

# By Telegraph.

## CONGRESSIONAL.

### SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 5.—It was finally agreed to print 1,500 copies.

Spencer introduced a bill to establish a Territory of the Black Hills and provide a temporary government; tabled until committees were appointed.

By a strict party vote of 39 to 22, it was agreed to take up Edmunds' resolution ordering an inquiry into the late elections in the southern States. The resolution was modified so as to extend the inquiry to the election of 1874.

The President's message was then referred as usual.

Other amendments were rejected and the first resolution, authorizing a committee to inquire into the elections in South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Louisiana, for 1874, 1875 and 1876, was agreed to.

The second resolution authorizing the employment of stenographers, etc., was agreed to.

The third resolution, about depositions, was also agreed to.

Edmunds said to-morrow he would move to consider the joint resolution respecting the count of the electoral vote reported by the election committee in May last.

Merryman introduced a bill changing the time of presidential elections and counting the vote. Ordered printed and referred to the election committee. It provides for the election in October, and the meeting of the electoral college in January following.

WASHINGTON, 6.—The standing committees were announced, and all the bills &c., hitherto presented properly referred.

Withers called up this resolution asking the President to explain the presence of federal soldiers in Petersburg on election day.

Withers said the purpose of the resolution was to discover whether the troops were sent lawfully or unlawfully.

Thurman read from the Revised Statutes to show that burden of proof rested on the President as to the legality of sending the troops.

Logan asserted the entire legality of the proceeding, and that the troops in no wise interfered with the election.

Thurman referred to the English laws which forbid the stationing of troops within a mile of any polling place on election day.

Logan ridiculed this doctrine, and held that the statute meant the troops should not be used for intimidation on election day.

Withers, at the request of Logan, modified his resolution making it a respectful request to the President to state whether the troops were stationed in Petersburg on election day, and if so, under what authority and for what purpose.

Sargent, in his reply to the reference of Thurman's English law, said the elections in England furnished no parallel to the elections in the southern States. In England the rights of both sides were protected.

The resolution was then agreed to.

The Chair presented the President's message and accompanying documents, and moved that it be printed and laid on the table.

WASHINGTON, 8.—Johnston argued that the Senate and House were acting under the joint rules every day. They could not transact business without them. The authority to appoint conference committees came from the joint rules.

After further debate the question and decision of the chair was sustained—yeas 50, nays 4.

WASHINGTON, 11.—The House bill, appropriating \$21,000 for defraying the expenses of the special committees investigating the southern elections, passed, with an amendment appropriating \$50,000 for similar expenses of the Senate election committee under the resolution of Edmunds.

Bogy presented a report of the democratic committee which attended the Louisiana returning board canvass.

Objection being made to the printing on the ground that it was irregularly presented, and did not come under the rules, after debate, it was decided that Bogy, Stevenson and McDonald should prepare a memorial, embracing the paper, and it could be printed.

Withers introduced a bill for the relief of owners and purchasers of

land sold for direct taxes in insurrectionary States. Referred.

The joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution concerning the electoral count was read.

### HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, 5.

The clerk then read the President's message, which, with accompanying documents, were ordered printed in pamphlet form, and referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

The Speaker announced as a select committee on Louisiana, Morrison, Jenks, McMahon, Lynde, Blackburn, Meade, House, Phelps, New, Ross, Townsend, Danford, Hurlbut, of Ills., Crapo and Joyce. On Florida, Thompson, Debolt, Walling, Hopkins, Garfield and Dunnell. On South Carolina, Cochran was appointed vice Stenger excused.

WASHINGTON, 6.—Senator Sherman's report to the President on the Louisiana affairs was read, the Speaker requesting such reading before the members vote on it.

Pending action, Woodburn was appointed on the Florida select committee vice Garfield excused.

After discussion, the Speaker decided that the members could be required to vote on this paper before being read as it was in the nature of information and a step to wards correct legislation.

The reading of Sherman's report and others occupied nearly an hour.

Wood expressed surprise at such a message from the President. It was extraordinary and unprecedented. The President, despite his eight years' experience, had seen proper to send to the House this unauthorized communication from persons with no official position.

The President's only motive must be to suggest that the House had authority to institute a careful inquiry into the presidential election in advance of the regular presentation of the great subject. He objected to the message as partisan. His first impulse had been to move that the document be returned to the President. He now moved that it be laid on the table with the accompanying documents.

Hoar said his side desired to debate the subject, but being undebatable, Wood's motion was adopted—153 to 90. A party vote.

WASHINGTON, 7.—A resolution, offered by McCreary for the appointment of a joint committee in reference to the decision of the question of the presidential election, was referred to the judiciary committee.

WASHINGTON, 11.—The Speaker announced the appointment of Clymer, of Pennsylvania, to fill the vacancy in the committee on appropriations caused by Randall retiring.

### AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, 7.—Nearly all the journals concede that Conkling has gone over to Tilden.

The Tribune's Albany special says recent indications from democratic sources show almost conclusively, that in the contest about to be waged in Congress over the presidential successor, Tilden will receive very strong aid from the action of Conkling. The statement of West that Conkling was preparing to deal with this subject has received additional significance from the theory developed to-day by a prominent member of the electoral college, that the unexpected sharp tone of Seymour's address, on taking the chair, is a preface to a similar argument to be made by Conkling in the United States Senate.

The Herald's editorial says the regular certificates, which will be forwarded to the President of the Senate, and authenticated by the governors of the several states, give 185 votes for Hayes and Wheeler and 184 for Tilden and Hendricks. On the face of the certificates Hayes is, therefore, elected. We judge it possible, that this result will stand; at all events the burden of proof is now on the side of the democrats, with the *prima facie* case against them, but whatever may come afterward, it is altogether probable that Mr. Hayes will be the next President.

Dion Boucicault gives \$500 to the Brooklyn sufferers. All other popular actors are ready to give.

The dimensions of the awful calamity which has befallen the city of Brooklyn, and the consequent loss of life, have not yet been realized; enough is known, however, to

make it certain that the catastrophe ranks among the most fatal of the kind ever recorded. According to the statements of all the parties who profess to know anything as to the origin of the fire, it began on the stage. The business manager says the piece of canvass of which the trees, etc., were made, was broken from its fastenings and hung from the flies, immediately over one of the border lights, near the centre of the stage. The canvass had begun to smoulder and the paint on it to crackle, and the carpenter was directed to ascend to one of the grooves and remove the dangerous object. He could barely reach it with his hand, and he drew it hastily up; the rapid motion through the air of the half-ignited and highly inflammable canvass caused it to burst into a flame, which rapidly spread to the adjoining material, equally susceptible. All efforts to extinguish the flames were abortive, and the carpenter had to retire to save his own life. The scene in the gallery after the alarm was raised is described as something horrible even to contemplate.

The description given by persons who were in the gallery of the Brooklyn Theatre at the time of the disaster is heartrending and horrible.

Alfred A. Jones gives the following account of the scene: I was seated next to the front row, but seeing that something was wrong on the stage I moved up to the entrance of the tier; while my back was turned, shrieks were heard and the mass of people in the gallery arose in wild confusion. I cannot describe the scene as it was. They were climbing over the seats, gripping each other by the clothes and struggling frantically to get ahead of one another. I saw one man smash a fellow in the face who would not yield to him in the passage, and a big, powerful woman tore her way through and came toward me with scarcely any clothes on her back, and with blood streaming from her nostrils. Two decent looking boys got together in the front row, and I saw them clambering over the seats and squeezing their bodies through the crowd; one of them was thrown down, and the other turned and called him wildly by name. I got down among the first that escaped and did not wait to see what happened.

A tall, stout man, who said he was a truckman, gave a very vivid description of the scene when the uproar began. He said: I was seated in the aisle about the middle of the gallery and three or four seats from the front. I never saw anything like it. All the people in the gallery seemed to be crowding one on top of another. There were men there who seemed perfectly frantic. The yells and shrieks I shall never forget to my dying day. "My wife is down stairs," one man cried out, "let me get her out."

We're all safe, if you'll only be orderly." At the same time, however, he was making the most strenuous efforts to get through the throng. The weakest went down one after another, and the strongest rushed recklessly over them. I could actually hear the bones cracking as the men jumped on the writhing, struggling, helpless mass beneath them. The cries that ascended amid the uproar were heartrending. "My God, have mercy on me," one voice repeated several times. One man managed to crawl from a heap of prostrate bodies, but the struggling throng rushed against him, and he spun around toward me and fell almost at my feet. I tried to lift him, but he groaned once or twice and gave a few gasps, and all was over. When I saw it was to be life or death I made for the door. All I've been telling took place in a few seconds; but there is a picture in my mind I could not paint. When I got out I walked over bodies three or four deep.

Phillip Manser was among the very last to get out of the gallery. He gives the following account of the calamity: I got in the front row near the stage. I saw the fire from the very first. As I looked up to the gallery the scene was the most terrific any one could conceive. Men and boys were tearing one over another, and the shrieks and oaths were awful. One man clambered upon the heap and was spun round and round on the heads of the throng, and was flung with a crash, I could distinctly hear, against the back of the gallery. Every one was for himself, and men seemed to become wild beasts.

They were thrusting and tearing one another with their hands, and, worse than that, as I will tell you directly, seats were piled with prostrate human beings, and as successful strugglers forced their way over the gasping forms that lay all around, the others who had been crushed to insensibility fell as they lost the support of the living. There was nothing for it but for myself and some others who had waited to walk over the piles of dead bodies on the floor. They were slippery with blood. Hands and feet were protruded here and there, which showed that life was still in some of them. By this time the smoke was dense and the rush and shouting from the lower part of the house were terrible. I and some others managed to get to the stairway, and we went down in a mass, how, I could not tell you. This that I have been describing took place in less than two minutes. One man who got out in the crowd just before me showed me his arm which had been bitten almost to the bone.

A. M. Palmer, one of the lessees of the theatre, gives the following statement of the number of persons in the Theatre on Tuesday evening: 405 persons in the upper gallery; 300 persons in the dress circle; 250 persons in the parquette; 21 actors speaking to the people; 20 supernumeraries; 10 stage hands; 12 musicians; total 1,018; or, including dressers and other subordinates, in all about 1,050 persons. A fault in the construction of the burnt building, and one of which there is reason to believe the dreadful loss of life in the gallery is, in a large measure attributable, was the use of the painted cloth for the ceiling. The canvass caught easily, and burned rapidly; of course the flames followed it to the ventilator at the top, making the dome a funnel of fire right over the heads of the people in the gallery. It seems more than probable that the smoke and fire, in the midst of which they were thus placed, destroyed the lives of many persons who might else have escaped.

What are accepted as the bodies of the two actors are simply two black cinders. Around the trunk of one was a sooted and scorched buckskin undershirt, and beside the other was a piece of braid, apparently portions of a stage dress.

COLUMBIA, S. C., 7.—Governor Chamberlain, to-day, took the oath of office as governor, in the State House, before Probate Judge Boone, a joint resolution repealing the law that the oath should be taken before the Chief Justice or Associate Justice having been passed previously. The inauguration was over before it was known in the city, and only the parties admitted by the authorities witnessed the ceremony. A company of troops were stationed in the lower corridor, and the constabulary guarded the entrance.

Gov. Chamberlain, in his address, denounced the conduct of the democratic campaign as a brutal outrage, depending on fraud, proscription, intimidation and murder. Hampton had said that he held not only the peace of the State, but his (Chamberlain's) life in his hands. Thus he did not doubt his life could be easily taken, but nothing could make him abate his hatred to the oppression and enslavement of the people of South Carolina.

General Hampton issued a card to the public to-day, referring to Chamberlain's closing remarks in his inaugural address:

"I pronounce this statement infamously false. I by my renewed exertions have endeavored to preserve the peace of the State, and I have thus contributed to shield from popular indignation one who has proved himself a disgrace to his rank and a traitor to his trust. His conscience may make him tremble, but neither I nor the men with whom I act countenance the hand of the assassin."

(Signed) "WADE HAMPTON."

BROOKLYN, S. — Before Marshal Keady, John Boyle testified that he was in the gallery when the alarm was given. About one hundred got out before he did. He testified that the fire broke out in the flies over the stage. Murdock requested all to be seated. He saw a number sit down, and saw flakes of fire falling on the stage. He thought it was part of the play. He started out when it increased. Some one fell over him, and then twenty-five or thirty tumbled, and the rush of fire and smoke came like a whirl-

wind. The people were panic-stricken, crying "the stairs were falling, and for God's sake for some one to let them out. Not over seventy-five people got out; perhaps fifty women were in the gallery."

Charles Adams testified that he first saw the fire from the dress circle, in the scenery on the left corner of the stage. He described the first alarm and the actor's appeals; finally Mr. Studley said, "Go quickly," and they rushed out. Witness was knocked down once. Saw several ladies knocked down. Everybody was in a panic and the crowd rushed over prostrate women. If the audience had been requested to leave quietly when the fire first broke out, they might all have been saved. Witness thought some failed to get out of the dress circle. He heard no stairs break.

E. M. Richardson was in the gallery when the panic occurred. When the alarm was given all rushed for the door. At the first landing, near the box office, witness fell on a man who had stumbled, and it seemed as though all who followed fell on that heap. The place was dark and the smoke came in volumes on his face, but being acquainted with the stairs, he got up and found his way out. He looked back but saw nobody coming down the gallery stairs after him; they were all piled in a heap near the box office. The stage door was shut, and the panic and want of better means of exit prevented the people escaping. He did not believe one hundred people of the 400 or 500 in the gallery got out.

Chas. Holloway was in the gallery, and, after numerous adventures, jumped over the heads of the people, and was soon at the ticket office. He found two piles of women on the stairs in the dark, apparently dead. The fire burned his ear and nearly suffocated him.

Timothy Owen, a stage hand, had an interesting escape, making his way through the underground passage to the coal bunk, under the pavement, and succeeded in getting beneath the coal hole, where his rappings attracted the attention of the bystanders, who helped him out.

Harry S. Griffith who was in the dress circle with his wife, writes to fire marshal Keady, saying "We were the last to leave our seats. We tried to escape by a doorway in the corner near where we were sitting, over which were the words, 'Exit to Johnson Street.' We were driven back by the smoke and fire that was making its way through the partition, and when we turned around to go towards the main entrance all the people in the dress circle had got into the lobby. We had no difficulty in getting into the lobby, but found it was blocked, and could get no farther. At that moment we were overwhelmed with smoke; after being nearly suffocated, we escaped. I am sure that there was no one in the dress circle behind us, and with the exception of a female lying on the stairs, and over whom I fell in coming down, there were no females above the first landing when brought my wife down."

The story to the effect that some of the officers of the first precinct of Brooklyn had refused to allow certain men to escape by means of a grating from the basement of the theatre during the fire, is most emphatically contradicted by the police captain, Smith, and his sergeants. They say that no men were rescued through the grating in question. They also declare that this part of the theatre was searched by the firemen after the alarm had been given, and was found empty.

The following is the story told by Charles Vine to Fire Marshal Keady, who examined him in the hospital—Live at 3 James Street, Brooklyn; was at the theatre on the night of the fire; work for Kenney & Murphy; can get into the theatre whenever I like; am there at least once a week; am well acquainted with the whole theatre; generally go into the gallery; was in the gallery on Tuesday night. When the fire first broke out heard a rumbling noise at the back of the stage. Somebody cried "Fire," then Miss Claxton and the men of the stage said to the people, "Be quiet, there is no fire." At the same time fire commenced falling on the stage. When I saw it first pieces were dropping on the stage. As soon as the cry of fire was raised the people rushed to the door, but when told by the actors to be quiet some sat down again for a moment.