

BY TELEGRAPH.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 15.—The senators were early in their places, and the usual bustle attending the opening of the session prevailed.

The oath of office was administered to Stanley Matthews, of Ohio, elected in place of John Sherman resigned. J. Don Cameron in place of Simon Cameron, resigned, and D. H. Armstrong, appointed from Missouri, vice L. V. Boggs, deceased.

The usual committee was appointed to join the committee of the House and inform the President that a quorum of the two houses had assembled.

Adjourned until 12 to-morrow. The Senators absent were Morton, McMillan, and Sharon.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, 15.—At the opening of the session of the House, the galleries were crowded, and the corridors, for two hours previously, were almost impassable.

At 12 o'clock, Clerk Adams called the House to order, read the President's proclamation convening Congress, and called the roll of the members by States, beginning with Maine. When Louisiana was reached, the clerk made the following statement: There were read from the State of Louisiana, bearing date 20th of December, 1876, and declaring certain persons elected from the first, fourth and sixth districts, but silent as to the other districts. Inasmuch as John McEnery was never *de facto* governor of Louisiana, and never, in point of fact, exercised or performed the functions of that office, it is not deemed necessary to make any statement concerning the regularity or irregularity of the credentials coming from that source. Another set of credentials was signed by Wm. Pitt Kellogg, as governor of Louisiana, with the seal of the State attached, all bearing different dates, and all of which reached the hands of the clerk through different channels, declaring persons elected from each of the districts except the second, as to which district no certificate seems to have been issued by Gov. Kellogg to any one.

The law of Louisiana prescribing the charter of credentials, provides that as soon as possible after the expiration of the time of making the returns of election for representatives in Congress, a certificate of the returns shall be entered on the record by the Secretary of State, and signed by the Governor, and that a copy thereof, subscribed by these officers, shall be delivered to the person so elected, and another copy transmitted to the Clerk of the House of Representatives. These credentials of Gov. Kellogg are in no sense a compliance with the requirements of the law of Louisiana. They do not even purport to be a copy of the certificate. On the contrary they are a simple declaration by Governor Kellogg that certain persons were elected, without even stating the source of his information, and they no more constitute credentials within the meaning of the law of Louisiana than a similar statement from the treasurer or other State official would. They cannot, therefore, be recognized by the clerk. The other set of credentials, as signed by Governor Nichols and the Secretary of State, arrived with the seal of the State attached. They declare the persons elected in each of the districts of Louisiana, and conflict with the certificate signed by Governor Kellogg in reference to two districts only. Those credentials comply with the law of Louisiana in every respect, and the clerk has accordingly placed on the roll the names of the persons contained in them.

When Missouri was reached the clerk stated that no certificates had been received from the third district. Just then a paper was handed him, addressed to the Speaker of the House, and he repeated the suggestion, that as there was no Speaker the paper should be opened by the Clerk. (Murmurs of "no, no.")

Cox hoped there would be no objection to the Clerk opening the paper. Clerk.—Inasmuch as it would raise a question which the Clerk is not now prepared to determine, he will leave the matter to the House after it shall have been organized. The Clerk also stated as to Florida, that he had received the certificate of Gov. Stearns to the elec-

tion of W. D. Purman, in the first, and Horatio Brisbane, Jr., in the Second district, but he had subsequently received certificates from Gov. Drew. One of these recited the canvass which showed the election of Purman had been, by the Supreme Court of Florida, declared illegal, and that another canvass had been made in obedience to the order of the Supreme Court which showed the election of Robert H. M. Davidson, from the first district. Under such circumstances he had felt bound to place the name of Davidson on the roll. The other certificate of Gov. Drew simply declared as to the second district, that by counting the votes in a certain precinct in Clay County, where the board of State canvassers had rejected and which the Supreme Court had said could not be legally counted, J. J. Finlay would be elected. Under such circumstances the clerk could not see anything to invalidate the previous certificate in favor of Brisbane, and he had, therefore, placed his name on the roll.

With reference to Colorado the clerk said the certificate presented by James B. Belford showed that he was elected on the third of October, 1876, at a time not authorized by the laws of the United States or of the State of Colorado, while the papers presented by his competitor Patterson, were merely certified copies of abstracts of the votes in the several counties, which votes had never been canvassed by any board of canvassers. The clerk had therefore declined to place either name on the roll, but had left the matter for the House, after organization, to determine.

Hale, of Maine, rose to what he called a question of the highest privilege, the right of a member to his seat, while at the same moment, Wood, of New York, rose to what he asserted to be the highest privilege, the organization of the House by the election of a Speaker.

FOREIGN.

CONSTANTINOPLE, 8.—A telegram from Orhanie states that twenty-four Turkish battalions, escorting a convoy to Plevna, defeated the Russian detachment sent to oppose them.

Frost and storms have rendered the Sistova and Nicopolis bridges impracticable for vehicles the last two days.

General Prince Imeritinsky has been appointed chief of general staff of the Russo-Roumanian army before Plevna, General Zottoff taking command of General Imeritinsky's army corps.

LONDON, 9.—Sir Stafford Northcote, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a speech, yesterday, said, "I cannot help thinking, myself, that there may be surprise which may disappoint the prophecies of those who have been claiming that the war cannot terminate till after another and more decisive campaign. One thing is certain, that both sides have displayed such gallantry that if an opportunity for a settlement should arrive, they might accept it without any loss of prestige."

A Shumla special says, Suleiman Pasha took command of the army of the Lom, at Tcherna Voda, on Saturday.

A special from Frankfurt says, according to trustworthy intelligence received here, the fortresses of the Franco-Italian frontier are being hurriedly put in a state of defence. Fenestrelle, Exclles, and Winandis are being armed with new steel and bronze guns.

Negotiations between Serbia and Russia have not been concluded. Serbia requires a guarantee of independence and a promise of extension of territory in the direction of Bosnia. The Russian envoy awaits further instructions.

Achmet Eyoub Pasha will take command of the Turkish forces on the Serbian frontier.

PARIS, 9.—Gambetta is prosecuted for placarding his manifesto, to the electors of the twentieth arrondissement, on the streets, not for its publication. The printer of the manifesto has been summoned before the Correctional Tribunal.

LONDON, 9.—The Russians commenced parallel before Plevna under the superintendency of General Todleben. The heavy masses of troops which are being sent to Bulgaria certainly indicate their purpose to prosecute active operations during the autumn, as the Russians do not need these reinforcements to retain their present positions.

A Belgrade correspondent says he heard from a diplomatic source that the Porte has demanded explana-

tions regarding Serbia's purpose in arming and negotiating with Russia and Roumania, and the Porte declares that it will be obliged to send a special commission to Belgrade to enquire whether its suzerain rights are not being tampered with. All first class militia brigades except those of Belgrade, Shabatic and Valerio have marched to the frontier. The second class will follow. More money and several hundred boxes of shoes have arrived from Russia. Negotiations with Russia have at last come to a satisfactory close. A cabinet council resolved upon wadike measures, though not before the middle of November.

MONTREAL, 9.—It is believed that Foster, the Grand Trunk Railroad defaulter, has drawn heavily and misappropriated money belonging to the employees' superannuation fund, of which he had charge. He issued money orders when claims were made on this fund, and in many cases the receivers could not write their own names. It is also charged that he cashed bogus checks and appropriated money from the funds of the International Bridge treasury.

PARIS, 9.—Gambetta addressed a great republican meeting this evening, which passed off without disturbance. In his speech Gambetta said the existence of universal suffrage was at stake, and pointed out the danger which that institution would incur if, after having at the last elections pronounced in favor of a republic, it should now give itself the lie in consequence of governmental pressure. In that case public peace would be compromised, for universal suffrage was possibly its only defence. Its fall would involve the decadence and death of the country. Gambetta eulogized Grevy as the man best fitted for continuing the work of concord, conciliation and respect for law. He disclaimed any desire for power for himself, and concluded with a violent attack on the clericals, who, he said, excited the fears of Europe by the presence of an anti-republican coalition.

Gambetta, in his speech referred to the republican prospects, and said: "After sifting the information which reaches me from all quarters, I assure you that the 363 will return to Versailles reinforced to 400."

LONDON, 10.—The bullion withdrawn from the Bank of England, on balance, to-day, is £64,000.

The *Times* says: Everything points to dearer money. It seems likely that even a five per cent. bank rate of discount will not be sufficient to arrest the outflow of gold. One hundred thousand pounds' worth of American eagles is said to be ordered for to-day.

LONDON, 10.—A correspondent with Chevka Pasha's headquarters, telegraphs from Badawairzy, near Plevna, on Monday: Our army occupies Telishe, and to day effected a junction with Osman Pasha, who took up a position on the heights of Dubrik. There has been no fighting on our way hither except a trifling cavalry skirmish. The Russians fled on our approach. We hope to arrive in Plevna to-morrow. Reconnoissances in any direction have failed to disclose a single Russian.

A Russian official dispatch, yesterday, says in consequence of the occupation of new positions by our troops in recent operations, the enemy last night abandoned the most of his positions, including Kizel Tepe, and began retreating. We pursued him, and during the night occupied the line of Chadshirale, Sabatan and Kulwerdan.

Gen. Gourko, with eleven regiments of cavalry and eight batteries of horse artillery, started to Sofia, via Tirnova and Selvi. Four cavalry regiments of guard will join him en route.

In consequence of restrictions placed by Russians on the movement of correspondents the number of those with the army before Plevna have been reduced from sixty to two, a number of English and Russian correspondents having recently been ordered to quit. The fact is the authorities are endeavoring to keep the state of the army secret. Eye witnesses say the soldiers suffered from severe weather and lying on the bare earth. The hospitals are full of wounded, and sick pass the Danube by thousands, cartloads at a time.

A special says an engagement took place off the Sulina mouth of the Danube, on Tuesday, between Russian and Turkish steamers. The latter exploded and sank with all hands.

All immediate apprehension of famine in northern India, next year, has passed away, though high prices and some pressure on the poor will remain until the spring crop is assured. Emigrants from the threatened tracts are already returning home, and agriculture is active everywhere.

The ship *Electra*, from Boston June 29, for San Francisco, put into Rio Janeiro Oct. 8th, in a leaking condition.

Until further orders no correspondents will be allowed with the Russians at Plevna.

It is expected that General Zimmerman's army will shortly assume the offensive.

A Kuraja correspondent confirms the report that Mukhtar Pasha had evacuated Katzelpa and Subatin, retiring to the summit of Aladju Dagh. The correspondent says these movements are necessitated by Mukhtar's having lost 8,000 men during the battle of Oct. 2nd and 3rd. The Russians occupied the positions vacated by the Turks.

Later—The Russians, on Wednesday, in consequence of unfavorable weather, retired to the positions they formerly occupied. Operations, therefore, are postponed. The Russian loss to the present is 3,300.

A Galatz special says a passenger vessel from the St. George mouth the Danube, bound for Tulcha, accidentally struck a Russian torpedo and blew up with all hands. This is possibly the origin of the report of the naval battle.

A telegram from Kars on Wednesday noon, says a battle was fought, yesterday, near Aladaja Dagh, lasting from midday until six in the evening. The losses are heavy on both sides. Movements are discernible this morning in the Russian camp, which seem to indicate a renewal of the fight.

QUEENSTOWN, 11.—The steamship *Corsett*, from Antwerp for New York, arrived here with her bows stove and her forward compartment filled with water, from a collision with the ship *Jessore*, from Liverpool, with passengers for Melbourne, at 4 o'clock on Wednesday morning, 100 miles west of Fastnet. The *Jessore* sank and the *Corsett* rescued all hands.

CONSTANTINOPLE, 11.—The Turkish war office confirms the report of the junction of Cheketa Pasha with Osman Pasha, and the entry of reinforcements and supplies into Plevna.

PESTH, 11.—Herr Tisza, the Hungarian premier, has informed the Diet that 2,000 rifles and three boxes of dynamite were seized, but only eight persons arrested in connection with the Transylvanian affairs.

LONDON, 11.—An explosion took place to-day in a colliery at Pemberton, Lancashire. Of over forty miners in the pit only five have so far been rescued. Three of the rescuers were suffocated.

The Marquis of Salisbury, in a speech at Bradford, said, the war was not likely to be abandoned until either of the belligerents was strikingly defeated or utterly exhausted. England, he said, was not at present in a position, without departing from her neutrality, to offer anything but mere general pacific advice.

An official newspaper, *Romanul*, says a large number of Hungarians have entered Little Wallachia. The Roumanian general has taken precautionary measures.

Russian has undertaken to pay Serbia 1,000,000 roubles monthly from the time the Serbian army is sent to the frontier.

Mehemet Ali and Achmet Eyoub Pashas have arrived at Constantinople to attend the council of war.

Mukhtar Pasha's official dispatches explain that the battle fought on Tuesday, near Aladja Dagh, was caused by an attempt by Russians to surprise a corps of observation posted at Koshan to cover the concentration of his forces at Aladja Dagh. Mukhtar claims that he repulsed the Russians with a loss of 1,200 men.

A Russian official dispatch says the Turks destroyed their bridge at Silistria. The same dispatch claims that on the 9th instant a Turkish three-masted monitor struck a torpedo near Salina and blew up.

Cold rain and lack of winter clothing are causing great mortality in the Russo-Roumanian army. The number of deaths in the last twenty days are, of the army before Plevna, 5,000; of the Czarowitch 4,800; in the Dobrudscha, 3,000; and at Tirnova and Schipka, 2,000.

Russians in Bulgaria, including reinforcements, number only 230,000 combatants.

The *Times* says at St. Petersburg the rate of exchange is 23 pence, the lowest rate since the Crimean war. There seems to have been a kind of panic there yesterday, due to the great depreciation of paper currency, which depreciation threatens temporarily to engulf the nation in bankruptcy.

PARIS, 11.—The second manifesto has been issued by President McMahon. He denies that the republican constitution is in danger of Government under clerical influences, or that he is inclined to a policy which might endanger peace, and appeals to the electors not to plunge the country into an unknown future of crisis and conflicts by returning opposition candidates. The manifesto lays great stress on the fact that duty forbids the marshal to forsake his post, and concludes: I answer for order and peace.

The bureau of the senatorial left have issued a counter manifesto asking the people to disbelieve those who declare republican institutions are not in peril and that government do not obey clerical influences. Official candidates are enemies of the republic.

The *Bun Public* says United States Minister Noyes had an interview with Duke de Cazes, today, relative to the case of Benel, the American, who claims that he was expelled from France without any assigned reason.

LONDON, 12.—A Belgrade special says the cabinet has unanimously and definitely agreed upon the terms of agreement with Russia. This probably refers to the agreement concerning the subsidy of a million roubles to be made to Serbia monthly from the time her army is sent to the frontier. Troops are continually marching to the frontier ready for any offensive movement on the part of the Turks.

PARIS, 12.—Gambetta has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment and pay a fine of \$800, for placarding his recent address to electors of his arrondissement.

The printer of the address has been sentenced to fifteen days' imprisonment and to pay a fine of \$400.

The Duke De Cazes, minister of foreign affairs, writes to the *Rapport*, censuring it for endeavoring to excite the expulsion from France of Benel, an American. He says Benel displayed great activity in the Department of the Seine-et-Marne in furthering the election of the candidate hostile to the Government. He also says Benel, in taking an active part in the electoral struggle and openly manifesting hostility to the Government, has abused our hospitality and justly brought upon himself the application of Article Seven of the law of the 3rd of December.

LONDON, 12.—A correspondent with the Czarowitch's headquarters at Dolmymonaster telegraphs, under date of Wednesday, as follows: The severe storm of cold wind and rain which began a week ago still continues. The camps are literally lakes of mud. All roads are impracticable except the highway between Biela and Rustchuk. The suffering of the soldiers is indescribable. No preparation has been made for winter weather, and those who lost their tents and overcoats in the retreat from the Lom, a month ago, have not yet been supplied with others.

Prince Milan has received a note in conciliatory terms from the Porte, pointing out that the armaments of Serbia are prejudicial to the maintenance of the good relations which the Porte greatly desires to preserve.

A Constantinople dispatch says the sentence of death passed on the Geshoffs has been commuted to exile.

Intelligence is received at the British ambassador's that Mukhtar Pasha is pursuing the retreating Russians.

A special from Bucharest says: Various unconfirmed reports are current at Vienna concerning the Hungarian incursion into Little Wallachia. According to one of these reports it was caused by the consecration of the colors of the militia battalion at Orsova. Other reports allege that a body of raiders actually crossed the frontier.

Probably General Todleben will replace General Nepokitschitzky at the head of the entire general staff.

A new Russian 7 per cent. loan is impending.