

BY TELEGRAPH.

CONGRESSIONAL.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, 11.—Hamilton, from the committee on foreign affairs, reported a bill in the matter of the Venezuela claims. It authorizes the President to enter into a further convention with Venezuela in case that government should desire a hearing of any of the cases decided by the commission heretofore organized. Printed and recommitted.

Wigginton, from the committee on public lands, reported back the Senate bill for the sale of timber lands in California, Oregon and Washington territory. It provides that such land may be sold to citizens of the United States in quantities not exceeding 160 acres to any one person at the minimum price of \$2.50 per acre, and makes it unlawful after the passage of this act to cut any timber on public lands. After being so amended as to include in its provisions the States of Nevada and Colorado, the bill was passed.

Mr. Wright of Pennsylvania, from the same committee, reported a bill providing for the loan of \$500 to every person who shall settle on the public lands under the homestead law, the act to be in operation until \$10,000,000 has been expended in such loans. The bill was reported without recommendation and referred to the committee of the whole.

Gouse, from the same committee, reported a bill to restore to the market certain lands in Utah. Passed.

Welch, from the same committee, reported a bill for the relief of settlers on the public lands. Passed.

Wigginton, from the same committee, reported a bill providing that any person who shall plant, protect and maintain for eight years, ten acres of timber land, shall, at the expiration of that time, be entitled to a patent for the whole of such quarter section. Passed.

Hewitt, from the same committee, reported a bill permitting Nebraska to cede certain territory in that State to the State of Missouri.

WASHINGTON, 13.

Potter presented a resolution directing an investigation by a select committee into the alleged frauds committed in Florida in the late presidential election. The resolution contains the names of Edward Noyes and John Sherman in connection with the frauds.

After considerable discussion the Speaker decided that the preamble and resolution presented a question of the highest privilege and must be received.

An appeal from the decision was taken.

By a vote of 128 yeas to 108 nays, the appeal which was taken by Conger was laid on the table. The vote was a party one, with the exception of Mitchell, Butler, of Mass., and Fort, who voted with the democrats, and Mills and Buckner, who voted with the republicans.

Potter, as a question of privilege, presented the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, The State of Maryland has, by its legislature, formally declared that due effect was not given to the electoral vote cast by the State on the 6th day of December, 1876, by reason of fraudulent returns in the electoral votes from the States of Florida and Louisiana; and

Whereas, An affidavit by Samuel B. McLin, chairman of the board of State canvassers of the State of Florida for the election held in that State in November, 1876, for electors for President and Vice-President, has been made public, alleging false and fraudulent returns for votes for such election in that State, and that the choice of the people of that State was annulled and reversed, and that the action of the board of State canvassers, making such returns, was influenced by the conduct and promise of Hon. Edward F. Noyes, now minister to the government of France; and

Whereas, It is alleged that a conspiracy existed in the State of Louisiana whereby the republican vote in all the precincts of the parish of East Feliciana, and in some precincts of West Feliciana, at the general election in November, 1876, was purposely withheld from the polls to afford a pretext for the ex-

clusion by the board of the State, of the vote cast in these precincts for the electors of President and Vice President, and that Jos. E. Anderson, Supervisor of Registration of East Feliciana, and D. A. Weber, Supervisor of Registration in the parish of West Feliciana, in that State, in furtherance of that conspiracy falsely protested that the election in such precincts had not been fair and free, and that the State returning board thereupon falsely and fraudulently excluded the votes of said precincts, and by means thereof of other false and fraudulent action by said returning board, the choice of the people of that State was annulled and reversed, and that such action of said Weber and Anderson was induced or encouraged by the assurances of the Hon. John Sherman, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States; and,

Whereas, The gravity of these charges, the nature of the evidence upon which they are reported to be based, and the official dignity and position of the persons named in connection with said frauds, make it proper that the same should be inquired into, to the end, that the honor of the nation may be vindicated, and the truth as to such elections made known; Therefore,

Be it Resolved, That a select committee, consisting of eleven members of the House be appointed to inquire into the aforesaid allegation as to the conduct of the persons in office aforesaid in respect of said election, and into the alleged false and fraudulent canvass and return of votes by the State, county, parish, and precinct officers in the said States of Louisiana and Florida, and into all the facts which, in the judgment of said committee, are connected with or pertinent thereto, and that the said committee, for the purpose of executing this resolution, shall have power to send for persons and papers, to administer the oath and to take testimony, and in their discretion to detail sub-committees with like full authority of the said committee in every particular, and with power to sit in Florida and Louisiana, which sub-committees shall be committees of this House, and the chairman thereof shall be authorized to administer oaths; that said committee and sub-committees may employ stenographers, and be attended each by a deputy sergeant-at arms, and may sit during the sessions of this House and during the vacation; and that said committee proceed in this inquiry and have leave to report at any time.

AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, 11.—The winter theatrical season is about finished, and, according to the *World*, has been one of the most disastrous ever known in the annals of the American stage. The *World* attributes this to the hard times and too many stars in the dramatic firmament.

Signor and Signora Majeroni have been drawing good houses at the Fifth Avenue in "Husband and Wife." Both are characterized by the critics as highly finished artists.

The principal novelties of this week were furnished at the Grand Opera House, by McCullough, who presented, in succession, "King Lear," "Damon," "Jack Cade," "Lucius Brutus," "Virginus," and "Macbeth." It is said that McCullough has cleared \$26,000 this season.

Sara Jewett had a successful benefit at the Union Square, on Wednesday. "School for Scandal" was presented, with Miss Jewett as "Lady Teazle."

The concert season is now in full blast, and Chickering and Steinway Halls are occupied for that purpose almost nightly.

It is reported from Boston that Harry Josephs, of the Evangeline combination, is hopelessly insane through softening of the brain.

It is reported from London that there is trouble between Lydia Thompson and Henderson, and that a separation will ensue. The sole question in abeyance is the settlement to be made to Lydia by her husband, as he is the possessor of the money made by his wife.

Travelling companies are gradually disbanding for the season and coming in fast.

Union Square is beginning to assume its summer aspect.

W. J. Coggeshall, ex-Mormon Elder, will deliver a lecture on the curse of Utah, at Chickering Hall, on Sunday evening, when he will expose the true inwardness of the

Mormon faith and practices. Coggeshall has been actor, spiritualist, and Mormon, and is now a Roman Catholic.

The baggage of Augustin Daly's travelling company, of which Fanny Davenport is a member, was seized by the Sheriff at Scranton, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, to satisfy a judgment against Daly for breach of contract.

There will be quite an exodus of professionals for Europe this spring including John T. Raymond, McCullough, J. C. Williamson, Fred Warde, Annie Edmondson, Heller and his sister, Clara Louise Kellogg, Rose Eyttinge, Crane, and possibly Lester Walleck, A. M. Palmer and Josh Hart. Rose Eyttinge goes on a prospecting tour, with the intention of acting in England if she gets a proper opportunity.

A dispatch from Paris says: The officers at Havre will not permit arms from the United States for the Russian government to be landed.

CHICAGO, 11.—The *Times* Washington special says: The recent news from England and Russia has made a decided impression in diplomatic circles. It is now generally believed by diplomatists that the chances of peace have been greatly increased by the negotiations of the last fortnight. Russia has undoubtedly manifested a disposition to yield material points to England, while England is disposed to concede something. The real cause of Russia's present pacific disposition is her failure to get money. Had she been able to negotiate another loan she would not have yielded to the demand of England. The finger of Bismarck was discernible in the refusal of the German bankers to listen to Russia's proposal to place her loan on the market. The attitude of Austria, of course, becomes more menacing in proportion to the coolness of Germany towards Russia.

The game of Bismarck is not comprehended, but diplomats are satisfied that an understanding between England and Russia is now possible. It is no secret here that the English naval officers and secret agents of the British government, are swarming in every locality where the presence of the Russian agents are suspected. There have been quite a number of English naval officers here during the past few days. They came quietly and went, west and south.

There have been no Russian naval officers here yet. The reported visit of Count Alexissiff to Washington has not yet been made. Baron Schiskin does not mean to take up his residence in New York. He means to go to the seashore as the season commences, in the meantime, his residence will be Washington. The health of his wife is bad, and her physicians have recommended sea air. Therefore, the Baron will seek a quiet place, convenient either to New York or Boston; preferring the former locality for many reasons, though not practical ones. The interests of Russia are always ably and jealously represented at the commercial metropolis by Consul-General Bodisco, who is a son of Gen. Bodisco, so long the representative of Russia in this country, and who married Miss Williams, the belle of the capital, was blessed with a large family, and was buried in Oak Hill cemetery, on Georgetown Heights.

JOLIET, Ills., 11.—The coroner's jury, in the case of Gus. Reed, the negro who died after receiving discipline by the penitentiary authorities, gave a verdict that he died of pulmonary apoplexy caused by persistent yelling with a gag in his mouth, put in under the direction of the prison officers, who were justified in doing so because of his unruly conduct. The case has caused some excitement throughout the State.

TROY, 11.—Edwin W. Hall, ex-president of the Merchant's National Bank, Whitehall, has been arrested on a charge of embezzling \$100,000 of the funds. He gave bail.

NEW YORK, 11.—In the thirty-six hours' walking match here, George Guion, of Chicago, secured the second prize—\$100, having walked 151 miles in 33 hours, 36 minutes and 53 seconds. A. Harrison, of Haverhill, Mass., made 160 miles in 34 hours and 29 minutes, and was awarded the first prize. In the twenty-four hour amateur walk, James B. Gillie won the championship.

BUFFALO, 11.—Michael Byrne, amateur, who started to walk 400

miles in 128 hours, had 5 minutes and 44 seconds to spare.

Captain Semetschen of the Russian navy, just arrived here, frankly avows what he professes to be his government's naval policy. He says the steamer *Cimbria* is under his orders, and that an expedition is to be organized on this coast. He has agents in various quarters, and intends to purchase a fast vessel and supplies. He added that his government was preparing, if need be, to attack England on the seas. A squadron would soon leave the Baltic for these waters, but no letters of marque would be issued, and no privateering carried on under strict naval discipline. The prizes which might be captured would revert to the home government. He was confident that in purchasing arms and stores in time of peace, he would not violate any of the principles of neutrality. If war should be declared the *Cimbria* and her consorts would weigh anchor and cease trouble in this country.

We learn by European mail that the society for the promotion of of Russian maritime commerce, whose headquarters at Moscow, has favored the same principles. Two eminent authorities on international law were consulted by the society, and the views of the professors were identical on this question. Privateering, they held, must not be thought of. First, because it was illegal, and secondly, because all that was formerly done by privateers could now be done quite as well by cruisers owned by the government and commanded by officers holding government commissions. Professor Bluntschil and Professor Martens assume that on sea as well as on land a commission from government marks the distinction between regular and irregular warfare. The commander of a duly commissioned cruiser, which may or may not form part of an admiral's fleet, is neither a privateer nor a pirate.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* implies the same view. It asks what there is to prevent Russia from buying any number of vessels in the United States and granting commissions to Americans who will consent to enter her naval service.

AUGUSTA, Me., 11.—Jason Scribner, a small farmer near here, killed three of his children this afternoon and then attempted suicide. His wife and oldest child escaped him. Scribner is in prison.

MANCHESTER, N. H., 12.—Notice of a cut down of about four per cent. is posted in the Langdon mills. The operatives of other corporations anticipate the same notice. The Stark mills have discontinued the manufacture of linen goods on account of the dullness of the market, and now make crash goods from cotton.

DEADWOOD, D. T., 12.—This evening a couple of boys, playing on the mountain sides east of town, discovered a dead body with a bullet through the head. From all appearances the man has evidently been murdered in cold blood and robbed. A memorandum book, the only thing found on the body, bears the name of Chas. E. Lee. The Deadwood papers chronicled the arrival of a man of that name on the 9th inst. by the Cheyenne route.

ELLSWORTH, Me., 12.—The visit of the schooner *Venus* to Southwest Harbor was simply an effort to sell the schooner to the Russians. The officers laughed at the idea, and said they had no need of such vessels. It is impossible to tell when the *Cimbria* will leave.

SAN FRANCISCO, 12.—The bark *Senoma*, which arrived to-day, from Liverpool, had on board Chas. S. Harrison, second mate, and six sailors of the ship *P. R. Hazeltine*, wrecked some time ago on the coast of Terra del Fuego. They were picked up by the *Senoma* in the Straits Lemaire, on March 4th, in a very destitute condition, having been subsisting on mussels for 14 days. They report that during their wanderings, after leaving the wreck, they discovered a cave which contained the fragments of a boat, some oars, articles of clothing, etc., and the skeletons of a boat's crew, but nothing by which the castaways could be identified.

NEW YORK, 13.—The *World's* Wheeling special says: A Communist society, just discovered in Parkersburg, has between 500 and 600 members, officered and drilled. The members are reticent and the meetings secret. Other societies exist in the State.

The *World's* Quebec correspondent says: The people along the Labrador coast are starving, the fish-

eries having failed. The people are forced to eat dog food and even dogs themselves. Scurvy is epidemic. There are many deaths from starvation. Of five families containing 40, only five survive.

A *Herald* reporter interviewed a Russian officer now in the city. He said: "There is no mystery about the *Cimbria*. I came here with the authorization to build or purchase vessels I may deem suitable for our navy. I am personally in favor of having as much of our work done in this country as possible, because the work is quite as good, if not better, than we can get in Europe; and again, we have the advantage of having it executed by a friendly nation that has always shown a kind disposition towards us. We have chartered no vessels, and do not want to charter any. We are not going to fit out any privateers, and when our cruisers leave American ports, they will leave under the Russian flag and not under the German."

FOREIGN.

LONDON, 11.—The *Times* Vienna correspondent says: Lord Beaconsfield in his last interview with Count Schouvaloff, explained, with great precision, the special English interests which England would, under all circumstances, protect. England, as before, lays the chief stress on the European settlement of the question, attaching weight to form only so far as it affects principle. The fact, therefore, that England is entering into *pour parler* about various points of the treaty, cannot be interpreted by Russia as showing a disposition on the part of the British cabinet to swerve from the line first adopted. Meanwhile the war party in St. Petersburg is beginning to stir. Count Schouvaloff is thought too English in his views, and on his arrival, he will find a strong counter-current set in against his person as well as his mission. His visit to Prince Bismarck looks as if he saw his danger, and was intent upon securing the co-operation of the German Chancellor. Negotiations for the surrender of the fortresses, and the withdrawal of the Russian army from Constantinople is reported progressing favorably.

A Belgrade dispatch reports that Bosnia is in a state of great agitation. The insurrection is spreading, and the insurgents force all Christians to join them or burn their villages.

A Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says: It is believed that Prince Bismarck's counsels to Count Schouvaloff were pacific. He informed the latter that he would do all in his power to bring about an understanding.

The news from Vienna is generally warlike. It seems to indicate that Austria does not regard her prospects improved by the peaceful turn of negotiations between England and Russia.

The dispute in the Macclesfield cotton trade has ended by the hands agreeing to accept the five per cent. reduction, working four days a week.

The steamer *Sardinian*, on which the explosion happened, yesterday afternoon, at the entrance to Loughfoyle, on her passage from Liverpool for Quebec, was at anchor at the time the explosion took place, in the coal bunkers, and the ship took fire immediately. The greatest confusion and consternation ensued. When order was restored, the compartments were searched for the dead and wounded. Some of the latter had their arms and legs broken; a few were burned about the head and face. It is believed that when the extent of the disaster is ascertained, the figures given in the dispatches last night, of the injured and killed, will be considerably increased. Threestugs were sent for the passengers and with medical aid for the wounded, who were temporarily placed in a warehouse on the quay. Subsequently they were taken to the Derry Infirmary, and three of them were, last night, pronounced hopeless. Two of the bodies recovered were identified as those of members of the crew. Some of the passengers are reported missing, but this may be owing to the existing confusion, and to the fact that the majority of the passengers do not speak English. Among the *Sardinian's* passengers are forty orphan children destined to domestic service in America.

The fire brigade of Derry went to the vessel in a special steamer, but their efforts to extinguish the fire