

By Telegraph.

CONGRESSIONAL.

HOUSE.

After the adoption of a bill placing the appointment of official reporters in the Speaker's hands, the House went into a committee of the whole on the naval appropriation bill, rejected several amendments offered to it, and having finished the bill reported it to the House, which passed it, and adjourned.

AMERICAN

Wm. Orton, president of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and Hubbard, the advocate of the postal telegraph, were before the postal committee of the Senate to-day, that committee having the postal telegraph bill under consideration.

Vice President Wilson's health is so much improved that he has abandoned his contemplated trip to Florida for the present, but will go to Massachusetts.

The National Woman's Suffrage convention met here to-day, Susan B. Anthony presiding. Letters from General Butler and Gerritt Smith, expressing sympathy, were read, and speeches were made and resolutions adopted.

At a late hour to-night the opinion prevails among a large number of congressmen, that Senator Conkling may accept the Chief Justiceship; he has left Washington for New York.

Petitions for increasing postal carriers' salaries to a thousand dollar, were reported upon favorably to-day by the postal committee of the U. S. Senate; a resolution was adopted instructing the postal committee to inquire into the expediency of continuing the mail service on routes where the actual receipts are not a quarter of the expenses.

New York, 15. — Commodore Vanderbilt notified the Union Trust Company to-day, that he was prepared to take up the notes given by the Lake Shore Company in Oct., '73; these notes amount to \$1,800,000, and were the subject of general remark during the panic.

Jas. W. Freeman, the Jersey city matricide, alleges that the shooting of his mother was accidental; his sister, who was present, says he took deliberate aim at his mother as she turned to leave the room, and she fell dead on the threshold.

The Empire stores, Front street, Brooklyn, filled with various kinds of merchandise, were partially destroyed by fire this afternoon; loss \$100,000.

All the proprietors of places of amusement, to-night, were notified by the police that hereafter no sacred concerts will be allowed on Sunday nights; the order creates considerable comment among the Germans.

Lagrange, for some time in prison here, awaiting trial on civil and criminal charges of swindling, has disappeared; the U. S. Marshal, overlooking the criminal charge, accepted bail in \$3,000 on the civil suit, and Lagrange has not been seen since.

The commercial notes of the Atlantic and Pacific R. R., Thomas Scott president, failed to pay the dividend of 1 1/2 per cent. guaranteed on the stock of the Pacific R. R. of Missouri, due to-day.

PHILADELPHIA, 15. — A meeting of the creditors of Jay Cooke was held to-day. At least a thousand persons were present and the best feeling prevailed. Statements were made by the receiver and by several members of the firm, and the register read various documents and reports, after which a resolution to place the settlement of the estate in the hands of a trustee and a committee of the creditors, under the 43d section of the bankrupt act, was adopted without objection. E. M. Lewis, the present receiver of the estate, was elected trustee. The business of electing a committee was postponed till to-morrow.

The attempt to restore the track of the Southern Railroad Co., to allow the trains of the side roads to run, was resisted by the strikers, who have determined to stop all repairs till they receive their pay.

BUCHANAN, Mich. 15. — J. M. Matthews, late printing clerk of the U. S. House of Representatives and father-in-law of Schuyler Colfax, died here this morning.

INDIANAPOLIS, 15. — The coroner's jury in the case of Col. Stillwell, shot yesterday at Anderson by Cor-

win, rendered a verdict of justifiable homicide.

AUSTIN, Tex., 15. — The chairman of the committee appointed by the House of Representatives of the fourteenth Legislature, went to Governor Davis to-day, and presented the resolutions of the House, requesting the Governor to order the Secretary of State to deliver to the committee the returns of the late election, the Secretary having refused to deliver them to the committee. The Governor informed the committee that he did not consider they had a right to the returns, but if the chairman would go to the Secretary of State's office, and take them he would not be resisted; he accordingly went, and the Secretary showed him where the returns were and he took them away, the Secretary filing a written protest against the act. It is now supposed that the inauguration of the new State officers will take place this evening, if the canvassing of the vote does not take too long. It is thought that Gov. Davis will yield all without trouble.

OMAHA, 15. — All the printers here are on strike on account of a reduction of wages from forty-five cents a thousand to forty cents.

The second train for Boston, on the New Bedford and Taunton R. R., left the rails between Myricksville and Taunton this morning; the engine and four cars went down an embankment, breaking them badly and injuring fifteen persons, four seriously.

NEW YORK, 16. — Seventy of the persons arrested on Tuesday during the attack of the police on the crowd in Tompkins Square, have been held for trial. One of the Communists is aged fifteen; others of those arrested say they are neither Communists nor in sympathy with them, and had no intention of violating the law when attacked by the police.

A Washington despatch says that Senator Conkling has been informed that the President will nominate him for Chief Justice, and it adds that he will accept.

The Hamilton Building, in Court street, Brooklyn, was burned this morning; the loss is estimated at \$75,000.

CHICAGO, 16. — The *Inter-Ocean's* Washington special says the testimony taken by the House judiciary committee in New Orleans, during recess, regarding Judge Durell, is very damaging to that official. Among the important points of the testimony are the following in regard to the midnight order, as it is termed, issued by Durell, by which the Mechanic's Institute, the place of meeting of the legislature, was seized: It came out that the order was issued on Durell's own motion, and without a knowledge of either of the attorneys acting in the matter; in other words Durell made a motion for this order before himself, as Judge, and in the latter capacity he issued it. It also appeared that Durell made two orders in regard to one of his familiar friends, for the purpose of throwing the chief business of bankrupt cases into his hands. The first order directed that in all bankruptcy cases this special friend, named Norton, should be assigned, except where the creditors appointed some other person; and lest this appointment of other persons should, after a time, take the business out of Norton's hands, it was further provided, that he should act as assignee in all the latter class of cases. When trouble arose about the excessive fees, Durell made another order, to the effect that no complaint about fees or papers looking to procure a remedy for excessive fees should be filed, unless the sum of \$50 was first deposited. This, of course, greatly lessened the formal complaints about the rates fixed by Norton. There is much evidence tending to connect Durell with Norton's excesses, and on this the case for impeachment will mainly rest.

The prospect for Kasson's bill for restoring the jurisdiction of Indian affairs to the War Department is considered good. The bill provides that the Secretary of War shall have the same powers and jurisdiction after the first of July next, as are now possessed by the Secretary of the Interior in relation to all the acts of the commissioner of Indian affairs; and that officers of the army shall take the places of the superintendents, agents, sub-agents, &c., wherever the secretary shall see fit. That the said army officers shall be charged with all the duties of Indian agents without extra compensation, the bureau to

be under the direction of a Brigadier-General. Contracts for transportation are to be made in the same manner as in the army, and special licenses to traders may be withheld or regulated by the secretary in accordance with the laws relating to the same.

BOSTON, 16. — A fire broke out at one o'clock this afternoon in the lace store of S. Houghton & Co., 72 and 74 Fremont St., and for a time a great conflagration was feared, as the hydrants were frozen and the firemen were unable to get water; at two p.m. the fire was subdued. The loss is not ascertained.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16. — The Senate committee on public buildings and grounds have decided that it will be inexpedient to consider any propositions for erecting government buildings, this year, and that the work should be confined to those now in progress, which are strictly indispensable.

The Senate Postal committee, to-day, heard a continuation of the arguments of Wm. Orton and G. G. Hubbard, respectively opposing and advocating the postal telegraph bill.

The Attorney General has received a dispatch from the U. S. Marshal at Austin, Texas, stating the fact of Governor Coke's inauguration yesterday, and saying that armed men were guarding the Executive offices, other armed men were holding possession of the legislative halls, and that a conflict seemed inevitable, and a message from the Attorney General might avert trouble. The Attorney General replied that he could only appeal to the parties to peaceably adjust the difficulties if possible, that he had no power to interpose force, nor had the Marshal any duty to perform in the premises except to use his moral influence.

In the National Woman's Suffrage Convention, to-day, a committee was appointed to act in conjunction with the local association of the District of Columbia, in making Congress give the right of suffrage to the women of the district. Miss Anthony read a petition to Congress, which was endorsed by the Convention, asking to be relieved from the sentence of the court for voting for Grant; and Wilson at the late presidential election, and a resolution was unanimously adopted calling for the impeachment of Judge Hunt, who sentenced Anthony. Vice President Wilson, being in the Hall, was called on for a speech, but declined on the ground of his physician's orders, but said he long since came to the conclusion that his wife and mother and sisters were as much entitled to vote as he was, and he had not changed his mind.

Gov. Davis, of Texas, telegraphed the President, to-day, that he is entitled, under the Constitution, to hold office till the 28th of April, and that he is making preparations to protect the State officers, and asking military assistance. There is no probability that the government will interfere or change the policy indicated in the recent telegrams, of the President to Davis, and of General Williams to the U. S. Marshal at Austin.

AUSTIN, Texas, 16. — There is great excitement here this evening over the arrest of the mayor by some of Governor Davis's colored guards. A hundred citizens rallied to the call for assistance by the sheriff, who came to the rescue of the mayor, and for a time trouble seemed imminent; but Governor Davis informed the sheriff that the arrest was a mistake, and he had the mayor released; subsequently all the troops on both sides were disbanded, causing great rejoicing.

OTTUMWA, Ia., 16. — A fire here, early this morning, destroyed half a block of business buildings and three dwellings; loss \$25,000.

PITTSBURG, 16. — By the breaking of a wheel on the car of a coal train on the Castle and Shannon R. R., to-day, while crossing a high trestle, the train was broken in two and all the cars were precipitated a hundred feet to the bottom of the gorge; the brakeman and a boy on the car with him were crushed to death.

OTTAWA, 16. — The old Barracks, on the Parliament grounds, here occupied by the Pacific R. R. Co., as an office, was totally destroyed by fire this evening; all the plans and field notes connected with the Pacific surveys were burned; the loss will exceed one million dollars.

MILWAUKEE, 17. — On the 6th of December Bob Turner, of Potosi, Grant Co., Wis., was arrested for the murder of his brother Albert; the inquest, which has just been

concluded, reveals a bloodthirsty depravity, rivaling that of the Bender family. The murdered man was killed with an axe, the head being nearly severed from his body as he was coming out of a mineral hole, in which he was at work; he fell back speechless and never moved more. The murderer then called to another brother, named Newton, who was in an adjoining shaft, to come, and Newton commenced to climb, but when he reached the surface he perceived the body of the murdered Albert, and was about to run when Bob seized him, and showing him the bloody axe, threatened to kill him instantly unless he swore to assist in putting the body away, and to preserve silence; this, Newton assented to, but on the first opportunity he escaped to Potosi, where he gave the alarm, and the murderer fled to Lancaster. He was pursued, arrested, and lodged in prison, where he soon attempted the life of his keeper. The second murder, which has just come to light, is that of Olney Neeley, a youth of the town of Ellenboro. At the time of this murder Bob Turner was cutting hoop poles for Mr. Bell. On Tuesday, Dec. 23rd, the boy Neeley started out from Bell's to visit his mother, who resides in New California. His road lay through the timber where Turner was at work. That was the last seen of young Neeley until the 9th of January. The people residing in the neighborhood having heard of Turner's murderous propensity, and knowing that young Neeley had to pass near where he was at work, turned out on Friday last to hunt for his remains; eight men started from Bell's and searched the ground on each side of the road. When they arrived upon the premises where Turner had been chopping, they found the body, which lay as it had fallen six weeks before. The indications showed that Turner had commenced to cut down a sapling, having struck two blows on the left side and one on the right; the second blow evidently was the one that killed the boy, the position in which the body lay and the course the blow from the axe had taken both indicated it. The boy's head was nearly cut from the body, only hanging by a small piece of skin on the back of the neck, the axe having gone clear through the neck. When found young Neeley had a paper parcel under his arm, just as he was carrying it. The body was taken care of, and a jury empaneled to hold an inquest, and the verdict was that Olney Neeley, aged 14 years, came to his death by a blow from an axe in the hands of Robert Turner. Several other mysterious murders having taken place in localities in which Turner had been seen, Marshal Bennett visited the prisoner, and asked him to confess if he had any hand in them. He finally confessed that he remembered killing two men, one a stranger whom he had encountered in a deep ravine back of the Poor Farm, and he thereupon attacked and murdered him, hiding his body; and the other, a man he met on the road to Muscoda, where he was going to get work. He says that the latter made threatening gestures, and he feared he was going to take his life, so he closed with him, and with a four pound weight, which he carried in his pocket, struck him two blows over the eyes, smashing in the skull and killing him instantly. He dragged the body into the bushes, and secreted it there. Now that he has confessed he delights to talk of the many persons he has killed, and he gloats over the skill with which he has concealed their bodies, declaring that nobody can find them but himself, and that if they were got together there would be nearly forty of them.

CHICAGO, 17. — A Washington special to the *Inter-Ocean* says that a bill, providing for holding one session of the Supreme Court at St. Louis annually, is receiving the support of strong men in Congress; another change, in regard to the Court of Claims, will soon be proposed, and that is to give the District Courts of the United States jurisdiction in a large class of cases which now come here, and involve for parties at a distance, a long journey and the employment of lawyers here.

NEW YORK, 17. — It having been reported that the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Co. had defaulted on its guaranteed dividend of the Missouri and Pacific stock, the announcement is made that the dividend is not due till the 20th, and by the terms of the lease the At-

lantic and Pacific have ninety days from that date in which to pay, before a forfeiture can be claimed.

PORTSVILLE, Pa., 17. — The executive committee of the Miners' and Laborers' Benevolent Association unanimously rejected the Gowen proposition, and adopted a resolution allowing the men to work in any colliery when the owner was willing to pay \$2.50, the basis of '73. A meeting of operators was held at the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Co's. office, but Gowen was not present; the decision of the men was transmitted, but they adjourned without taking action, declaring they had no further proposition to make, and there the matter rests, with the prospects of a long and extended strike.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., 17. — Vladimir Stubski, confidential clerk of Wm. Brackin, agent of the Hartford Life Insurance Co., has absconded, taking with him, it is alleged, Brackin's money and a raised check on the Wilkesbarre Deposit and Savings Bank.

WASHINGTON, D. C., 17. — Attorney General Williams, to-day, telegraphed Governor Davis, of Texas, in reply to his dispatch of yesterday to the President, asking for troops to sustain himself in office, that having, by the direction of the President, examined the constitution and laws of Texas on the subject, he was directed by the President to notify the Governor that he was of the opinion that his right to office at this time was so doubtful that he did not feel warranted in furnishing U. S. troops to aid him in holding it longer. It appeared, upon investigation by the Attorney General, that the Governor's term has, by the constitution, expired.

NEW YORK, 17. — From foreign files received to-day are clipped the following: "On Sunday the fourth instant, the Duke of Edinburgh arrived at St. Petersburg, in good health and capital spirits; about an hour previously the Imperial carriage and sleds arrived at the railway station to receive him, and presently a guard of honor with a band at their head and the Russian eagle displayed, was drawn up on the platform. Soon after the Grand Duke Alexis appeared, and saluted the guard with a hearty 'good morning,' which received a stentorian response. Next came the Grand Duke Nicholas, who gave and received the same greeting. It now only remained for the Emperor to arrive, which he did in a few minutes after, accompanied by a brilliant staff, among whom was the British ambassador. As soon as the train had entered the station the Duke of Edinburgh jumped out and advanced to the Emperor, who gave him a most affectionate welcome, as did also the Grand Duke. The band in the meanwhile played 'God Save the Queen.' The chief thoroughfares were gaily decorated with flags. When the Duke arrived at the winter palace he was received by the Empress and the Princess Marie, together with the Imperial household.

"Among the victims of fever on the *Simoon*, bound for the Gold Coast, was Captain Alfred Chateris, aged twenty-six, son and heir of Lord Elche. The *Pall Mall Gazette* says his death will awaken the country to a sense of the serious nature of the war into which it has been allowed to drift, we are, in fact, fighting with two enemies, the fever and the Ashantees, the first perhaps more formidable than the second."

The steamship *City of Panama*, which was to have sailed to-day for Aspinwall, was prevented, owing to a strike of the engineers; trouble being apprehended, the police have charge of the vessel.

Two men who gave the names of H. L. Mason and Edward Edwards, were arrested in this city to-day, while attempting to sell treasury warrants to the amount of \$10,000, which were recognized as part of the 191 warrants stolen from the internal revenue department at Washington a few days ago.

The Consul General of Italy says a royal decree has been published forbidding the employment of Italian children in vagrant occupations, and requiring the holders of such children in this country to report to the consular agent their own names as well as the names of the children, and to return the latter to Italy at the holders' expense before May 15th; extradition will be sought of those who disobey the order, and the aid of the municipal authorities here is sought to enforce the provisions of the law.