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## AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 23.—In the republican caucus, this evening, the discussion was opened by Lapham, who counseled opposition to any apportionment bill which would disturb the relative strength of the two parties, particularly any back apportionment by which the republican states of the north would be affected disadvantageously. He believed 319 would be as low a number as should be adopted.

Briggs and Butterworth favored the proposition.

Haskell advocated 322 as the most satisfactory to western states, but was willing to compromise upon 319. A general discussion ensued. Frye, Hawley and Robinson believed 317 a fair compromise. A majority of the speakers strongly oppose any number less than 319, and a resolution was finally offered by Haskell that the republicans refuse to vote for any apportionment bill which fixes the number of representatives at less than 319. The resolution was carried, with few dissenting votes, and the caucus adjourned.

The legal tender deposits of national banks, for the reduction of the circulation since the passage of the funding bill by the Senate, aggregates \$4,792,700.

Attorney-General Devens expresses the opinion that additional legislation is not necessary to protect the rights of the United States under what is known as the Thurman act, or general laws, relating to the Central Pacific and other subsidized roads.

Vice-President-elect Arthur visited the Senate chamber in company with Conkling, who introduced him to many senators on both sides of the chamber.

Blaine also made his reappearance in the Senate after a long absence. He was heartily congratulated by democrats as well as republican associates. He subsequently had a talk with Arthur.

General Hancock writes the inauguration committee: I shall be present accompanied by General B. Frye, General J. A. Perry and General W. S. Mitchell, who request this letter to be received by the committee as an acceptance of the invitation given them through me. Thanking you and the committee for the courtesy extended, I am, very truly yours,

(Signed) W. S. HANCOCK.

Gen. Sherman has invited Gen. Z. M. Dayton, of Ohio, to act as aide in the procession.

Senator Farley to-day obtained passage, by the Senate, of his bill to provide for the establishment of a branch dead letter office for the Pacific Coast at San Francisco, and thus avoid the unnecessary delay of transmitting uncalled letters to and from Washington. The bill now goes to the House.

CHICAGO, 23.—The severity of the winter in Iowa and the difficulties under which transportation companies have labored during almost four months, are scarcely realized outside of the immediate circle of persons who have personally experienced the hardships. A gentleman just in from Western Iowa, where he is engaged in business which requires constant attention, says nothing like this season has ever been experienced in that usually pleasant State. Open winters are the rule there, and the blizzard is an exception, usually of short duration. This winter, however, begun on the 7th of November, and since that time bare ground has hardly been seen in the State. The weather indications have been watched with the greatest anxiety, but expectation or indication of a break, up to this time, has been disappointed, and straightforward, cold winds and snow, have taken the place of the usual January and February thaws. The railroads made a manful but uneven battle against the storms. No sooner have they cleared the track and gotten fairly to running, than ice or drifted snow block them again, and it has been one steady exertion and fight with the elements to keep in running order, and even then many of them have been obliged to abandon trains and make every kind of shift to carry their passengers. On the Pacific extension of the Burlington road, and the Cedar Rapids and Northern, there were no trains from February 2d to February 19th, although there were untiring efforts at opening the roads. The main lines were kept comparatively clear. Other roads and trunk lines have generally been able to send their trains

out regularly, but few have reached their destination on time and some of them have in certain instances been entirely abandoned. The severity of the winter has told terribly on the poor who have been deprived of work and have been compelled to pay exorbitant prices for fuel or suffer for want of it. In Nebraska it is believed that this season has been similarly severe.

PITTSBURG, 23.—Intelligence has been received here of a terrible conflagration at East Liverpool, this morning at 1.30 o'clock, by which a family of eight persons, named Sloan, were burned to death. About the time stated flames were seen issuing from a four-story frame building, owned by Frank Stewart and occupied as a drug store, feed store, grocery and dwelling, the proprietor of the drug store, Mr. Sloan, with his family, living in the latter portion. As soon as the flames were discovered by Mr. Sloan, he awoke all, and telling them to follow, picked up a 3-year-old daughter and started for the stairs. The flames had cut off their retreat by this time, however, and turning to a window he leaped out, at the same time telling his wife and children to do the same. It is supposed that before they had time to follow his advice they were overcome by the stifling fumes from the drug store, as no others escaped. The building burned like tinder, and having numerous elevators to the upper floors, which opened a pathway for the flames, was soon in ruins. Search for bodies was begun at an early hour this morning, and soon all were recovered. They were charred beyond recognition, and it was only by the size of the remains that grown persons were distinguished from children. The scene about the burned building, today, is sorrowful in the extreme. All that is left of a family of ten are the father and one daughter, whom he carried with him when he made the leap. Following is a list of those who perished: Mrs. Wm. Sloan, aged 31 years; Luella Sloan, 13 years; Clyde Sloan, 12 years; Lizzie Sloan, five years; another aged 18 months, and Wilbur Skeets, a brother-in-law of the unfortunate woman. The fire started in the drug store, and is supposed to have been incendiary. The loss will reach \$10,000, which is partially insured.

NEW YORK, 23.—The *Tribune* and *World* show no favor to the anti-monopoly movement now gaining strength here. The *Tribune* has an article ridiculing its pretension. The *Times*, to-day, says the work of the anti-monopoly league is taken up none too soon. The corporate power that has been fostered to gigantic proportions until it overspreads the face of the land, lays its clutch upon the very nerve and sinews of commerce and industry. It claims the right to lay tribute without restriction and regardless of the consent of that people. It has laid hands upon the courts, which interpret and apply the law, and is reaching out for control over public sentiment through the press.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., 23.—A letter from Tompkinsville gives particulars of a fiendish murder there on Tuesday, after dark. A stone was thrown against the door of a house occupied by James Feller, aged 37 years. As Feller opened the door, a flash and report was heard. He staggered, and throwing up his arms, fell over dead, shot through the heart. Thirty-seven slugs were found in his body. Wm. Smith is now in jail, charged with murder in the first degree. The wife and stepdaughter of Feller have been arrested as accessories to the crime. The wife is a pretty woman, 24 years of age, and the stepdaughter is 19. Smith ran off with Feller's wife a year ago, and hard feeling has existed between them ever since. The wife is educated and good looking, but bears a bad character.

DENVER, 23.—The *Tribune's* Santa Fe special says: The first of the week a shooting affray occurred in a gambling booth in a secluded spot five miles from the stage road between Fort Wingate and Bacon's Springs. Four men entered the saloon and called for drinks. The proprietor stated that he sold no whisky, but if the men wanted to gamble, they could and would be supplied with whisky. The four men then sat down with the proprietor. After some time playing a row began, resulting in the death of all the card players, each being shot several times. No arrests.

CINCINNATI, 23.—Wm. Pinkerton, of the detective agency, who is in the city, says: Bernhardt's management having been annoyed by pickpockets and thieves following them, and fearing the theft of valuables carried by Bernhardt, have

engaged from him three detectives—one from each of the offices in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago—to travel with the company during the remainder of its tour in this country.

NEW YORK, 23.—The *Times* says: An order for the examination of defendants before trial was granted recently in the case of Williams vs. the Western Union Telegraph Co., to prevent the issuance of new stock. All interested parties of any prominence were directed to appear to-day. The defendants set up the plea that they should be protected since they were exposed to the possibility of a criminal indictment by the examination. Chief Justice Sedgwick reserved decision on the motion to vacate the order of examination made by defendants.

At the regular meeting of the exhibition committee, Gen. Grant expressed surprise at the indifference in the movement, and thought some action must be taken to arouse the ardor of the citizens. He recommended another effort to secure Central Park, but the matter of selecting another site was delayed till March 1st. The committee goes to Washington to secure additional legislation.

The agents of the steamship *Bristol City*, which sailed from this port for Bristol, Dec. 28, and which has not been heard from since, fear all hopes of safety must be abandoned. The owners in Bristol still think she may yet reach port. The vessel was commanded by Capt. John A. Peters, and had a crew of 28, mostly married men living near Bristol. She carried no passengers; her cargo was principally provisions. She was an iron vessel, built in 1879; was known as a water ballast, 1,134 tons, 260 feet long, owned by C. Hill and Sons, Bristol, England.

The Norwegian bark *Thor*, commanded by Capt. Thorwaldson, sailed from this port with a cargo of rye for Antwerp Oct. 2d, and not having been heard from, fears are entertained that she is lost. She was a wooden vessel, built and owned in Norway.

A Panama dispatch of the 5th says: The *Star* and *Herald* says the revolution is out in Antisquia, and a portion of the troops revolting proclaimed at the same time a president. To Bishop Gonzales is attributed the revolt, which is characterized by the usual scenes of bloodshed and murder. The rightful president finally succeeded in subduing the mutinous soldiers and dispersing the political antagonists.

In Venezuela, Gen. Solorzano has raised the standard of revolt against President Guzman Blanco.

The Chilians cannot find anyone to sign peace, as Pierola had refused to come to Lima for that purpose, and no pronouncement had taken place at either Lima or Callao.

The *Herald's* Dublin special says: At a Land League meeting here to-day a letter was read from Egan now in Paris denouncing Shaw's manifesto as an audacious assumption of leadership, and asking, "who in Ireland ever for a moment believed that the handful of renegades who followed Shaw represented the country?" He adds, "Do the Shaws, Ewingtons, Blonnerhassetts, Colthursts, Martins, Henrys, Fays and the rest of the traitors who basely desert the Irish leader in the face of the enemy think that they can drag the country back into the slums of corruption and whiggery or that they will induce the people to adopt 'Bomba' Gladstone, to idolize Bright the coercionist or to offer thanks giving for what is well described as a mixture of buckshot and good intentions which is being offered them by Chief Secretary Forster?" He says that the cause of the league is receiving support from the press of all shades of opinion in France.

WASHINGTON, 24.—Senator Carpenter passed away quietly. His wife, son and daughter, Dr. Fox, of Milwaukee, and E. G. Williams, of Washington, were present. He sank quietly away, without a struggle, simply dying from exhaustion, incident to the disease that had spent itself upon his system. Three days ago vapor baths were tried upon him with apparent success, and elusive hopes were held out that he would recover.

Senator Carpenter's funeral takes place at 3 p. m., on Sunday, and after the inauguration will be taken by the congressional committee to Wisconsin.

Secretary Sherman states, relative to the present movement of national banks to retire their circulation, that this movement of the banks to avoid the operation of the fifth section of the funding bill, which provides that from and after a certain date 3 per cent. bonds shall be the

only bonds receivable as security for national bank circulation, has necessarily brought into the treasury large sums of money; that it only affects the money market in the city of New York where deposits must be made, and draws directly from the bank or street, currency needed there for business operations. Secretary Sherman says the Treasury can and will pay out this money, and also the surplus revenue, in payment for bonds for the sinking fund, if offered at par and accruing interest, but that the Treasury cannot interpose further than to apply its surplus currency in excess of the redemption fund to the reduction of the public debt. Called bonds are preferred, but if these are not offered, maturing fives and sixes will probably be taken on the same terms—namely at par and accruing interest. The bonds must be sent to Washington to be verified, but will be promptly paid.

Until further notice, the treasury department will redeem the bonds embraced within the 100 and first call, upon presentation at the department, with interest to the day of presentation.

The House will probably pass the Senate bill removing the tax on bank deposits. Influential members of both houses say this is in fact compensation for the 3 per cent. bill.

The ways and means committee, this morning, considered the Senate amendments to the funding bill. The majority were agreed to. Section four was an amendment authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to use from time to time not over fifty million dollars at any one time of standard gold and silver coin in the treasury to redeem 6 per cents., and authorizing him to apply the surplus money in the treasury to the purchase or redemption of any bonds or treasury notes authorized by this act. Section five was amended by extending from July 1st to September 1st the time when banks must deposit new bonds to secure circulation. The committee meet again to-morrow.

The House Pacific railroad committee determined not to act at present on the Central Pacific case.

The conference on the Indian appropriation has resulted in an agreement. The House recedes from the proposition to abolish the board of Indian Commissioners, and the Senate recedes from the amendment providing for the board's expenses. For the next fiscal year the board will be continued without an appropriation to pay the traveling expenses or salaries of employees.

The Senate committee on appropriations has completed the agricultural appropriation bill.

The Senate committee on commerce has completed the river and harbor bill. The total amount is increased about \$60,000.

The House committee on public buildings and grounds to-day took cognizance of the allegation made by Representative Murch, greenbacker, Maine, that he had been corruptly approached to vote on the bill to enlarge a government building. Representative Murch preferred the charge against Geo. Jones, of New York, treasurer of the greenback executive committee. The investigation begins to-morrow.

NEW YORK, 24.—Gen. Hancock was interviewed to-day in regard to his intended visit to Washington during the inauguration. He declined to talk on political subjects, but said he thought it only proper for him to accept a polite and formal invitation given him. He was asked to be the guest of the chairman of the committee, but has engaged rooms at Wormley's, in order that he may be free to receive callers without imposing upon his host. He has not decided whether his attendance will be in military or civilian capacity. It is his intention not to attend the ball in the evening, but he will be present in the Senate chamber during the inaugural ceremonies.

In the Whittaker court martial, Cadet Burnett, recently stationed in New Mexico, but who found Whittaker when he was bound, gave a public exhibition of the manner in which he was lying. Having a Cadet jacket, bedstead and the whole outfit in the court room, he tied himself as he claimed Whittaker was tied, and created quite a sensation.

The U. S. Cable Co. begun suit to-day to prevent the consolidation of the telegraph companies, claiming that the terms of partnership with the A. & P. Co., made in 1874, prevents the consolidation with any other company without the Cable Co's consent.

An Albany, N. Y., special to the *Commercial* attributed the recent visit of Fenton to Mentor to the dissatisfaction of Conkling's enemies, with a prospect of Folger's selection for the cabinet. Whitlaw Reid will call on Garfield to give emphasis to this dissatisfaction.

SAN FRANCISCO, 24.—The New Zealand postal agent in this city, states as to the agreement in favor of passing the postoffice appropriation bill with a clause remitting \$40,000 of the continental charges on Australian enclosed mails, that while the Australian colonies favor the Fonda route, New Zealand will undertake to maintain the line alone if the transit charges are remitted.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., 24.—The Board of Trade request Congress to repeal the taxes upon circulation, deposits and capital stock of national banks intending to wind up to present their own circulating notes to redeem United States bonds deposited to secure notes.

MIDDLETOWN, 25.—The mail train on the New Jersey Midland Railway, this morning, was wrecked by a broken rail, just east of Ogdensburg, N. J. The combined mail and smoking car and passenger coach went down a steep embankment 12 feet high, turning over twice. Both instantly took fire from the overturned stoves and burned up. The passengers, some 12 in number, and the train men all got out alive; some slightly scared, and all more or less injured, but none fatally. The mail was entirely destroyed. The engine and express car remained on the track.

BUFFALO, 24.—A special to the *Times* relates the discovery of a gold and silver quartz ledge in the town of Hamburg, nine miles from Buffalo, which appears well authenticated. The names of several prominent men of that station are given in connection with it. The ledge was discovered last August, and pieces of rock subjected to a careful assay, yielded \$1,150 to the ton. Mining operations were commenced last October, under the superintendence of Charles E. Reeves, formerly of California, and excavations reveal a sunken ledge with an overhanging wall on one side. The latest assay from the depth excavated, shows \$6,929.30 to the ton. A company has been organized.

NEW YORK, 25.—The *Times* Washington special says: Belford, of Colorado, will offer in the House to-morrow the following:

*Resolved*, That the Attorney-General and Commissioner of Internal Revenue are hereby requested to inform this House what suits are now pending in the United States circuit and district courts for the Southern district of New York against the New York and Harlem Railroad, the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, the New York and Erie Railway, the Central Pacific and against any other railway corporations, together with the nature of such suits, and the amounts involved in such litigation respectively.

Belford says in support of his resolution that it is generally understood that in the suit against the New York and Harlem railroad now pending in the southern district of New York the United States is trying to collect about \$40,000 alleged to be due as internal revenue taxes; that there is a suit in the district against the New York Central and Hudson River railroad for the collection of internal revenue taxes amounting to about \$137,000 and that William H. Vanderbilt is a great owner in these railroads. There is also a suit he says, pending in the district court against the Central Pacific road which was recently begun by order of the attorney general to restrain the payment of the 3 per cent. dividend on the stock of that company in order to protect the United States against loss upon its advances made on account of interest on bonds with which the road was subsidized and built. He also says that the President of the United States has recently nominated as district attorney for the southern district of New York, Elliott F. Shepard a son-in-law of Wm. H. Vanderbilt, and that Shepard as such district attorney would have charge of all this important litigation. Belford in behalf of the farmers, producers and forwarders of the west, and in behalf of the whole people of the country who are becoming aroused against the enormous combinations of railroad and other interests desires to have the facts called for. His resolution placed before Congress, so that the representatives of the people may