

White, of Ind.; Wallace, Pa., and Gordon, Ga.

The chairman of the caucus also announced the committee on consultation as follows—Representatives Cox, N.Y.; Whitthorne, Tenn.; Randall, Pa.; Goode, Va.; Buckner, Mo.; Wiggenton, Cal.; Hartridge, Ga.; Blackburn, Ky.; Tarbox, Mass.; Lynde, Wis.; Eden, Ill.; Payne, O., and Caldwell, Ala.

Public debt. Total, coin and bonds \$1,700,606,600; lawful money debt, \$14,000,000; matured debt, \$9,269,760; legal tender, \$371,341,607; total debt, \$22,169,236,749; total interest, \$28,149,231; cash in Treasury, coin, \$73,601,361; cash in Treasury, currency, \$11,992,580; total in Treasury, \$126,193,941; debt, less cash in Treasury, \$2,118,233,039. Decrease since June 30, 1875, \$10,455,686.

The Senate to-day confirmed the nomination of William Sanborn, Michigan, Secretary of Arizona Territory, and C. W. Darlin, Indian Agent at Fort Berthold, Dakota.

Representative Luttrell to-day called the attention of the House to an error in the *Congressional Record*, by which the Central Pacific R. R. Co. is omitted from its report of the resolution offered by him and adopted by the House yesterday ordering an investigation of the Pacific R. R. matters. The Central Pacific headed the list. The Associated Press report correctly stated it.

The House committee on Indian affairs to-day took final action on the question whether or not they should recommend appropriations to satisfy any claim for losses caused by Indian depredations. The committee decided to report adversely on all such bills and petitions referred to them, taking the ground substantially that the government is not liable to pay for Indian depredations, either of the general treasury or Indian trust fund annuities.

Representative Lane, of Oregon, voted against this report of the rest of the committee, and will submit a minority report, contending that the government is bound, in one way or other, to pay well established claims for losses occasioned by the acts of its Indian wards.

PROVIDENCE, R.I., 1.—The House of Representatives passed without division the bill providing that land occupied or owned by churches, schools, colleges and charitable institutions shall no longer be exempt from taxation.

NEW YORK, 1.—The list of churches called to the advisory council to be held in Plymouth Church, February 15th, has been completed. It comprises 171 churches, situated throughout the U. S.; also some of the most noted ministers without charge.

BOSTON, 1.—A special from East Lyndon, Vt., states that Silas Wilder, a resident of that town, killed his father and mother this morning with an axe, and then cut his wife's throat. He then hung himself. His wife was alive at latest date.

NEWPORT, Vt., 1.—There is terrible excitement at East Lyndon over the tragedy of to-day. It is supposed that Wilder was laboring under temporary insanity, superinduced by excessive excitement and passion. The details of the tragedy are most horrible. His father and mother were aged respectively seventy-three to seventy years. The immediate cause of the affair was an altercation with his wife, who, in altering a pair of overalls, had made them too short. After angry words, Wilder started for the shed, saying he would get an axe and end the trouble. His wife followed him and seized the axe, when he drew a dirk and stabbed and left her for dead, and then, taking up the axe, started for his father, who had followed him, and struck him a fearful blow, crushing through his head. At this point he appeared still further infuriated, and he next attacked his mother, killing her with three fearful blows over the head and breast. Leaving her in the front door, he returned to the shed, and found his father had crawled into the kitchen. He struck him as he lay upon the floor, the axe crushing through his head and remaining fixed in the floor. He then cut his throat, and death not ensuing at once ran to the barn, fastened a rope around his neck, and jumped from the beam, breaking his neck and causing instant death. The father and mother are both dead. The wife, it is thought, may recover.

SAN FRANCISCO, 1.—Christian Meuka, a fugitive from justice from St. Louis, was arrested here

yesterday. He is held waiting the arrival of a requisition.

MILWAUKEE, 2.—The grand jury in the United States Circuit Court has returned indictments against G. O. Erskine, Ex-Collector, Internal Revenue; Leopold Wirth, distiller; and A. C. Finn, rectifier.

NEW YORK, 2.—Judge Dikeman has allowed a writ of *habeas corpus* in the case of Edward S. Stokes, returnable in White Plains, Feb. 5th.

George Jones states that the dispute over the shares in the stock of the New York Times included in the estate of the late J. B. Taylor, has been settled by Jones purchasing the entire ten shares for \$150,000. The stock of the Times is now divided as follows—Jones 51 shares, E. M. Morgan 40 shares, and Mr. Jennings, the editor, 9 shares.

A heavy gale prevails here to-day, and telegraph communication north and south is broken in many places. In this city signs, hats and veils are flying freely through the air. Dispatches from outside report the carrying away of roofs and steeples.

In Washington the fiercest of blasts awaken many persons who sought security in the lower rooms of dwellings. The tower of the Methodist church is several feet out of perpendicular and great crowds are in the neighborhood awaiting its fall.

In Philadelphia there is much damage at the Centennial grounds, the tower of the Agricultural Hall and New York State Building are considerably injured. A three-story frame structure at Forty-first Street and Elm Avenue and a one-story brick building at Forty-third Street and Lancaster were blown down. The tin roof of the Transcontinental Hotel, near the Centennial grounds, was partly carried away, as was the roof of the Farmers' Market in Camden. The roofs of six houses in Sixth Street were blown a distance of seventy feet.

The heaviest storm of this winter is raging in the neighborhood of Rutland, Vt. Snow is drifting and badly delaying trains. Whitehall and Saratoga report the storm as fearful, and telegraph wires working badly.

A Montreal dispatch says a foot of snow has fallen since last night.

In Providence R. I., the gale was very heavy. This afternoon one of the spires on the tower of Grace church was blown down. In Woonsocket the new brick French Catholic church, nearly finished, was blown down level with the basement wall.

In New York there is no abatement of the gale, which has swept in from the bay and rivers every description of sailing craft. At the office of the U. S. signal service in this city the rate of wind was reported sixty-six miles an hour this morning.

In Brooklyn a row of private residences were unroofed.

The cable reports that steamers arriving from America experienced very heavy weather from the 21st to the 29th ult. The steamer *Gelboit*, *Alexandria*, and *City of New York*, of the Iman Line, felt it severely. The last two had their boats and skylights stove.

WASHINGTON, 2.—Mr. Storrs appeared to-day before the House committee on the Pacific railroads, in behalf of the Southern Pacific Railroad of California, confining himself to the law points involved.

Col. Scott said if the Southern Pacific road would open a line between Fort Yuma and San Geronimo Pass to the Texas Pacific, and let Congress control the rates on that part of the road, the Texas Pacific would use it and build no parallel line.

Mr. Huntington agreed to this, and said he would do so on all the Southern Pacific roads, if allowed to build east to meet the Texas Pacific.

Mr. Redfield of Arkansas, appeared on behalf of the Little Rock, Miss., and Texas R. R., asking that 75 miles should be included in the bill.

S. G. Marquand, of N. Y., appeared for the St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern R. R., and protested against the proposed aid to the Memphis branch, stating that his road was ready to carry to and from Memphis at the most reasonable rates, and furnish every facility.

DETROIT, 2.—The republican State convention for the election of delegates to Cincinnati convention is called for May 10th, at Grand Rapids.

A terrific storm, with wind and

snow, swept over the State last night, and this morning is the coldest of the season.

NEW YORK, 2.—The London special says Oxford has decided not to accept the challenge of the American Inter-collegiate Rowing Association to row in the latter part of July at Saratoga. The invitation was declined on the ground that the time fixed came too near the Henly annual amateur regatta.

Dispatches from the interior of this State, the east and south, Halifax and St. John, state the storm to be the severest of the season. Many buildings have been blown down, a large number unroofed, and steeples and chimneys demolished. The damage at Baltimore is estimated at \$40,000, at Albany \$30,000. Great damage is reported to shipping all along the coast.

CHICAGO, 2.—Early this morning an accident occurred on the N. W. Railroad, between Ishpeming and Negaunee, Michigan, in the Northern Peninsula of Michigan, by which Mr. Reynolds, paymaster and trackmaster, was crushed to death beneath the safe in the pay car. The conductor, brakeman and clerk were slightly bruised. The accidental uncoupling of the pay car, which was thrown into a ravine, caused the accident.

BOSTON, 2.—Wool market quite steady, with fair demand from manufacturers, and all desirable grades continue to be held firm, particularly fine fleeces. Good lots of superfine and X pulled and combing and delaine selections. There is also a steady demand for No. 1 fleeces; sales have been at 45 @ 50 for XXX, and No. 1 Ohio and Pennsylvania, 42 @ 45 for Michigan and No. 1 fleeces, and 57 @ 60 for washed, combing and delaine, superfine and X pulled in fair demand, 35 @ 55, including choice lots of eastern and western superfine, 50 @ 55, but most of the sales were in range of 40 @ 47. California wool remains unchanged and has been in steady demand. Sales have been 17 @ 25 for fall and 20 @ 24 for spring.

EVANSVILLE, Ind., 2.—J. S. Farmer, the Quincy bank robber, died on Tuesday night of consumption. He maintained the truth of his story, gave the names of his accomplices;—Hilsey, a thief of Syracuse, N. Y.; English Tom, a cockney burglar; and a man, name unknown, at present in St. Louis hospital, with a bullet wound in his thigh. He tried to tell of a diamond robbery in St. Joseph, Mo., in March, 1875, but died before the particulars were given. He said \$20,000 of diamonds and jewelry were buried on the Iron Mountain Railroad, near Booneville, Mo. An effort will be made to ferret out the matter.

FORT SCOTT, Ks., 2.—On Monday at Appleton, a small town twelve miles from this city, during an altercation in a blacksmith shop between two brothers, named Sam'l and Fayette Harvey, and a desperado named Davis, Davis drew a revolver on Samuel Harvey, threatening to shoot him, when Fayette, going stealthily up behind Davis, seized a hammer and struck him a blow on the head, killing him instantly. Davis felt with his head in the forge and his face was burned to a crisp. While in this position, Harvey again struck him several times with the hammer, mangling his head terribly. Just as Harvey struck Davis the first time the latter fired at Samuel, the ball taking effect in the right arm and passing entirely through.

FORT GIBSON, Ind. Ty., 2.—The nomination of W. P. Ross as agent for the five civilized tribes of this territory is heartily endorsed by the people of this nation. The nomination is considered a wise one, and the people believe it appreciative of the merit and worth of Colonel Ross.

CHEYENNE, 2.—The first stage of F. D. Yates & Co.'s semi-weekly direct line between Cheyenne and Custer city, via Fort Laramie and Red Cloud, carrying the U. S. mail, leaves in the morning. A daily line will be in operation in twenty days. Large parties are leaving here daily for the mines.

The Union Pacific track is clear. SAN FRANCISCO, 2.—The creditors of James H. Deering, wholesale boot and shoe merchant, have filed a petition in the United States District Court that he be declared bankrupt. The petitioners allege that Deering suspended payment December 15th. Liabilities stated at \$200,000. The creditors refused to settle at fifteen cents on the dollar.

The government brings suit in the District Court to condemn the

brig *Timandra* for carrying four thousand gallons of illicit spirits to Alaska. The defence allege that the suit is a put up job on the part of discontented members of the crew.

A dispatch from Victoria says the new ministry—Elliot, Attorney General and Provincial Secretary; Vernon, Commissioner of Lands and Works; Humphreys, Finance Minister; Ebenezer Brown, President of Executive Council,—were sworn in yesterday. House adjourned till April 6th.

A jury in the crooked whiskey case against the Antioch distillery went out yesterday afternoon. This morning they announced their inability to agree and were discharged. A new trial will be had without delay. This is considered a test case, and if a verdict can be obtained for the Government many other suits will be brought. The impression is widespread that the jury as constituted would in no event have brought a verdict for the Government.

CHICAGO, 3.—The *Times* Washington special says if the facts brought out by the postal committee are an indication of the general conduct of the postoffice department, the failure of the postal service to pay for itself will not be so much of a mystery. Trivial errors in the construction of the law and illegal practices in the payment of claims accumulate until the committee are overwhelmed in estimating the amount of robbery practised under Creswell. One day one of the committees, examining the accounts of the department, finds \$2,000,000 are dropped from the books without the least sign of explanation, and the next day the regular committee on postoffices and post roads bring to light additional facts of the great source of robbery, the straw bid contracts.

John A. Scudder, President of the St. Louis and Memphis Packet Co., was before the committee yesterday. In 1871 his company made a bid for the contract to carry the mail from White River, Ark., to Vicksburg, proposing to do the same for \$7,000 a year. A straw bid of \$8,840 was placed in the department and the notorious Dr. B. H. Peterson was awarded the contract at \$18,000. Scudder's bid being entirely ignored. Peterson did not own even a dug out, but when it is stated that he was surgeon of Giles A. Smith's regiment and was a boon companion of that famous general, who, at the time of the letting of this contract, was Second Assistant P. M. General and was at the head of the contract bureau, the matter becomes very transparent. Peterson went to Scudder and sub-let the contract to him at \$10,000 a year, or \$3,000 more than Scudder offered to do the work for. This left Peterson \$8,000 clear. The first year and for the next three years by some means he managed to get \$27,000 a year for the work he was sub-letting for \$10,000 a year. Thus in about four years he made \$80,000, and the Government paid out about \$70,000 more than it would have done had the contract been let to Scudder's company.

MIDDLETOWN, 3.—While clearing snow from the Midland railway yesterday the plow left the track and crashing into the bridge over the Willimantic river, smashed it down, and the bridge, plows and engine tumbled into the river, with nine men on the plow and cab. Those on the plow were all more or less bruised and cut, while those in the cab, in addition to other wounds, were severely scalded, one or two fatally. The mail and passenger train was flagged by a man who extricated himself from the debris in time to prevent it plunging into the wreck.

CHICAGO, 3.—The *Tribune's* Washington special says, the House committee on expenditures of the State department has examined W. W. Murphy of New York, who for eight years previous to 1869 was U. S. consul at Frankfort on the Main, and was at that time removed to make place for the brother-in-law of General Butler. He did not complain, as he expected, at one time or another, to be the victim of the system under which political appointments are made. He said the salary which he received was he thought ample, but his successor besides this was allowed a clerk at a salary of \$1,000 per year and given permission to expend besides this for clerk hire \$1,000 more. He was of opinion that the salary of a consul should not be regulated entirely by the amount of business which he had to do. For

instance, the consuls at Liverpool, Paris and London received, in addition to their salaries, perquisites, etc., which made their pay \$10,000, \$12,000, and \$15,000, while those at Vienna and places in Turkey and Russia, having not much less business, receive nothing but their salaries, which should on this account be increased. Murphy thinks in most cases the salaries paid our consuls are sufficient, but in some special cases they are too small. In his opinion the consular system of the U. S. was more expensive than that of some other countries, because many of the European nations employ bankers or business men to attend to consular business. In this way the representative of the house of Rothschild at Frankfort-on-Maine acts as consul for Austria, and Baron Erlanger, the banker who negotiated the Confederate States loan, attended to the consular business for Sweden and Norway. These bankers are willing to serve as consuls without salaries on account of certain advantages they derive from their positions. Murphy believes the same system might in many cases be adopted by the United States. The witness described at some length the manner in which Captain Steinberger, of Navigator Islands fame, and who was sent to Europe in 1872, as inspector of consulates, performed his duty. Although Murphy was not then in the office of consul, Steinberger called on him for such information as he could give. He said Steinberger lived in magnificent style. His hotel bills were from twenty-five to thirty dollars daily.

ST. LOUIS, 3.—The stern-wheel steamer *John M. Chambers* had her upper works burned off last evening while lying at the lower levee. Damage about \$10,000, insured in Cincinnati offices for \$20,000.

The *Globe Democrat's* special from Topeka, Kansas, says the United States Attorney has received documents from Washington in the matter of the Pottawattamie Indian frauds, with instructions to proceed at once against the parties accused. Those frauds relate to the collection of money and selling of lands by persons acting as bogus administrators of Indian estates. The Indians, whose property was thus gobbled, were represented to be dead, but it now turns out they are still alive, and have been residing all the time in the Indian Territory. The extent of the rascality has not yet been determined, but it will probably reach \$10,000. It involves several Indian traders, local bankers, and prominent politicians, among whom there is quite a stir.

WASHINGTON, 3.—The committee on ways and means considered to-day, and without conclusion, the bill proposed by Fernando Wood to increase the volume of 4 1/2 per cent. bonds from \$200,000,000 to \$500,000,000, and extend the time for their redemption from 15 to 30 years. The Secretary was before the committee in advocacy of the bill.

The House committee on appropriations completed the fortification bill to-day, appropriating for the protection, preservation, and repair of fortifications and other works of defense \$100,000, for the conversion of heavy ordnance, \$100,000, for projectiles of heavy ordnance \$15,000, for carriages for heavy guns \$15,000, for proving ground and proving cannon \$25,000, for torpedoes \$50,000.

LOUISVILLE, 3.—The Indianians recently tried and convicted at Indianapolis for complicity in whiskey frauds were placed in the State prison at Jeffersonville last night.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, 1.—John Forster, formerly one of the editors of the *Daily News*, and latterly celebrated for his life of Chas. Dickens, is dead.

The *Morning Hour* understands that a warrant has been issued for the apprehension of William Smith, of Smith & Co., solicitors. It is feared he has used a large amount of money belonging to various clients, and that his debts amount to \$750,000.

CONSTANTINOPLE, 1.—The Austrian, Russian and German ambassadors communicated orally Count Andrassy's note to the Porte yesterday, those of the other powers at the same time declared their governments saw nothing in this proposal contrary to the treaty of Paris. The Porte promised to examine the scheme and acquaint the powers with his decision.