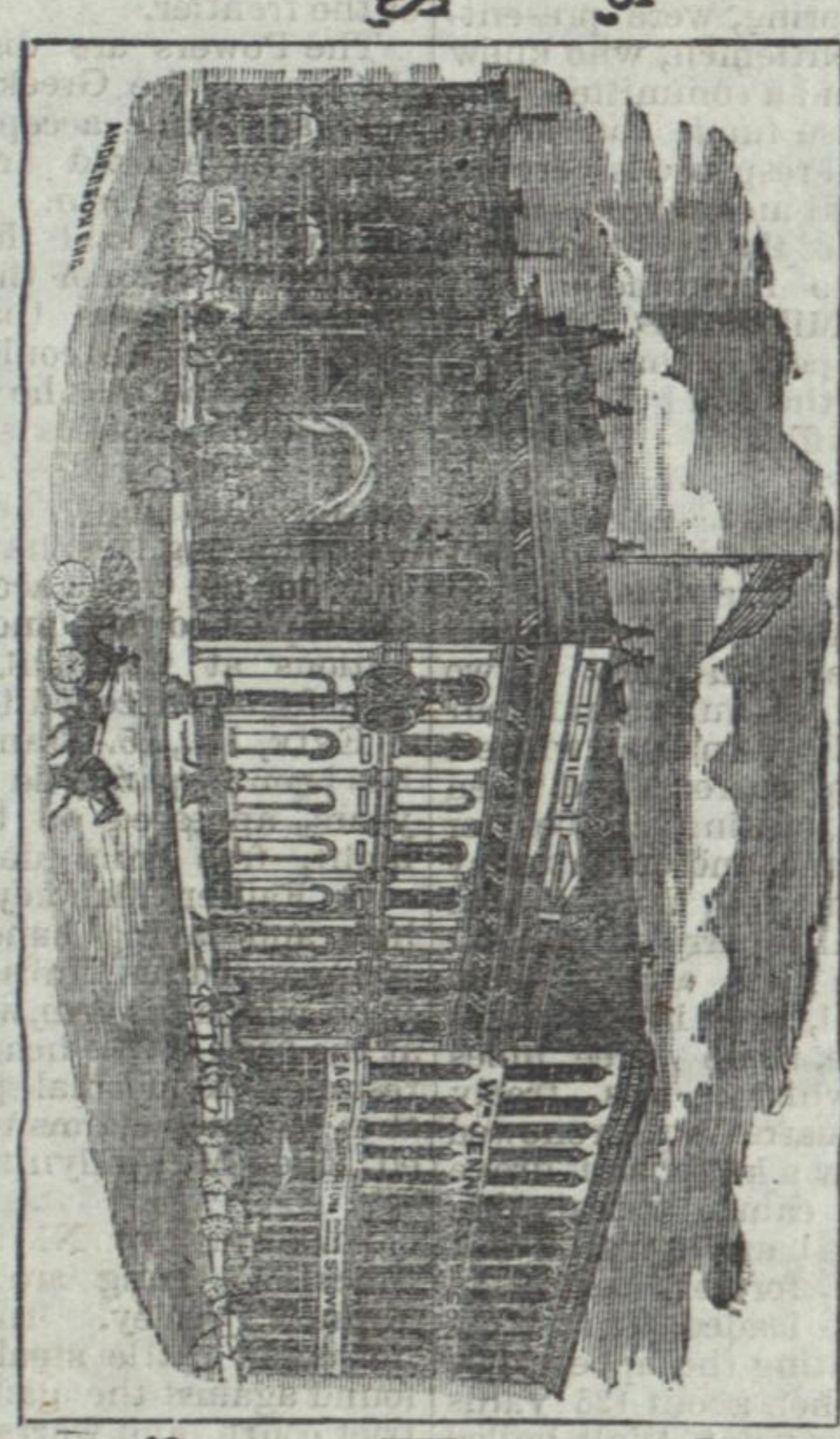
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