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TOPICS IN CONGRESS.

FINANCE AND POLITICS.

NO DISTURBING LEGISLATION LIKELY TO COME TO A PASS THIS WINTER—FINANCE BILLS OFFERED YESTERDAY—CONTESTS, ETC.

General Garfield and Fernando Wood presented bills to the House of Representatives yesterday in regard to refunding. A resolution was offered in the Senate by Mr. Bayard for the gradual abolition of the legal-tenders. It is believed by the regular correspondent of THE TRIBUNE at Washington that, while there will be debate on financial and tariff topics this Winter, no disturbing legislation will be consummated in regard to either. The contestant of the seat of Mr. Orth (Rep.) has apparently abandoned his case, and the Committee on Elections will report against him. The proposed monument at Yorktown is under consideration again in the House.

AGITATING QUESTIONS IN CONGRESS.

DEBATE LIKELY TO OCCUR THIS WINTER ON GREENBACKS AND SILVER COINAGE QUESTIONS, BUT NO LEGISLATION—NO DANGER OF TARIFF CHANGES, EITHER.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—That there will be some discussion of financial questions in Congress during the present session is to be expected.

Many of the more discreet among the Democratic leaders would be glad to avoid it if possible, not, so far as I have heard, because of its injurious effect on the industrial interests of the country, now seeking to make up some of the losses and repair some of the disasters of nearly six years of depression, but, to quote an expression used by one of them, because they have been ruined politically by the attitude their party has heretofore taken in regard to the currency and resumption. The disposition to legislate for fiat money, to drive the gold currency of the world out of circulation in the United States by providing for an unlimited expansion of silver coinage certificates, to make resumption a failure after it has achieved a success never equalled in the financial history of the world and when the whole country is enjoying the benefits of the prosperity it has brought, is as strong in the Democratic party to-day as it ever was; and if none of the crazy theories that have been devised to injure the credit of the country, debase the currency and clog the wheels of business, are enacted into laws this Winter it will be first because the Republican minority in both houses of Congress will almost unanimously resist their passage and a Republican President will interpose his veto against them, or because the Democratic party leaders do not consider it safe in view of the approaching Presidential struggle to put their financial theories into statutes.

I have said that some financial discussion in Congress is inevitable during the present Winter. I do not believe that the wise recommendations of the President and Secretary of the Treasury in the annual message and the report, in regard to the future treatment of greenbacks, will receive any serious attention from Congress. It is doubtful if even the Republicans in the Senate and House of Representatives, especially those from the West, could be induced to carry out those recommendations even if they were in a majority; and it is certain that no large number of the Democrats will sustain them. The discussion is much more likely to take place upon bills to remove the restrictions from the coinage of silver and to retire the notes of the National banks in order to make room for the issue of more legal-tenders. But even measures of this kind have little chance of becoming laws, and the business men of the country ought to be making up their minds at once not to be disturbed when such bills are introduced or even when they are reported from committees. Nothing will come of them; and the people will do well not to allow themselves to be alarmed by anything which may be attempted.

I do not mean to say that there should be fostered among Republican members of Congress a feeling of false security leading to a letting down of effort against dangerous measures that may be proposed, but that business men should have that confidence in the President and the Republican minority in both houses that no season of distrust and alarm shall be allowed to result from anything that may happen in Washington this Winter.

What is true of questions affecting resumption and the currency is also true of tariff legislation. There are Democratic Representatives in Congress, and perhaps a few Republicans (though of the latter the number is very small), who would like to have a general revision of the tariff just at this time; but it is impossible to find here evidences of any matured plan for a general reduction of duties on imports. After his former experience in attempting to deal with this question, and the summary way in which the last House of Representatives disposed of his carefully prepared bill, it is hardly to be supposed that Mr. Fernando Wood, chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, is anxious to tempt fate again; and if he is, any bill proposing changes like those before advised by him will speedily follow its predecessor to the shades from which it never would emerge. The Republican minority is much stronger in the XLVIth than it was in the XLVth Congress; and there will always be enough Democratic votes to defeat a Free Trade bill, or one which looks in that direction. Z. L. W.

RESOLUTIONS ON FINANCE.

TWO OFFERED IN THE SENATE—AN OPINION DEVELOPING IN FAVOR OF NO LEGISLATION ON FINANCE THIS WINTER.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—In the Senate this afternoon Mr. Bayard introduced a resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Finance, providing that "from and after the passage of this resolution the Treasury notes of the United States shall be receivable for all dues to the United States, excepting duties on imports, and shall not be otherwise a legal tender, and any of said notes hereafter reissued shall bear this superscription."

Senator Ingalls immediately offered a resolution which he asked might lie on the table and be printed. It expressed the opinion that the present volume of of United States notes should not be reduced, and that said notes ought to continue to be a legal tender in the payment of debts.

A TRIBUNE correspondent has conversed with a number of Western Republican Senators in regard to the questions raised by these resolutions, and he finds them practically solid in support of the resolution of Mr. Ingalls. The Senator himself says it represents the views of all the Republicans of the Mississippi Valley, and probably a majority of the Democrats, with an even chance of support among Republican Senators from States further east. Among the latter the sentiment is primarily favorable to the Bayard resolution; but the fact that the Democrats are anxious to seek a new issue on financial questions, in order to divert public attention from the issue on which they have been so disastrously defeated, leads Republicans who would otherwise favor the retirement of the greenbacks to acquiesce in a postponement of the question until after the next Presidential canvass.

Representative Price, who introduced a resolution in the House yesterday similar to that of Senator Ingalls, had a conversation with Secretary Sherman this forenoon. He was told by the Secretary that he did not desire any financial legislation during this session.

Secretary Sherman said to a correspondent of THE TRIBUNE this evening that he did not care to add anything to what he had already said on this subject in his report. He has always held the opinions there expressed, and believes now that the legal-tender property does not increase the value of the greenback or make it any more acceptable to the people. If Congress would make this change, giving the Secretary time to prepare for it and authority to reduce the value of outstanding legal-tenders, to $300,000,000, the shock to business would probably be much less than if the Supreme Court should suddenly decide, a year or two from now, that such notes reissued after the war are not a legal tender.

Secretary Sherman said that he does not now nor has he ever seen any objection to the issue of Treasury notes provided the volume of them is not allowed at any time to exceed the amount that can always be sustained at par. He does not agree with the President that the amount of the greenback circulation should be now reduced.

THE NEXT GREAT ACT IN REFUNDING.

EIGHT HUNDRED MILLIONS OF 5s AND 6s TO BE CONVERTED INTO 4 OR 3½ PER CENTS—BILLS BY GENERAL GARFIELD AND FERNANDO WOOD.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—Two bills were introduced in the House to-day regarding future funding operations of the Government; one by Mr. Garfield, of Ohio, entitled "An Act to Facilitate the Refunding of the National Debt," and another by Mr. Wood, of New-York, entitled "An Act Respecting the Refunding of the National Debt."

Mr. Wood's bill merely limits the maximum rate of interest on future refunded bonds at 3½ per cent per annum. Mr. Garfield's bill authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to issue 4 per cent bonds at once in exchange for outstanding and uncancelled bonds bearing a higher rate of interest than 4 per cent. It is understood that this bill was prepared at the Treasury Department by Secretary Sherman, and contains all the provisions that he deems necessary to enable him to carry on successfully the work of refunding the $800,000,000 of 5 and 6 per cent bonds which fall due in 1881.

The following is the full text of Mr. Garfield's bill:

That all existing provisions of all laws authorizing the refunding of the National debt shall apply to any bonds of the United States bearing a higher rate of interest than 4 per cent which may hereafter become redeemable, and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized, in the process of refunding the National debt, to exchange directly at par, bonds of the United States bearing interest at 4 per cent per annum, of the description authorized by the act of July 14, 1870, entitled "An Act to Authorize the Refunding of the National Debt," and acts amendatory thereto, for any bonds of the United States outstanding and uncalled bearing a higher rate of interest, and in any such exchange, interest may be allowed on the bonds so redeemed for a period of three months. And whenever any of the bonds so redeemed bear interest at 5 or 6 per cent per annum, the Secretary of the Treasury may allow to the holders, in lieu of the three months' interest provided for above, the difference between the interest on such bonds from the date of exchange to the time of their maturity and the interest on the four per cent bonds for a like period. Authority to issue such four per cent bonds to the amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this act is hereby granted.

Both bills were referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

THE SIXTEEN CONTESTED SEATS.

THE OPPONENT OF MR. ORTH MAKES A SAD FAILURE OF IT—JUSTICE PROBABLY TO BE DONE TO SOME OF THE OTHER REPUBLICANS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The attempt to unseat Representative Orth (Rep.), of Indiana, does not appear to make any headway in the House Committee on Elections.

There has been considerable speculation as to what action the committee would take in this case. If the next President were to be elected by the House of Representatives, the vote of Indiana would be required to decide the result. That State has six Democratic and six Republican Representatives and one Greenback Representative—Mr. De La Matyr. The vote of the State would therefore really be cast by Mr. De La Matyr, unless a Republican were unseated. Every effort has therefore been made by the Democrats to make out a case in favor of Mr. McCabe, who is making a contest for Mr. Orth's seat.

Toward the close of the extra session Mr. McCabe, who had up to that time done nothing to establish his right to a seat, presented a petition asking further time for taking testimony on the plea of newly discovered evidence. The committee gave him fifty days in which to get affidavits to sustain his petition. It appears that he has done nothing about it.

At the meeting of the committee this morning, Mr. Weaver (Gbk.), of Iowa, moved that Mr. McCabe's petition be dismissed. A vote was postponed until the meeting next Tuesday. Mr. Springer, chairman of the committee, said to-day that he thinks Mr. Weaver's motion will prevail, and that nothing further will be heard of the contest against Mr. Orth. A Republican member of the committee remarked that he thinks Mr. Weaver's motion will receive a unanimous vote.

Of the other fifteen contested cases before the committee, four are ready to be heard. The briefs are all printed and the contestants are in attendance. These are the cases of Bradley (Rep.) agt. Slemons (Dem.), from Arkansas; Bisbee (Rep.) agt. Hull (Dem.), from Florida; Donnelly (Dem.) agt. Washburn (Rep.), from Minnesota; and Curtin (Dem.) agt. Yocum (Rep.), from Pennsylvania.

In the cases of Holmes (Dem.) agt. Sapp (Rep.), and Wilson (Dem.) agt. Carpenter (Rep.), both from Iowa, a majority report will be made that the sitting members are entitled to their seats. A minority report will be made, declaring that under the Constitution of the State of Iowa no legal election was held, and that therefore neither of the contestants are entitled to seats. These cases were decided by the committee just before the close of the last session of Congress, but no report was made.

In the cases of Haralson (Rep.) agt. Shelley (Dem.), from Alabama; Herbert and Merchant agt. Acklen (Dem.), from Louisiana, and McDowell agt. Whittaker (Dem.), from Oregon, no briefs or evidence of any kind have been furnished by the persons giving notice of contest, and they will probably be dropped by the committee.

The remaining cases before the committee are in abeyance on extensions of time.

MONUMENTS IN VIRGINIA.

A RESOLUTION OF A HUNDRED YEARS AGO ABOUT YORKTOWN NOW TO BE CARRIED OUT—VIRGINIA'S FONDNESS FOR APPROPRIATIONS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—In the House to-day Mr. Goode brought forward the following preamble and resolution, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, On the 29th day of October, 1781, it was "*Resolved* that the United States, in Congress assembled, will cause to be erected at Yorktown, in Virginia, a marble column adorned with emblems of the alliance between the United States and his most Christian Majesty, and inscribed with a succinct narration of the surrender of Earl Cornwallis to his Excellency General Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the combined forces of America and France, to his Excellency the Count De Rochambeau, commanding the auxiliary troops of his most Christian Majesty in America, and his Excellency Count De Grasse, commanding in chief the Naval Army of France in the Chesapeake"; and,

Whereas, That resolution has not been carried into effect, and the pledge of the Nation made nearly one hundred years ago remains yet unfulfilled; and,

Whereas, It is eminently proper that the Centennial anniversary of the decisive victory achieved by Washington and the Continental Army together with the assistance of their French allies, should be appropriately celebrated by the American people on the spot where it occurred; therefore,

Resolved, That a select committee of thirteen shall be appointed by the Speaker, whose duty it shall be to consider the expediency of appropriating a sum of money to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War in erecting at Yorktown Va., the monument referred to in the aforesaid resolution of Congress, and to make the necessary arrangements in conjunction with the authorities of the State of Virginia for an appropriate celebration by the American people on the 19th of October, 1881, of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis; and the said committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Goode introduced the foregoing resolution in response to a request made by a mass-meeting held on the anniversary of the surrender of Cornwallis last October. Virginia allows no session of Congress to pass without being a suppliant for some favor from the National Treasury on account of monuments. One year it is an appropriation to keep Jefferson's grave in order. Another time it is an appropriation to mark the birthplace of Washington. Now it is an appropriation for a battle monument. Nobody in Virginia seems to think that that State and her people have any duty in the matter save to beg all that can be obtained from Congress.

The only public monument of any consequence that has been raised in Virginia during the last forty-eight years is the fine statue of Stonewall Jackson in Richmond. The Revolutionary heroes of that State apparently excite little patriotic interest among the present generation.

THE COMMITTEE OF SENATOR BRUCE.

THE REPORTS OF THE EXPERTS ON THE FREEDMEN'S BANK TO BE PRESENTED THIS WEEK.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—Senator Bruce will endeavor to hold a meeting of his Freedmen's Bank Investigating Committee during the week. Reports from the experts will be presented and preparations for the examination of witnesses will be made. The reports of the experts will not be made public, as it is possible that some of the witnesses whose testimony is desired would be alarmed and would get out of the reach of the committee. None of the rumors which have from time to time been published regarding the discoveries made by these experts have any foundation in fact. The committee is experiencing some difficulty in securing a committee-room in the Capitol; but Senator Bruce hopes to make satisfactory arrangements within a few days.

APPROPRIATIONS.

A MEETING OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE — A LAUDABLE SPIRIT MANIFEST AMONG THE MEMBERS.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The House Committee on Appropriations met this morning, Chairman Atkins presiding. No arrangement of the sub-committees has yet been made, and the meeting was informal and social rather than of a business character. Tuesdays and Fridays have been fixed as the regular days for the meetings of this committee.

A general interchange of views this morning indicated a desire and purpose on the part of the members to perfect the appropriation bills at as early a day as possible.

The subject of the deficiency appropriation for the pay of marshals and their deputies for the current fiscal year received more than incidental mention. The opinions expressed warrant the statement that this appropriation will be the first one provided for.

OF IMPORTANCE TO COMMERCIAL MEN.

MR. MORTON'S BILL TO AID IN NEGOTIATING BILLS OF LADING, ETC.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—Mr. Morton to-day brought forward in the House an important bill to facilitate the negotiation of bills of lading and other commercial instruments, and to protect persons dealing in them. A similar bill was introduced in the last Congress, but failed. Mr. Morton said to-day that his bill has the approval of the New-York Chamber of Commerce, and of the Boards of Trade of New-York, Boston and Philadelphia. He has strong hopes of getting it through the House during this session.

A MILLION OF SIX PER CENTS.

THE GOVERNMENT OFFERS TO BUY.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The following circular, in relation to the purchase of United States bonds for the sinking fund, was issued this afternoon:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 2, 1879.

The Secretary of the Treasury hereby gives notice that proposals for the sale to the Government of $1,000,000 of any of the 6 per cent interest bearing bonds of the United States, known as the "Sixes of 1881," will be received at the office of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States at New-York until noon of Saturday, the 6th inst., at which time the bids will be opened and the awards declared; the bonds thus purchased to be applied to the sinking fund, as provided in Section 3,694 of the Revised Statutes of the United States. The proposals should state the specific character of the bonds offered, whether registered or coupon, and under what acts they were issued; and they may be for any amount not less than $5,000. The offers must be for the sale of the bonds with accrued interest to and including the 6th inst.; and each proposal must inclose a certified check for 5 per cent of the amount of the bonds offered. The checks of unsuccessful bidders will be returned as soon as the result is ascertained; and those of others on the following business day, when the bonds must be delivered, and the payment in lawful money will be made as soon as they can be duly examined. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids, and to waive any defects.

JOHN SHERMAN, Secretary.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Dec. 3, 1879.

The Treasury Department to-day purchased 300,000 ounces of silver for the Philadelphia Mint.

Mr. Walter H. Duke has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the clerical force at the Executive Mansion, occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Price.

The following telegram was received from General Hatch this morning from Los Pinos: "The Indians continue to come in. They seem inclined to testify more freely."

Judge New, of Indiana, has obtained the consent of the Secretary of War, that the claims on file in the office of the Adjutant-General of Indiana, known as the Morgan Raid claims, may be transferred in bulk at once to the War Department here. This will prevent these claims from being barred by the statute of limitations.

A large party of colored emigrants from North Carolina reached this city to-day on their way to Indiana. About fifty of them were furnished with railroad tickets to their destination, and the remaining 200 were taken in charge by the Colored Women's Christian Association, and supplied with necessary food. The National Emigrant Aid Society is endeavoring to raise funds to defray the expenses of transportation to Indiana.

General H. G. Wright, Chief of Engineers, United States Army, accompanied by Major Farquhart, of the Lighthouse Board, are on a tour of inspection of lighthouse stations on the Southern Coast. They took passage at Savannah in the Fern. They were at Key West yesterday, and leave to-day to visit each lighthouse station on the west coast of Florida, and may continue their inspection along the Gulf coast to the mouth of the Mississippi. The Fern is on her regular trip, which was taken advantage of for the inspection tour.

NOMINATIONS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The President sent the following nominations to the Senate to-day:

Horatio G. Sickel to be Pension Agent at Philadelphia, Penn.

Charles Beardsley, of Iowa, to be Fourth Auditor of the Treasury.

Collectors of Customs—George F. Cranmer at Little Egg Harbor, N. J.; Thomas Ireland at Annapolis, Md.; George E. Bowden, at Norfolk, Va.; Charles Sehman, at Vicksburg, Miss.

Collectors of Internal Revenue—L. B. Crooker for the Second District of Illinois; Alfred M. Jones for the Third District of Illinois; Howard M. Kutchin, for the Third District of Wisconsin.

Indian Agent—Charles Hatton, of Michigan, for the Shoshone Agency, Wyoming.

Promotions in the Revenue Service—First Lieutenants Calvin L. Hooper, John C. Mitchell and Louis N. Stodder to be Captains; Second Lieutenants George E. Thurston, John Dennett, William J. Herring and Joseph M. Simms to be First Lieutenants; Third Lieutenant Edmund C. Crayton to be Second Lieutenant; Worth G. Ross and John A. Lockwood to be Third Lieutenants.

Promotions in the Navy—Commodore Thomas Stevens to be a Rear-Admiral; Captains Edward Barrett and Homer C. Blake to be Commodores; Commanders Oscar F. Stanton, Bushrod B. Taylor and Henry Erben to be Captains; Lieutenant-Commanders Henry Glass and Philip H. Cooper to be Commanders; Lieutenants Jacob E. Noel, Leonard Chenery, Socrates Hubbard and George W. Delong to be Lieutenant-Commanders; Masters John W. Danenhower, Henry W. Schaefer, George A. Calhoun and Martin E. Hall to be Lieutenants; Ensigns Walter C. Cowles, Austin M. Knight, Chas. J. Badger, Samuel W. B. Diehl and Christopher L. Burns to be Masters; Midshipmen DeWitt Coffman, William G. Hannum, Thomas B. Griffen and Henry Minett to be Ensigns; Medical Inspector P. S. Wales to be Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and Surgeon-General, with the rank of Commodore; Medical Inspector Albert L. Gihon to be Medical Director; Surgeon Archibald C. Rhoades to be a Medical Inspector; Passed Assistant-Surgeon Benjamin S. Mackie to be a Surgeon; Second Lieutenants Woodhull S. Schenck and Henry Clay Fisher to be First-Lieutenants, Marine Corps. Passed Assistant-Engineer George J. Burnap to be a Chief Engineer in the Navy; Assistant-Engineer John K. Barton to be a Passed Assistant-Engineer; Francklin C. Prindle, of Pennsylvania, to be a Civil Engineer in the Navy.

Also a large batch of nominations of Postmasters for points in the West and South.

[*For the regular report of Congressional Proceedings see Second Page.*]

EIGHT PROPELLERS SOLD.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 3.—Eight propellers and three barges, the property of the Philadelphia and New-York Steam Navigation Company, were sold at auction here to-day. The steamer Fanita brought $20,100, the steamer Alliance $15,000, and the others sold for sums ranging from $80 to $1,000.

THE UTES WARLIKE AGAIN.

RAWLINS, Wy. Ter., Dec. 3.—The mail from White River this morning brings the news that on the night of November 30 the Ute Indians attacked and drove in the persons in charge of a herd of cattle from which the command was supplied with meat at White River Camp. The Indians carried off the entire herd.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

RAIN IN CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 3.—Within the last three days copious showers have fallen in all parts of the State. Agricultural prospects are excellent.

THE WELLAND CANAL ENLARGEMENT.

OTTAWA, Dec. 3.—It is understood that Bannerman, Nicholson & Brown have signed a contract for sections 33 and 34 of the Welland Canal.

A LUMBER BLOCKADE.

PORT JERVIS, N. Y., Dec. 3.—Old lumbermen estimate that over 2,000,000 feet of lumber are now in the Delaware River, and cannot be removed until the ice melts.

MISSISSIPPI IMPROVEMENTS.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 3.—The Mississippi Valley River Improvement Convention to-day urged upon Congress the propriety of making immediately certain improvements.

A HEAVY SALVAGE CLAIM.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Dec. 3.—*The Globe* says that the steamer Circassian claimed $50,000 salvage for towing the disabled steamship City of Richmond into Halifax, and that the Inman Company declined to pay more than $20,000. The case has gone into the Admiralty Courts.

THE SUGAR INTEREST.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 3.—At the Mississippi Valley Cane Growers' Association meeting to-day Isaac A. Hedge, the corresponding secretary, said much interest was manifested in the culture of sorghum cane and the manufacture of sugar therefrom, especially in the North.

THE IRISH AGITATION.

THE DAY OF TRIAL FIXED.

THE GOVERNMENT PRESSING THE PROSECUTION—THE PROGRESS OF THE IRISH POLITICAL COMMOTION.

The trial of the Irish prisoners, charged with sedition, is to begin at Carrick-on-Shannon on the 11th inst. The state of feeling in Ireland, and the circumstances attending the arrest of the prisoners, are stated in the accompanying letter.

ACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THE ARREST OF DAVITT AND KILLEN—HINTS FROM CONSTANTINOPLE—CHARACTER OF THE LANGUAGE COMPLAINED OF—MR. PARNELL'S LEADERSHIP.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

LONDON, Nov. 20.—Yesterday's arrests in Ireland mark the commencement of a new policy—or attempt at a policy—on the part of the Government. Heretofore they have let the agitation run its course. When they issued orders for the arrest of Davitt and Killen and Daly they must have made up their minds to crush the movement, if crushed it can be; at all events, to restrain the zeal of future orators within legal bounds. Perhaps it may be assumed that some of the many recent Cabinet meetings, which were supposed to be devoted to Asia Minor, were in reality occupied with Irish affairs. The taunts of the Constantinople press have reached Downing Street. Said a Turkish paper not many days ago: "You pretend to reform Asia Minor; you had better begin with Ireland, whose people are in a state of permanent revolution." The counsel of the Mussulman journalist has been heeded. We hear almost at the same moment of Baker Pacha's appointment as Superintendent of Mesopotamia, and of the successful movement of the Irish constabulary upon three of the most insignificant speakers who have taken part in the Irish war against landlordism. Mr. Parnell thinks these arrests are only the precursors of a suspension of the habeas corpus. He may be right, but the value and significance of the present step are not to be measured by the predictions of Mr. Parnell as to the future—save so far as his predictions may be the offspring of wholesome fears.

It is now some months since the outbreak in Ireland became agrarian in character. Nothing is more curious than to remark how merely political and even religious matters have dropped out of sight. The Home Rulers members quitted St. Stephens with their mouths full of Obstruction and the new Irish University; the latter being the price paid by the Government for a temporary mitigation of the former. Flushed with something like a victory, they sought their constituents, but they found their constituents much more keen about reductions of rent than about the parliamentary successes of their esteemed representatives. Home Rule was as popular as ever, but a Winter of dire privation was before them, and the cry for local self-government was soon drowned in the roar of indignation against landlords who are so unpatriotic as to desire their rents paid. The meetings held in different parts of Ireland have been reported in the English press with unusual fulness. They had much the same character everywhere. Little was said of politics in any shape, and much about bad harvests and the land question. The temper of speakers and people alike grew daily more violent. In England these performances seem to have attracted the attention of everybody but her Majesty's Ministers, who were too much occupied in the promotion of Imperialism in the four quarters of the globe to attend to the distress and disturbance manifesting themselves in these unpleasant ways at home.

At last Lord Beaconsfield addressed a few words at the Guildhall to his "brilliant brethren" across the Channel. They were perhaps seriously meant, but they were not very seriously taken. Nobody believed the Government were going to act. Why should they? Or rather, why should they not have acted months ago, if at all? It is certainly some months—two at least—since people who concerned themselves about Ireland became convinced not merely that discontent was general—for Irish discontent is chronic—but that there was every reason to fear that a period of real suffering was at hand. The Irish themselves thought so, and said so, and based their agitation upon the prevailing and expected misery of the poorer classes. Two courses were open to the Government. To suppress agitation altogether is what no man expects to accomplish in Ireland. But it might have been mollified and the sting taken out of it by timely inquiry into the condition of the country and a promise of relief, in some form, for the most urgent distress. Or the law might have been put in motion upon the first outbreak of seditious oratory. A strong Government might have ventured to do both; but this Government did neither. They have allowed destitution to reach a point where it threatens to become, in some districts, famine; and they have tolerated language, whether from the platform or the multitude, which was both seditious toward the Crown and menacing to every subject who had the misfortune to own land and the presumption to expect rent for it. Nor is it yet clear that the Government have made up their mind to deal vigorously with their difficulties.

The meeting at which Davitt and his comrades held the language now complained of is already nearly three weeks old. What they said is bitter enough, but no more bitter nor further outside the law than many other harangues before and since. The chairman went through the usual farce of exhorting the speakers to use temperate language advice which the speakers interpreted in the usual Pickwickian sense. When the chairman uttered it, a banner with the inscription "the land for the tillers; down with the land robbers," was staring him in the face. Davitt modelled his speech on this motto. This patriot is an ex-Fenian; a martyr, whose martyrdom originally took the shape of fourteen years of penal servitude; since abridged by the tyrannical Saxon to eight; Davitt being, in fact, at the moment a ticket-of-leave man. He has found leisure in his years of retirement to mature his views on political economy. He considers rent for land, whether in prosperous times or bad times, an unjust and immoral tax on the industry of the people. Landlordism he describes as an open conspiracy against the people, which ought to be crushed by those who suffered from it. He cared nothing about fixity of tenure, which only meant fixity of poverty and degradation. They must have the land owned by the tillers; meantime, tenants should only pay rent when they had a surplus after everything else, and could afford it. It is upon such insane rant as this that the charges against Davitt are based. Whether his words are or are not legally seditious may be a question, but who believes that an Irish jury will convict upon them? Killen went further. He is a barrister and was possibly desirous to see how near the wind he could sail. He advocated a confiscation of the land in favor of the people; leaving to the people to say whether the confiscation should be effected by the pen, the pencil or the sword. "Plenty of lead," answered the crowd. A priest interposed with a protest against physical force. Killen, following Parnell's example, said he did not recommend it, but he added that he would be glad to see every man carrying a rifle and knowing how to use it. Which, of course, has nothing to do with physical force.

I should suppose no man who has not the happiness to have a little Irish blood in his veins could read this sort of talk without repugnance; or without the reflection that the cause must be a bad one if it needs such advocacy as Killen's and Davitt's. But the talk is neither better nor worse than what has been going on for months. Mr. Parnell, it is said, has been studiously moderate; studious, at any rate, to say nothing himself which could give the police a hold on him. But he is the leader of this agitation; he has again and again been present at meetings where murder has been advocated; he is morally responsible for the course things have taken. If the Government wanted to produce a moral effect, to signify to the Irish people, that their turbulence must stop short of crime, they could have done it effectually by arresting Mr. Parnell. A legal pretext would not have been wanting, and the fact that no conviction could have been expected need not have deterred them in Mr. Parnell's case if it did not deter them in Davitt's and Killen's. These two are men of no standing; in no sense, so far as one hears, are they leaders; their offence does not exceed the offence of many other more prominent men, and the Irish will be likely to say that the Government did not begin with the leaders, because they dared not. The arrests, in one word, will do good, from the Government point of view, only on condition that the policy of repression, of which they are a sign, is pursued to the bitter end. If Mr. Parnell can be silenced, Mr. Lowther may rejoice; but the first effect of the new policy is to elicit from Mr. Parnell a declaration that the course of the Government, which Mr. Lowther represents in Ireland, is contemptible and cowardly, and that Ireland is a country where no man's liberty is safe. The Home Rule Executive in London is still more explicit. Mr. O'Connor Power, Mr. Finegan, and their comrades express their indignation at the fact that the first response of the British Government to the cry of distress in Ireland is the arbitrary arrest of three gentlemen engaged in defending the rights of the suffering tenantry; and they regard these arrests as characteristic of the despotism, police rule and espionage which prevail in Ireland, and they solicit contributions for a Defence Fund. The arrests were made by due process of law: they are no more arbitrary than any arrest of any person accused of crime is arbitrary; and the talk about despotism is just fit to keep company with Davitt's about landlord-tyranny. Messrs. O'Connor Power & Co. know this perfectly well; but they also know that agitation is not to be kept up by the use of reasonable language, and there is every sign that the excitement produced by these occurrences will manifest itself in a flood of words on which the Government may, if it please, base a good many indictments. It will be placed in the pleasant dilemma of having to bring to trial great numbers of persons whom Irish juries will regard as heroes, or of modifying the purpose which it has just announced. The measure it has now taken is one of those half measures which are signs of weakness rather than strength; and it is unhappily adopted at the moment when a display of decision and vigor was most needed. G. W. S.

NARROW ESCAPE OF THE CZAR.

A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO KILL HIM—THE TRAIN BLOWN UP ON WHICH HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE TRAVELLING.

MOSCOW, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 1879.

After the arrival of the Emperor last night, while the second train containing the baggage was on the way hither, an explosion occurred. One baggage van was blown to pieces and seven carriages were thrown off the rails but nobody was injured. To-day a deputation proceeded to the Kremlin to congratulate His Majesty upon his visit to Moscow. Previous to the Emperor's arrival in the Hall of Audience, the Lord Marshal gave the deputation the news of the catastrophe of the previous evening. His hearers appeared for the moment thunderstruck, but immediately afterward broke into loud cheers at the Emperor's escape. The Emperor appeared in St. George's Hall at noon and was presented by the Municipal authorities with bread and salt, when he spoke as follows: "Gentlemen—I am very glad to see you again, remembering the loyal attachment which you evinced on the occasion of the sad event of April 14. Similar assurances then reached me from all parts of Russia. You are already acquainted with the events of yesterday. God preserved me as well as those travelling with me. Anxious only for the welfare of Russia, I have placed myself in the hands of Providence, but sedition must be extirpated. I appeal, therefore, to you and all right-minded people to aid me in the eradication of this evil which has taken root in Russia. I address myself to parents, and urge them to conduct their children in the paths of truth and righteousness, in order that they may become, not miscreants, but useful men and good citizens."

The Emperor's words were received with loud cheers.

The explosives which destroyed the Imperial baggage-train are stated to have been placed on Monday evening under the rails at a point over which the Imperial train would pass just before entering the Moscow Railway Station. The Czar arrived safely, however, at 11 o'clock Monday night, and the explosion occurred on the passage of the baggage train, half an hour afterward. The house whence the mine exploded has been discovered, and search is making for the perpetrators of the outrage. The Czar will arrive in St. Petersburg to-morrow.

LATER DETAILS.

A person who was in the baggage train at the time of the explosion, says the baggage train of fourteen carriages and two locomotives, was dispatched half an hour before the train carrying the Emperor, but by a fortunate chance the Czar's train overtook the baggage train, passed and left it some distance behind. The explosion attracted the police and a crowd of people, who were loud in their expressions of horror.

Telegraphic communication was interrupted for a time, owing to the posts having been thrown down by the explosion. The railway officials who were in the immediate vicinity were badly injured. The perpetrators doubtless thought the Czar was in the second train. The Public Prosecutor and the Magistrate soon arrived. The latter discovered in the courtyard of the empty house, concealed under the snow, some wires connected with a battery placed in an outhouse, from which the passing trains could easily be seen.

The house was bought in September by a young man who stated that he was a citizen of Samara. He had been observed digging in his cellar by his neighbors, but he disarmed suspicion by declaring that his reason for doing so was to obtain sand. From this cellar was dug a passage-way, in which a train of powder was laid, connecting with a mine under the railway. More wires were found behind the wall-paper. From the quantity of clothing found in the house, it is supposed that several persons were engaged in the work.

GREAT HORROR MANIFESTED.

LONDON, Thursday, Dec. 4, 1879.

The Daily News's St. Petersburg dispatch says: "The tunnel containing the powder train ran 150 feet from the house, underneath the permanent readway. The first part of the tunnel was built of stone. Some persons who were standing on the embankment as the baggage train passed, imagining it was the Czar's train cheered, which was the signal for exploding the mine."

The attempt on the life of the Czar has created great consternation and indignation in London, Paris, Berlin and Vienna.

THE DISSATISFACTION IN BULGARIA.

LONDON, Dec. 3.—A dispatch from Vienna to *The Standard*, regarding the situation in Bulgaria, says: "Times do not improve. Prince Alexander, after repeated consultations with the Consuls-General, has decided to charge M. Zankoff, his representative at Constantinople, with the formation of a new Ministry, should it be necessary. He will probably suspend the Constitution and proclaim a state of siege, only abdicating should these measures prove successful. The dissatisfaction of the Bulgarians is due chiefly to Nihilistic tendencies, which have been widely propogated by young Bulgarians educated in Pan-Sclavic schools in Russia, and who have now returned home."

AUSTRIA'S ARMY NOT TO BE REDUCED.

VIENNA, Dec. 3.—The Lower House of the Reichsrath, with only twenty dissentients, to-day decided to pass to the discussion of the clauses of the Army bill, after a warmly applauded speech from Baron von Horst, Minister of National Defence, who said the Government could not economize to an extent that would weaken the military power of the Empire. He said the people themselves instinctively feel the approach of events of great import, and do not wish the Government to be taken by surprise.

A SMALL WAR IN AFRICA.

LONDON, Dec. 1.—News has been received at Liverpool that a war has broken out between rival chiefs in New Calabar, West Africa, and that 209 persons have been slain and wounded, and the prisoners killed and eaten. The Europeans in New Calabar have requested a British naval officer to interfere. It is apprehended that the outbreak will spread from Opobo to Brass.

A NEW GOVERNOR FOR ERZEROUM.

LONDON, Dec. 3.—A dispatch from Constantinople to *The Times* says: "On the recommendation of Sir Austen Layard, the British Ambassador to Turkey, Rustem Pasha has been appointed Governor of the Province of Erzeroum. This is an excellent appointment. Rustem Pasha for the last six or seven years governed Lebanon with remarkable capacity, firmness and impartiality."

THE CANAL TO THE PACIFIC.

AN ADVOCATE OF NICARAGUA.

VIEWS OF SENOR DE FRANCO—HIS EFFORTS TO GET THE AID OF AMERICAN CAPITALISTS—GENERAL GRANT'S POSSIBLE PRESIDENCY.

Señor Thomas de Franco, Nicaraguan Minister to Italy, who is in this country in the interest of the Nicaragua Ship Canal project, returned from Washington Tuesday well pleased with the disposition of the President and influential members of Congress toward the enterprise, and prepared to place it in a definite shape before the capitalists of New-York. Señor de Franco is a stately, gray-haired gentleman, who speaks English perfectly, has had a large experience in business, politics and diplomacy, and is thoroughly informed on the whole subject of Isthmus canals. He was associated with Cornelius Vanderbilt in the first Nicaragua Transit Company, and has always cherished an ardent faith in the idea that the most practicable route for a canal between the Atlantic and the Pacific was through his country and that this route would in the end be chosen. In conversation yesterday with a representative of THE TRIBUNE he first criticised sharply the attempt of De Lesseps to make his advocacy of the Panama route seem like a lofty, disinterested effort in behalf of commerce and civilization. "The truth is," said he, "De Lesseps had his ticket in the Panama lottery before the Canal Congress met and none in the Nicaragua enterprise. His advocacy of the Panama route proceeded from money considerations wholly."

Señor de Franco produced a pamphlet containing the proceedings of the French Company, which got the concession from the Colombian Government long prior to the meeting of the congress, in which the question of the remuneration for De Lesseps for advocating the Panama route and securing its adoption is more than once referred to. He also showed the charter of the new company, in which a reservation of 10 per cent of the first twenty millions of capital subscribed, as compensation to "the founders and auxiliaries of the enterprise" is provided for. Referring to the statement of De Lesseps, in his recent speech in Paris, that he had deposited 750,000 francs with the Colombian Government to guarantee the carrying out of his scheme, he said that the deposit was in reality made in Colombian bonds of the face value of 750,000 francs, which were bought in London for 38 per cent. He also spoke of a feature in the concession which, he said, De Lesseps has not mentioned in soliciting subscriptions—a stipulation for the payment of 5 per cent of the gross receipts of the company into the treasury of the Colombian Government, no matter whether the company makes any profit or not. Thus the money which ought to go to the shareholders as dividends is to be constantly sucked into the Colombian treasury.

"The Panama Canal if practicable to construct," continued Señor de Franco, "would be like the Suez Canal, only useful to steam-vessels, because it is in the region of calms, and sailing-vessels would be delayed for weeks in reaching or leaving it. The Nicaragua route is not of that region. It would be folly to construct a canal for steamers only, when there is a better route available for both sail and steam vessels, and when the great bulk of the world's commercial marine is in sailing-ships."

In reply to a question as to the attitude of the United States Government toward the canal enterprise he said: "The United States is fully committed to the Nicaragua route. Your Government has spent ten years' time and a large amount of money in surveying no fewer than seven different routes between the two oceans, and the decision of its engineers after all this work had been done was that the Nicaragua route is the best route. Sentimental, commercial and scientific considerations bind you to stand by that decision. The Nicaragua route is the official route of the United States Government."

"What is the financial basis of the Nicaragua enterprise?"

"I have the pledges of French financial agencies that they will subscribe immediately 150,000,000 of francs if an American company is formed and the concession obtained. The estimated amount needed to construct the canal is only $52,000,000, but to provide for all contingencies we want a subscribed capital of $100,000,000, to be called in at the rate of $20,000,000 a year. I desire to associate in the enterprise a number of gentlemen eminent in financial circles in this country."

"What will be the next step?"

"To get the concession from the Nicaraguan Government. That will be a matter requiring no great time. Our President can call Congress together on fifteen days' notice, and the necessary legislation will be promptly voted. Then we shall want a charter from the Congress at Washington to make the company distinctively an American National affair, and afterward we can receive subscriptions and push the work along rapidly."

ASSURANCES FROM GENERAL GRANT.

"What assurance have you that General Grant will accept the presidency of the canal company?"

"He has given assurances that if the concession is obtained and sufficient capital subscribed to make the carrying out of the project certain, he will accept. Of course, in such a case, he would be bound to devote himself entirely to the enterprise and would not feel at liberty to engage in political movements."

"Do you expect soon some more positive information from General Grant as to his intentions?"

"Yes; I shall meet him in Philadelphia on the 18th, in company with other friends of the canal project."

"Is it likely that he will visit Nicaragua during his Winter tour?"

"I think it quite possible that he will go there from Havana before visiting Mexico."

"What is the attitude of the people of Nicaragua toward the canal enterprise?"

"They are so enthusiastically in favor of it that if they thought there was no other way of carring it out they would demand annexation to the United States."

"What is the population of Nicaragua?"

"About 250,000, of whom 220,000 are producers and consumers—I mean civilized people."

"Do you anticipate opposition to your scheme in financial circles here in New-York?"

"The Panama Railroad interest is, of course, opposed to it. That company has a contract with the De Lesseps Canal Company by which the latter is to take its road on the completion of the canal and pay $14,000,000 for it. As the road only cost $7,000,000, this is a good bargain, but in addition the company is to be given stock in the canal to the amount of 40,000,000 francs. In a general way I suppose the railway influence of the United States will be opposed to our enterprise, as it is to all plans for water carriage. I hope, however, to succeed in interesting Mr. Vanderbilt in a route where his father was one of the pioneers."

Señor de Franco expects to sail for Nicaragua on the 20th in case his business here prospers as he expects. Unless he is over sanguine it is not improbable that soon after Viscount de Lesseps reaches Panama with his engineers, contractors and machinery, General Grant will sail up the San Juan River and the beautiful Lake Nicaragua as president of the American Interoceanic Canal Company.

TWO NOTED MURDER TRIALS.

TWO HAYDENS CHARGED WITH SHOCKING CRIMES.

NEW-HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 3.—In the Hayden trial this morning Susan Hawley was cross-examined by Mr. Watrous. Little of importance was elicited. The witness said she did not have friendly feelings toward Mr. Hayden. The defence tried to get witness to write a line in court so as to compare the handwriting with that in the letter she says she received from Mary; she declined, and the Court said it could not compel her to do so. The claim of the defence is that the witness wrote the letter in question.

Dr. Leonard Bailey, of Middletown, testified that he saw Mr. Hayden at 9 o'clock on the day of the murder in Middletown; had three or four minutes' conversation with him, no one being within hearing distance.

BOSTON, Dec. 3.—Upon the reassembling at Worcester yesterday of the Court engaged in the trial of Francis E. Hayden, of Fitchburg, for the murder of his sister, Sarah E. Hayden, by poisoning, District-Attorney Staples dwelt upon the motive for the murder, which, he said, was to enable the defendant to get possession of a small sum of money. It was also stated with regard to the method of and opportunity for the alleged crime, that evidence of the most startling nature would be produced.

John Choate, apothecary, testified that on the 1st of May a young man bought eight grains of morphine from him and said that he knew how to use it. He would not identify the person pointed out, but was quite sure he was the man.

Laura Wilder, cousin of the prisoner, and who lived in the family, testified that Francis gave Sarah medicine on the night of her death; soon after retiring Sarah was taken very sick.

The case is exciting great interest, and the court-room was crowded all day.

THE MORMONS DEFIANT.

OGDEN, Utah, Dec. 3.—*The News*, the Mormon Church organ, says it does not think that the expressions of the President in his message will have the slightest effect toward the solution of the Mormon question or the suppression of polygamy.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES—BY TELEGRAPH.

SEARLS'S TRIAL BEGUN.

OSWEGO, N.Y., Dec. 3.—The trial of Daniel Searls, a negro, for the murder of E. Rewey, began here to-day.

TRIAL FOR EMBEZZLEMENT.

NEW-BRUNSWICK, N. J., Dec. 3.—The trial of Joseph C. Letson, ex-County Collector, for embezzlement, set down for to-day, was postponed until 10 o'clock to-morrow.

COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

RED BANK, N. J., Dec. 3.—George McGuire (colored), who is charged with an attempt at outrageous assault was committed to the County Jail to-day. The evidence against him is strong.