

BY TELEGRAPH.

AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 19.—The President, to-day, signed a pardon for John A. Joyce, convicted of conspiracy to defraud the United States of taxes on distilled spirits. The pardon is full and unconditional. Joyce, it will be remembered, was sentenced to \$2,000 fine in addition to his imprisonment.

The following letter was sent to Prest. Hayes, to-day, by the resident Washington representative of California:

WASHINGTON, 18.

Sir—In the consideration of any question of public or private concern it is well to have facts for the ground work, and as the Hon. H. F. Page from Placerville, Cal., member of the House of Representatives, in behalf of the people of that State, has asked your consideration of the question of Chinese immigration, for reasons set forth in his communication of the 16th inst., as published in the New York "Herald," permit me to invite your attention to the extraordinary errors in the figures volunteered for your guidance, and the means so innocently supplied for a partial correction. If Mr. Page had ever read the report proffered for your guidance he must have experienced peculiar emotions in making the assertion that "you are, doubtless, aware that there is in the State of California more than 150,000 of these people, about one-fifth of whom are females, brought here for immoral purposes." Without desiring to deprive the timid, virtuous Californians of your sympathy in their danger, I beg of you to extend one moment's consideration of that portion of page fourteen of the report of the State Senate committee, which represents the number of these people in California, and you cannot fail to observe that the two Pages differ widely, and that, while he adds 50 per cent. and 50,000 to the Mongolian population as given by the committee, he magnifies to 30,000 the 3,000 maculate females who are given such importance. As such inflated representations form the basis of his appeal, I have ventured to ask your observance of their marked inconsistency and exaggeration as compared with the authority he offers when one California paper, the Commercial "Herald," terms a foul and mendacious statement, and another, the Commercial Advocate, represents as a wilful and malicious perversion of facts for partisan purposes. Unless it be the persistent imputing of all Caucasian iniquity to the Mongolian, nothing can be more ridiculous than the oft repeated, maudlin appeals of glib California statesmen to the United States to relieve a State, with one million of people, from a few all-mon-eyed Cyprians, much more retiring than a larger number of a like class of other nationalities. That division of opinion does exist in California is evident from the fact that the best political economists and those most directly interested in the prosperity of the State associate the general bankruptcy with a forced or rapid exodus of the Mongolian.

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

JOSEPH C. G. KENNEDY.

To the President.

Chaffee's resolution respecting the Union Pacific Railroad and branches was referred by the President to the Secretary of the Interior and Attorney General, to examine and report facts and law upon the subject. At the request of the Union Pacific company a hearing was had at the Attorney General's office this morning Judge Shellabarger and A. J. Poppleton appeared for the Union Pacific company; A. H. Holmes of New York for the Kansas Pacific company, and J. M. Woolworth for the Burlington and Missouri River company. After an informal conversation, as to the scope of inquiry, Holmes set forth the nature and extent of the violations of law by the Union Pacific company, which operated to the injury of the public, the Government branch roads, and the Kansas Pacific in particular. He gave a historical resume of the inception and construction of the Pacific railroads, showing that the governing idea of Congress, throughout its legislation on the subject, was to have a national trans-continental highway from the 100th meridian westward, with branches extending eastward to widely separated points on the Missouri River so as to accommodate the business of the public and of the Government, having reference to the convenience of all sections of the country. He discussed the questions of law and of fact relating to the whole subject, and cited numerous instances of discrimination, showing how the right of the public in respect to passenger travel and freight traffic, especially as regards St. Louis and south-west, were violated by the Union Pacific, until the attitude of that company had become, he said, "a national scandal," and the Kansas Pacific road had been forced into bankruptcy and the proprietary interests of the United States had thereby been seriously impeded.

In illustration of the discriminations practiced against the government, he referred to the case of the transportation of the Second Infantry from Georgia to San Francisco, last summer, for the service against Chief Joseph and his band, in which the Union Pacific Company had charged the United States, for the transportation of the troops west of Cheyenne, \$7,312 more than their through rates from Omaha, because this regiment had been conveyed to Cheyenne by the Kansas Pacific road.

Shellabarger began his reply, contending that the Union Pacific Company did not discriminate against any of the branches in charging higher rates west of Cheyenne, because the grades were heavier, and operating expenses were much greater over higher grades than over level prairies.

Poppleton and Woolworth will be heard to-morrow.

CHICAGO, 19.—The Tribune's Washington special says, "preparations are making for building a large military post at or about the forks of Milk River and near the line of the north western territory, the object being to restrain the war-like Sioux, who congregate there, from coming down and attacking citizens. The Canadian authorities would be powerless in such a case. The post would make a prominent part of the international boundary and should be carefully constructed. It is understood that General Terry located the site for it during Sheridan's recent visit. The plan will be urged before Congress."

The Times' Washington special says: The various Mexican investigating committees promise to deluge the country with facts of little value concerning Mexico. Schleicher, in summoning Minister Foster, has made the wisest move and will discover the exact strength. Schleicher thinks the non-recognition of Diaz good policy, as, once recognized, Diaz would let the border go and make no farther attempts to prevent raids.

The Journal's Washington special says: Information received here, to-day, from Columbia, S. C., is to the effect that Senator M. C. Butler's efforts to have the further criminal proceedings against Senator Patterson stopped, have resulted in a failure, owing to the opposition of Governor Hampton. The prosecution will be pushed vigorously and Hampton's friends are determined, if they cannot have Patterson brought into the State for trial, to force him out of the Senate by exposing his alleged corrupt transactions.

ST. LOUIS.—George Reed, collector for several banks in this city, while entering the National Stock Yards, just above East St. Louis, yesterday, was robbed of his pocket book, containing some \$20,000 in drafts and checks, but only \$36 in money.

Frank Harris, merchant, of Rockport, Mo., was called upon about 2 o'clock, yesterday morning, by two strangers, who said they desired to purchase some articles to be used at a funeral in the morning. Harris went to his store with them, furnished the goods, and as he unlocked his safe to obtain change for a \$20 note, tendered in payment for the articles, he was knocked senseless, and the safe robbed of \$7,060 in money.

BOSTON, 19.—Wool is steady with a fair demand, desirable grades continue quite firm. The demand runs on x and medium fleeces, combing and delaine fleeces, and good lines of super pulled. There is some inquiry for fine fleeces, but holders are not disposed to meet the market at the recent low prices. Sales of Ohio and Pennsylvania fleeces at 44 @ 46 for medium, x and xx, and 40 @ 42 for good lines of x and medium. Wisconsin and Michigan combing and delaine fleeces at 50 @ 55. California wool continues in demand with sales at 15 @ 25 for fall, and 20 @ 35 for spring, super and x. Pulled wools are selling at 30 @ 46.

PITTSBURG, 19.—A boy named Willie Hopkins, 10 years of age, was abducted from his home near this city, last Sunday morning, by a man supposed to be a tramp. His family are in great distress, the mother being almost insane from grief.

NEWBURGH, N. Y., 19.—Thomas Reoney's house at West Point, was burned, yesterday, and two children, aged three and five, perished. They were locked in the house at the time, the parents being absent. They were found clasped in each other's arms lifeless and charred.

SAN FRANCISCO, 19.—The Eureka Consolidated declares a three dollar dividend.

In joint convention of the legislature, to-day, J. T. Farley was declared elected United States Senator.

The Cosmopolitan Savings and Exchange Bank announces its suspension this morning. It is a small concern. About \$50,000 is due to depositors. The directors claim they will ultimately pay dollar for dollar.

The water commissioners have rejected all propositions for the purchase of water works outside the peninsula. It is expected that commissioners will be appointed to appraise the Spring Valley property and condemn it for the use of the city.

NEW YORK, 20.

The Herald's London special says: The anxiety felt here as to the policy of government in relation to the settlement of the eastern question is growing more intense from hour to hour. The cabinet councils, held in rapid succession and resulting in the announcement of the assembling of Parliament three weeks before the usual time, have created a profound impression. The curiosity felt as to the actual object of the ministers is something that has not been here for many years; in fact, we must go back to the time of the Crimean war for a parallel circumstance. The announcement of the early meeting of parliament, taken in conjunction with the recent visit of the Queen to Lord Beaconsfield, and the opportune appearance of the third volume of the "Life of the Prince Consort," describing her Majesty's Crimean war sentiments, has much excited the public mind, and cast an anxious gloom over the approaching Christmas festival. This feeling of uneasiness in the public mind was strongly reflected on the stock exchange, yesterday. There was a general weakness in foreigners, especially Russia's uncertainty in regard to the future, and rumors of divisions in the cabinet paralyzed the stock market and made things uncomfortable.

The Herald's London correspondent in Rome telegraphs that the Countess Minaffore, wife of King Victor Emanuel, is reported dead, in Turin. The King starts thither to-day.

The Herald's Columbia, S. C., special says the State Senate, yesterday, referred to the committee on Federal relations, a concurrent resolution requiring a joint investigating committee to report the evidence in their possession upon which indictments have been found against Patterson to the end that it might be forwarded to the Senate of the United States. It is not likely that the committee of Federal relations will report during the present session, if ever, and it is generally conceded that the troublesome matter has now been settled, even if indirectly.

The Herald's Washington special says a sub committee of ways and means will probably report to the whole committee a proposition to re-impose an income tax, the object being to obtain by this means a decrease of the tobacco tax, and of one or two other internal taxes. The argument made in favor of an income tax is that the eastern and seaboard middle States now pay a far less internal tax than the north-western and southern middle States; that the property and production overtaxed in these latter, compared with the burdens borne by the former, and that an income tax would equalize the load. The western and southern members of the House very generally favor an income tax; and the measure is especially strong among the north-western members, who say that government bonds are almost all owned in the seaboard States, that these are exempted from taxation, and that an income tax is the only way to reach bondholders.

The police commissioners, accompanied by their counsel, appeared before the mayor to-day, in response to his charges of dereliction of duty. The commissioners, in their answer, say the charges are general, indefinite and uncertain, and by the vague phrases and implications call in question the whole administration of the police department for the last two years. A request for an adjournment to prepare a defence was denied by the mayor.

An Havana letter says a body of 250 insurgents was lately encountered by a Spanish column in the neighborhood of Santa Spiriton, and after an engagement lasting two

hours, the insurgents were dispersed, leaving 59 dead and 12 prisoners. Among the latter are two aides de camp of Meximo Gomez, and 14 officers. The Spanish had 12 killed and 19 wounded. A very important correspondence was found on the aides de camp. Twenty-three men and seven women surrendered on the 9th inst., near Puerto Principi. Another prominent insurgent, Arsenio Ratariba, has likewise surrendered.

CHICAGO, 20.—The Times' Helena Montana special says the Fort Benton Record of the 17th, publishes the following: "Father Gen. in arrived at the Marius River last night, Sunday, and sent a messenger to inform the military commander at Benton that Sitting Bull had crossed the line and was camped in the Bear Paw mountains with a large force of Sioux and Nez Perces. A man named Valentine is supposed to be killed. Thomas Todd arrived from Fort Benton, last evening, confirmed the above report. He also states that the Indians are burning the prairies south of the Bear Paw. Other parties report that Sitting Bull is on Miles' battle ground, and that he has been joined by Lone Deer's band of 75 lodges.

Official dispatches from El Paso, received this morning at Gen. Sheridan's headquarters, states that nothing of importance has occurred there during the last 24 hours. The United States troops began to arrive there from New Mexico, yesterday, and it is expected that a sufficient force will soon be there to render further disturbance of the peace unlikely.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., 20.—The City Hotel and contents are burned.

POTTSTOWN, 20.—A broken rail on the Philadelphia and Reading railroad caused the wreck of the engine and forty coal-laden cars, this morning.

BALTIMORE, 20.—A State convention, called by the Prisoners' Aid Society to consider the best method of ridding the State of tramps, began to-day. Montgomery Blair was chosen president.

NEW YORK, 20.—An explosion, immediately followed by a fire, occurred at five minutes past five this afternoon in the immense candy manufactory of Greenfield & Son, 63 Barclay street, which extends in the shape of an "L" to College place. The boiler, which was under the side walk on the Barclay Street side, burst, tearing away the entire front, scattering the wreck in all directions. A large number of girls of all ages were employed at the time in the building. The walls fell a few minutes after the explosion. A policeman who was on duty near the building, says he saw the front of the building, five stories high, fall into the street. Fifty-six wounded and one dead were reported at the Chamber Street hospital at 6.45. A number were also sent to the Bellevue and other hospitals. It is estimated that the wounded will reach 125. About 50 escaped by the College place entrance, and a small number got out through the skylights, walked over the roofs and got down the skylights of other buildings. A bookkeeper who was on the Barclay Street side of the building was blown out through the window to the street and badly cut on the head. Several jumped from the second story and escaped with slight injuries. No fair estimate of the loss of life can be given to-night, but it must be large. The parties employed in the factory were principally young girls and boys from eight to twenty years of age. Owing to the approach of the holidays a double force was employed, one working during the day the other at night. The force changed at five o'clock, and the fact that the explosion occurred five minutes past that hour renders it still more difficult to know how many or who are victims. The number in the building at the time is variously estimated at from 100 to 300. The flames spread so rapidly that it is feared that many not injured by the explosion were burned to death. The Barclay Street angle of the building has fallen to the ground, also 65 and 67 Barclay, on the lower side, and 61 on the upper side. Owing to the heat, no search can be made for those buried in the ruins until to-morrow. The factory building was in the form of a letter L, with entrances at 63 Barclay and 3 College Place. In the angle were situated the Grocer's Bank building and D. D. Tompkins' brown paper warehouse, both five stories. The lat-

ter, was burned to the ground, leaving the bank building on the corner alone over the ruins. The bank building is only injured on the fourth and fifth floors, which were used as a dwelling by the janitor and several families, who lost all their furniture and effects. The third floor, occupied as law and other offices, was slightly injured by water, but the offices at the bank, on the ground floor, suffered no injury. Tompkins' loss has not yet been ascertained. The loss of Greenfield & Sons is estimated at \$100,000; insurance about \$75,000. No. 65 Barclay Street was a frame building, with a cigar store on the first floor. The upper floors have been occupied by Col. French for the last thirty years. French and his family escaped, but the former left \$10,000 in United States bonds in a book case on the second floor. Foreman Joe McGill of engine 32, and Roundsman Coffey of the 31st precinct police, volunteered to go in for the bonds. The flames and smoke were bursting out of the building; they climbed up on the awning, entered the window, secured a package of papers and came out, but the package was found not to be the bonds. A second time they entered through the flames and smoke, and brought out the bonds in safety. Some of the girls had their hair burned totally off their heads.

The first reports were exaggerated in regard to the number of wounded. Only 13 were brought to the Chamber Street hospital and none to any other. The greatest sacrifice of life was among the young girls, many of whom, 8 to 15 years old, were employed in selling, assorting and packing candies on the first floor, over the boiler, which was situated in the basement at the rear end of the Barclay Street wing of the building, and not under the sidewalk, as at first reported. None of these are known to have escaped.

Among the other buildings injured are those of E. W. Little, fancy goods, 241 and 243 Greenwich Street; Charles Westervelt, hats and furs, 337 Greenwich Street, loss about \$3,000 each. The total loss will probably be \$250,000.

The news spread over the city rapidly and the wildest rumors and great excitement prevailed. Large crowds hurried from all quarters to the scene. The police kept the crowd blocks away from the place. Many persons having children or relatives working in the factory, as the evening wore on and they had not returned home, sought the scene of the disaster, the hospitals and the police stations in search of the missing ones. At the lowest calculation, there must be forty or fifty bodies in the ruins. The firemen will keep streams of water on the ruins all night, and will have the street cleared and be ready to commence digging for the bodies to-morrow.

Mr. R. Kleinn, of 53 Leonard Street, states that he was in the building about ten minutes before the explosion, and a great many persons were there at the time. He passed in front of the building two minutes after the explosion and saw on most of the floors, as the front wall had fallen, a great many boys and girls rushing about in an excited and confused manner, but they became obscured to view by the smoke and flames in a few seconds. There seems to have been no possibility of their getting out alive.

The fire was one of the quickest ever seen. In less than three minutes the flames had ascended completely to the roof.

Peter Stodtmiller gives a vivid description of the affair. He is employed with Rogers & Co., and was within forty feet of the doorway when the explosion occurred. It seemed to throw up the whole sidewalk, and the front of the building fell to the street. There were two horse trucks of the Delaware and Lackawanna Express Co. passing, and the walls fell on the horses and driver. Stodtmiller said he believed there were nearly 200 persons employed in the building at the time. There were not more than a dozen girls employed on the ground floor, most of the boys and girls being engaged on the second and third floors. Stodtmiller says he is positive that not more than six girls and a dozen men came out alive through the Barclay street entrance.

The elder Mr. Greenfield was about the first who rushed out, and he was much scalded. He saw about a dozen making their escape by the roof to the adjoining roofs.