New-York Tribune.

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NEW CONGRESS DISTRICTS.

A BILL TO REFORM THE GERRYMANDER OF THE LEGISLATURE OF 1892.

IT WILL PROBABLY BE INTRODUCED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SESSION AT ALBANY AND WILL GIVE ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION TO THE RURAL COMMUNITIES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Albany, Dec. 28.—There was a sensation to-night among politicians when they heard on good authority that a bill would be introduced as soon as the Legislature met reapportioning the Congress districts of the State. The present apportionment was made by the fraudulent Democratic Legislature of 1892, after a fraudulent enumeration had been taken of the population of the State. The enumeration was made in midwinter, when it is difficult to secure an accurate census in the rural districts, which are so largely Republican. On the other hand, the Democratic cities are crowded in the winter with a transient population. As was shown by The Tribune in 1892, thousands of aliens were counted as citizens by the Democratic enumerators in the cities of New-York and Brooklyn, and thus their apparent population was swollen far beyond its true proportions. The result of this system was that the Republican rural part of the State was made to appear to have lost in population, and the Democratic cities to have gained largely.

The Democratic Legislature, having been created by fraud, did not scruple to gerrymander the Congress districts, and divisions were made the most abominable ever accomplished in the history of the State. The special purpose of the gerrymander was to give the Democratic cities of New-York, Brooklyn, Albany and Buffalo a majority of the Congressmen. The Republican districts, in point of territory and numbers of voters, were gigantic as compared with the Democratic districts. The result of this unfair division was perceptible in 1892, when the Democrats won twenty-two of the thirty-four districts. It is true that at the late election in November the Republican party carried a majority of the districts, but every one recognizes the fact that this was a political tidal wave, and that under ordinary conditions the Democratic party, by its gerrymander, has an unfair chance of electing a majority of the Congressmen.

The Republican leaders believe that the Republican party should have an equal opportunity with the Democrats to elect the State's representatives at Washington. One of the Republican leaders, speaking to-night upon this subject, said:

It seems to me that, after the decision of the Democratic Court of Appeals declaring that the Democratic Legislature was founded upon fraud, the people of this State will expect us to pass a bill reapportioning the Congress districts of the State. The State of Indiana was outrageously gerrymandered by the Democrats. I understand that the Republican Legislature of that State will reapportion the Congress districts and right the great wrong which was done them by the Democratic Legislature. The people of this State upset the gerrymander of the legislative districts at the November election; now we should nullify the gerrymander of the Congress districts.

The Apportionment bill will possibly follow the lines of the new Constitution where it provides for Senate districts in New-York and Brooklyn. The Constitutional Convention thought that the 130,000 Republican voters in New-York City ought to have an opportunity to secure some representation at Albany and accordingly marked out three indisputably Republican Senate districts among the twelve districts assigned to New-York, leaving the Democratic party with nine districts. The same plan was followed in Brooklyn, several Republican districts being carved out, while the rightful representation of the Democratic party was granted to it. Undoubtedly several sure Republican Congress districts in New-York and Brooklyn can be carved out without injustice to the Democratic party. A larger representation in Congress can also be given to the Republican voters in the interior of the State.

It is reported to-night that Mr. Morton may come to Albany to-morrow with his wife and family, and take possession of the Executive Mansion. To-day he held a conference at Ellerslie with Senator Mullin, of Watertown, chairman of the State Finance Committee, about the depleted condition of the State Treasury, in consequence of the State's loss of $1,600,000 in revenue by the falling off of the receipts from the indirect taxation laws.

Governor Flower was besieged to-day at the Executive Chamber by Democratic politicians who had come to Albany to try to induce him to pardon election thieves and other criminals. John Fredericks, of Brooklyn, desired the Governor to pardon Kenneth F. Sutherland, who stuffed the ballot-boxes at Gravesend by John Y. McKane's orders. Senator Timothy D. Sullivan, of New-York, had a dozen blanks granting pardons to John Y. McKane and the election thieves in the IId and IIId Assembly districts of New-York. Mr. Flower sturdily refused to grant any pardon for Sutherland, McKane or any of the election thieves. The Governor also received applications for a pardon for a criminal named Spiegel. This application came from Senator O'Donnell, Judge Goldfogle and ex-Senator Michael C. Murphy, of New-York. They desire to bring a New-Year's gift to the desolate Spiegel household. Governor Flower sent them back to New-York to get more papers in the case.

TAKEN FOR THE BOSTON SUBWAY.

Boston, Dec. 28.—The Boston Transit Commission yesterday afternoon voted to take, by right of eminent domain, the Haymarket Square property of the Boston and Maine Railroad. The property contains about 124,214 square feet of land, of which the Boston and Maine Railroad owns in fee about 76,274 feet, and has in the remainder a perpetual easement. The sum of $750,000 has been substantially agreed upon between the Boston and Maine Railroad and the Commission as the damages to be paid for the taking, this being a little less than $10 a square foot for that part owned in fee by the railroad, or about $6 a foot for the whole area.

It is understood that this tract has been taken for a northern terminal and exit for the subway. It is probable that the whole tract will not be permanently needed for the above purposes, and that a portion may be devoted to the widening of Canal and Haverhill sts., and that a considerable balance can be sold subject to such easements as may be needed for the subway.

LOST THEIR WAY IN THE STORM.

Shelbyville, Ind., Dec. 28.—Yesterday evening William Leavitt, accompanied by Minnie Maple and Susie Mitchell, started to drive from their homes, four miles south of Shelbyville, to attend a party ten miles distant. After the party they started home, but in the storm that was raging Leavitt, who was unacquainted with the roads, missed his way and became lost. This morning, at 2 o'clock, County Commissioner Henry Oltman, who lives in the southern part of the county, was awakened. Going to the door he met Leavitt, who was so cold he could hardly explain what was the matter. Finally Oltman was made to understand, and they went out to Leavitt's buggy. Both the young women were unable to speak, and soon became unconscious. They were carried to the house and everything done to restore them to consciousness, but so far all efforts have proved futile. Should they regain consciousness amputation of their limbs will be necessary.

IT MAY PAY 20 CENTS ON A DOLLAR.

Boston, Dec. 28.—The Debenture Investment Company, the president of which, Olin Adams, charged with embezzlement, defaulted his bail yesterday, had taken in two years from New-England people, chiefly of Massachusetts, more than $70,000, in exchange for which it had given gold bonds, which may be worth at present nearly 20 cents on $1. The office of the company has been closed, the furniture sold, and Lawyer McKay estimates that the assets of the company will reach about $10,000. In the assets there is a claim for about $6,000 of the funds of the defunct American Building and Loan Association of Chicago.

THE GOVERNOR PARDONS AN AGED CONVICT

Albany, Dec. 28.—Governor Flower to-day reduced the sentence of Daniel Finley, who was convicted of murder in the second degree in the city of New-York, and sentenced to imprisonment for life, to imprisonment for fifty-seven years and two months, subject to statutory commutation for good behavior. This will set Finley at liberty on Monday. He has served thirty-four years and four months. He was sentenced for the killing of a woman with whom he lived.

THE FIRE RECORD.

RUSHED FROM THEIR BEDS IN FEAR.

ALARM AT THE HOFFMAN HOUSE—AN ENGINE COMPANY CALLED TO FIND A BOILER-TENDER ABLAZE.

A fire alarm was rung in from the box at Twenty-third-st. and Broadway at 3:30 o'clock yesterday morning for a supposed outbreak in the Hoffman House. The fire engines, a hook and ladder and the attendant firemen were on the spot two minutes later, but there was no trace of flames anywhere, save about the clothing of Florence Masterson, who tends the fires in the boiler-room in Twenty-fourth-st. After satisfying themselves that there was nothing to be done, the companies returned to their stations, leaving Masterson in the hands of an ambulance surgeon.

He had been alone in the boiler-room when the nipple blew off one of the steam cocks and the escaping steam filled the place. Scared almost out of his senses, Masterson began excitedly to rake out the fire under the boilers. The result was to set his trousers on fire and to singe the chair on which he had been sitting. Then he screamed "Fire!" and "Help!" and William L. Brennan, the night watchman, after running to Twenty-third-st. and turning in a fire alarm, came to his assistance.

He met Masterson rushing out of the door, and soon smothered the fire in the man's smouldering clothes. His body and legs were slightly burned, and in the excitement of his flight he had struck his head against some object, causing a deep scalp wound. An ambulance was called and he went to the New-York Hospital.

A number of servants who sleep in the house left their beds in the building above the engine-house in a state of great alarm. When they heard the real cause of the excitement they returned.

FINE HOME BURNED IN SOUTH RIVER, N. J.

A fierce fire occurred in South River, seven miles from New-Brunswick, N. J., at 5 o'clock yesterday morning, which destroyed one of the finest houses in Middlesex County. It was the home of William Colwell, a wealthy retired merchant, who, with his family, is at present at Washington.

Flames were discovered in the cellar of the house by Ellis Van Hise, shortly before 5 o'clock. The only two occupants of the house were a servant girl and Van Hise's sister, who stayed there during the absence of the family. Van Hise broke into the house and aroused the two girls, who were asleep in an upper room, utterly unconscious of their danger. They had hardly dressed and escaped before the entire building was in flames. As the village has no Fire Department, the house, with all its contents, was totally destroyed.

The house was a modern building, and surrounded by beautiful and spacious grounds. The loss will amount to nearly $25,000, partially covered by insurance. The fire is attributed to a defective flue.

RAN BAREFOOT THROUGH THE SNOW.

A PLUCKY YOUNG JERSEY GIRL SAVES HER FATHER'S LIFE BY A GALLANT EFFORT—NEARLY KILLED BY COAL GAS.

Frederick Calloway, a resident of the hamlet of Picton, about a mile from Westfield, N. J., and his family had a narrow escape from being asphyxiated by coal gas on Friday. To secure help one of the children ran a quarter of a mile through the snow, lightly clad and in her bare feet. Her action saved her father's life.

Mrs. Calloway arose early in the morning to prepare the family breakfast, and put fresh coal in the kitchen range, the fire having been kept in all night. The wind was blowing strongly down the chimney, and drove the fumes from the coal into the room. The fumes made the woman sick, and she closed the doors and damper, but this did not seem to remedy matters. She then called her husband. He tried to fix the stove, but the same conditions prevailed. Thinking something must be the matter with the chimney, he went outside and examined it. When he returned to the kitchen he found his wife lying on the floor unconscious. Mr. Calloway called his two children, who were still upstairs, but there was no response. The frightened man carried his wife out of the house, and, leaving her on the front stoop, rushed upstairs to take out the children. He found the gas had penetrated to the upper floor, and the children were unconscious. He carried them both from the house, and on reaching the porch found that his wife had recovered, but was sick and vomiting. It would not do to leave the thinly clad children long in the open air, so the father ran back to the kitchen to put out the fire, but before he could reach the windows the fumes overcame him and he fell to the floor.

The mother and children followed him into the house, and saw him lying on the floor. The mother was too ill to do anything for him, and the oldest of the children, a girl, ran from the house and started for the home of John Scudder, a quarter of a mile away.

Mr. Scudder saw her coming and rushed out to meet her, knowing that something was wrong because of her light apparel. She told him, and he ran to the Calloway house, while the child sought shelter at the Scudder house. Mr. Scudder dragged the neighbor from the kitchen and started back to open the window. The gas made him sick, but he secured ventilation by hurling a heavy footstool through the window. When Mr. Calloway revived he acted as though insane. He was hurried to a doctor by the neighbors, but it required two men to restrain him in the wagon. Later in the day he recovered enough to realize what was going on about him, and yesterday he was in perfect mental health, but weak. Mrs. Calloway and the children have entirely recovered. The girl who ran through the storm and snow was put to bed by the Scudder family as soon as she reached the house, and it is thought the treatment she was subjected to prevented ill effects from the exposure.

FROZEN TO DEATH IN A SHED.

BODY OF A MAN FOUND IN AN ISOLATED SPOT BY A BROOKLYN POLICEMAN.

The body of Andrew Beld, twenty-two years old, who occupied a furnished room at No. 197 Johnson-ave., Brooklyn, was found in a deserted shed in Morgan-ave. yesterday morning by the police of the Sixth Precinct. He had been frozen to death. The place where the body was found is an isolated spot, and was formerly used by Blaisdell Brothers, dealers in kindling-wood. Policeman Fagan discovered the body. The dead man was crouched up in one corner. He was poorly clad. The body was removed to the police station. Later the police learned that he had been last seen with John Spiegel, of No. 208 Stagg-st. Spiegel told the police that he had left Beld at the shed, where he had gone, complaining of pains in his stomach. It is supposed that while beneath the shed he fell asleep and froze to death.

KILLED ON AN ELEVATED ROAD.

THE BODY OF A MAN FOUND UNDER AN ENGINE IN BROOKLYN.

When a train on the Brooklyn Union Elevated road was running under the bridge at 10:30 o'clock last night the engineer felt a jar as if his engine had run into a bag of meal. He stopped the train, and, jumping from the cab, ran forward with his fireman. They found the body of a man. His right leg was firmly wedged under the forward truck of the engine, and it took the united efforts of the two men to drag out the body. The dead man was about forty two-years-old. He was well dressed, and in his pockets were found letters addressed to John H. Stephens, No. 114 Brunswick-st., Newark, N. J., and to the same man at No. 159 Fifth-ave, eighth floor, Newark, N. J. The number of the engine is 87, and the engineer is John Holland. The only theory advanced to account for the accident is that the man fell from the bridge, and, rendered unconscious by striking the rails, lay until the train came along. No blame is attached to the engineer or fireman of the train.

CAPTURE OF ONE OF THE COOK GANG.

Muskogee, I. T., Dec. 28.—Deputy-Marshal "Mose" Jamison walked into the jailer's office this afternoon and registered Buss Luckey on three charges of robbery, horse stealing and murder. Luckey was leader of the gang that attempted to hold up the Katy express at Wybark last August. He was "Bill" Cook's second at the recent robbery at Blackstone, and is known to have killed Deputy Laforce two weeks ago in the battle between the Muskogee deputies and "Tom" Root, William Smith and himself. Jamison says he knows where Root and Smith are. Luckey will be taken to Fort Smith to-morrow.

MESSRS. WEBB AND ELY CHOSEN.

Toledo, Dec. 28.—At a meeting held here to-day, which was attended by John Jacob Astor, W. Seward Webb and other New-Yorkers, Mr. Webb and Henry B. Ely were elected directors of the Findlay, Fort Wayne and Western Railroad Company. The proposed inspection of the property was abandoned on account of the weather.

A TIMBER-SHIP BURNED AT PENSACOLA.

Pensacola, Fla., Dec. 28.—At an early hour this morning fire was discovered on the Norwegian ship Austriana, lying in this harbor. The fire had gained considerable headway when discovered, and a strong north wind was sweeping across the bay at the time. The tiretug Monarch went promptly to the rescue, but owing to the high wind was unable to save the vessel, which is a total loss. The Austriana was built in 1875, but sailed under the Norwegian flag, and is owned at Flekkefjord, Norway. She was being loaded with timber, 1,000,000 feet of which had been stowed.

FROZEN ON THE SIDEWALK.

A BROTHER OF SENATOR ROBERTSON STRICKEN WITH APOPLEXY.

HE FELL NEAR HIS HOME IN PEEKSKILL LATE ON THURSDAY NIGHT, AND WAS FOUND YESTERDAY MORNING.

James H. Robertson, a brother of Senator George W. Robertson, who is a member of the Lexow Committee, was found dead at 5 o'clock yesterday morning on Hudson-ave., in front of the Gospel Mission, in the Seventh Ward of Peekskill. The body was frozen stiff, and it was evident that Mr. Robertson had been dead for several hours. The body was discovered by a man named Gale, who was on his way to work. Mr. Robertson's feet were toward the curb and his head rested against the mission building. At this point the road is hilly and the snow and ice had frozen on the sidewalk. Mr. Robertson was last seen alive at about 11 o'clock Thursday night, when he started from Coroner Apgar's cafe, opposite the railroad station, to go to his home.

Mr. Robertson appeared to be in his usual health and was in good spirits when he left the place. It had stopped snowing, but the cold was intense and a cutting wind swept over the hills from Old Dunderburg. Mr. Robertson had to climb the hill to reach the corner of Hudson-ave. and Washington-st., where he lived. He had reached the top of the hill when he was overcome by exhaustion from the cold. It is supposed that he might have slipped on the ice in front of the Gospel Mission, and falling, became unconscious.

As soon as Gale discovered the body he informed Coroner Apgar, who telephoned to Senator Robertson of the finding of the body. Senator Robertson hurried down to the Coroner's office and made arrangements to have the body removed. The Senator said his brother was subject to heart failure and he believed that he died from a stroke of apoplexy.

Mr. Robertson, who was fifty-eight years old, leaves a widow and three grown children. For many years he was prominent in public affairs in Peekskill, and for a number of years he was the president of the village and a member of the Board of Trustees. He was a vestryman in St. Peter's Episcopal Church. At one time he was believed to be wealthy, and until two years ago he was a member of the firm of Sax & Robertson, organ manufacturers, in this city.

An autopsy showed that apoplexy was the cause of death.

VETERANS AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE STATE COMMISSION RULES THAT THE APPOINTING OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE SHALL SUFFICE.

Albany, Dec. 28.—The State Civil Service Commission met to-day and adopted a resolution providing that in the case of a veteran appointed to the State service under the 10-a-day law of last winter, the commission will accept as sufficient a certificate of the appointing officer to the effect that he personally knows the appointee to be a veteran. Otherwise the appointee must show to the satisfaction of the commission that he is a veteran.

ITS CAPITAL IMPAIRED.

INVESTIGATION OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK OF ROME SHOWS OVERDRAFTS OF $57,000.

Rome, N. Y., Dec. 28.—Another revelation has been made in the affairs of the Central National Bank of Rome, which has been undergoing examination since he discovered defalcation of Holby, its cashier, ten days ago. It appears that the bank has for some years been carrying without security a credit of several thousand dollars to the account of Robert McAdam & Sons, cheese buyers and exporters, who have offices here and in New-York City. The cashier, without the knowledge of the directors and without discovery by bank examiners, has permitted overdrafts of this account to the amount of $57,000, of which $18,000 is secured. Mr. Adam & Sons say that it must be that they have not had credit for part of their deposits. It is understood also that they are prepared to turn $17,000 to the credit of the account. This being done would leave a net shortage of $20,000, in addition to the $37,000 default of the cashier and teller heretofore reported. This will impair the capital of the bank, and the stockholders will be called together to decide whether to make good the shortage, with a view to reopening the bank.

Mayor Gillett, the accused teller, has been rearrested on a charge of complicity with Holby in defrauding the bank of $8,000. He is in charge of an officer at his house, where he is ill, and will be arraigned to-morrow.

MISFORTUNES OF A MILLIONAIRE.

TWO COURT DECISIONS AGAINST DANIEL W. POWERS, OF ROCHESTER—HIS FAILURE TO ADMINISTER A TRUST.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 28.—The celebrated action against Daniel W. Powers, the millionaire, to compel him to fulfill the terms of an alleged trust created by the will of Martha Dunlap, was among the cases decided by the General Term yesterday. The Court affirms the decision of Justice Rumsey, which is against Mr. Powers.

Another case in which Mr. Powers is the defendant is that of Mrs. Emma M. Morgan, mother-in-law of Mr. Powers's son William, who is supposed to be in Europe, in which the plaintiff secured a judgment against him for the conversion of property when she and her daughter, Mrs. William Powers, were ejected by him from their handsome home in Prince-st. The plaintiff alleged that at that time the defendant seized certain articles belonging to her, among them diamonds and other jewelry to the value of $25. The General Term affirmed a judgment which she secured against Mr. Powers.

UPROAR AT A LIBERAL CLUB MEETING

TROUBLE CAUSED BY SPEAKERS WHO DENOUNCED THE LEXOW COMMITTEE.

The celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Manhattan Liberal Club, at No. 239 East Fifteenth-st., last night developed into a lively and uproarious meeting before it was all over, and the trouble was due to the Lexow Committee. During the time devoted to speaking, Wilson McDonald, a sculptor, stirred up the members by belittling the work of the committee, while speaking of liberty and free speech. "We have allowed," he said, "an investigating committee to trample on the liberties of the people, to walk through the Constitution of these United States and to usurp the entire municipal rights of this city. They have placed men on the witness stand and called them thieves and liars and bribe-takers, without leaving them any redress"—before he could continue there was a storm of howls and hisses from the audience. There were shouts of "Sit down," "Shut up" and "The Lexow Committee is all right." The uproar lasted for many minutes, and when Chairman Foote had obtained order Mr. McDonald continued: "What have the committee done at last—very little," and the confusion and noise, only longer and louder, showed the disapproval of the crowd.

Thaddeus B. Wakeman, the Populist candidate for Judge of the Court of Appeals at the recent election, called on the members not to forget that at the Liberal Club any one could speak his mind who did so in English and good order.

The uproarious scenes were re-enacted when W. L. Ormsby, jr., launched into a similar speech to that of Mr. McDonald. He spoke at length, but little of his speech could be heard above the noise. He thought the good done by the committee was overbalanced by the evil, and, declaring himself a Tammany Hall man, said: "We are vestal virgins compared with those people who attack us." This statement convulsed the audience, who could stand no more, and the speechmaking ended.

SOLD 50,000 ACRES THEY DID NOT OWN.

Duluth, Dec. 28.—Complaints were filed in the District Court to-day by A. R. and E. T. Merritt, in which F. A. Stratton and T. F. Singiser, of Tennessee, are accused of swindling the plaintiffs out of $30,000 in cash and $120,000 in notes. In March, 1892, Stratton and Singiser approached the Merritts with a business proposition, which on its face was excellent. They represented themselves as holding nine-tenths of the stock of the Monarch Coal and Coke Company, which they said owned all mineral rights and privileges to 50,000 acres of valuable coal, oil and gas lands in Pike County, Ky. Stratton and Singiser took the plaintiffs out to Pike County and showed them a lot of valuable land, which they said was all owned by the Monarch Coal and Coke Company. The outlook was satisfactory and the deal was closed. The Merritts put up $30,000 in cash and bound themselves to pay $120,000 additional. It is alleged that the Monarch Coal and Coke Company did not own an acre of the land. Stratton and Singiser set about to purchase land, trading the notes for titles and the land on which the Empire Coal Company was started was turned over to the Merritts. It is alleged that these men did not purchase more than 45,000 acres and that it did not cost them more than $2.50 an acre, whereas they had sold to the Merritts at about $12.

ADRIFT ON ANGRY SEAS.

FEARS FOR THE LIVES OF FIVE MEN ON THE BARGE SETH LOW.

PARTED FROM THE RINGLEADER WHILE IN TOW TO BALTIMORE—THE LATTER BOAT BROUGHT TO PORT, AFTER BEING TOSSED ABOUT FOR HOURS.

The coal barge Ringleader was towed into port yesterday morning with a story of the storm on her. The barges Ringleader and Seth Low were being towed from Boston to Baltimore, and were caught out in the storm of Wednesday night. At 7 o'clock on that night they were off Fire Island. The steamer Santuit was towing them. The storm increased in fury, and as they got out from the shelter of the Long Island shore a tremendous sea was encountered. Finally, in the storm and the night and the angry sea, the barges broke loose from the Santuit and from each other. They were provided with sails, which they set, and Captain Keen, of the Ringleader, tried to make this port. He managed to escape with difficulty from being blown on the Jersey beaches, and on Thursday afternoon anchored off the Highlands. There a tug found him yesterday morning and towed him in.

The captain said that the last he saw of the Seth Low her sails had been blown away, and he fears she was lost. He watched the Santuit for some time after the towline parted. Then the hurricane blew out the steamer's masthead lights and he lost her. Yesterday afternoon the Santuit was reported as having arrived at Delaware Breakwater. She was at once ordered to sea again in search of the Seth Low. If she be successful, she will bring the barge in here and report to F. R. Dalzell.

Both barges had crews of five men on them. The Seth Low was built in Brooklyn especially for a barge, and is of about 400 tons register. The Ringleader was formerly the ship Ringleader, and is of over 1,000 tons register. The Santuit, which had the barges in tow, is a steamer with a history. She was once the Atlas and was sunk in the East River. Then she was raised, and became the Santuit. It was the Santuit that towed the Destroyer to Brazil when the war was going on there.

THEY WANT THE SANDS POINT LIGHT.

THE MATE AND THE OWNER OF THE STEAMER TUCKAHOE MAKE AFFIDAVIT THAT THEY BELIEVE THE LOSS OF THE VESSEL WAS DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF THE WARNING SIGNAL.

One result of the storm has been a renewed outbreak of protest by Long Island Sound pilots against the extinguishing of the Sands Point Light. The freight steamer Tuckahoe went ashore on the Point, and two other vessels were stranded near there on Wednesday night. The pilots of these vessels declare that they would not have gone ashore had the light been burning. Yesterday Samuel R. Cranmer, the pilot and mate of the Tuckahoe, and the steamer's owner and captain, Ambrose Van Etten, went to the office of Montezuma Lessler, a lawyer, of No. 188 Fulton-st., and made affidavit that they believed the stranding of the steamer was due to the absence of the light. The pilot said:

"I heard the fog trumpet from Stratford Shoals, Middle Ground, about 1:30 o'clock in the morning. I signalled to slow down the engines, so that we would have daylight to enter the head of the Sound.

"About 4:30 o'clock I saw a glimmer of a flashlight. It being alone, and unaccompanied by any other light, I took it for Norwalk light. The next thing I saw was the breakers near Sands Point Beach. There can be no doubt that had the Sands Point light been in use and lighted, I could have readily distinguished my position, and have saved the vessel from danger and wreckage. I attribute the beaching of the vessel directly to the absence of the light."

Captain Van Etten, in closing his affidavit, says: "It is my firm belief that the responsibility for my mishap, as well as the two others which occurred at the same time near the same point, lies with those who have taken away from the pilots navigating the Sound so well known a landmark as the Sands Point light."

Many pilots and captains navigating the Sound have called on Mr. Lessler and made statements to the effect that they consider the restoration of the light absolutely necessary for the safety of the Sound traffic. Some representatives of steamboat companies have said that if the Government would allow them it would be economy on their part to keep up themselves the Sands Point light. A petition signed by over 200 pilots and shipping men has been forwarded to Congress by the Maritime Exchange. Congressman Quigg has promised to use his influence on behalf of the pilots for the restoration of the light, and it is hoped that it will soon be burning again. It is not an expensive light to maintain, and it cannot be doubted, after the abundant testimony on the matter, that it is a necessary one. The light was established in 1881 and was extinguished on October 31 last.

The Chapman Wrecking Company yesterday had wrecking-boats at work at seven places in the harbor and in the Sound as a result of the big storm. They were working to save the following wrecks: Steamer Tuckahoe, ashore at Sands Point; a railroad float sunk in the East River off Bloomingdale; the schooner Zetta, ashore in Bronx's Neck, schooner Albert Mason, ashore at Mattituck, sandbar Hark, sunk in the East River at Thirty-eighth-st.; schooner Albert Mason, ashore on Ellis Island, and the steamer General Sigel, ashore at Weehawken.

The British bark Mistletoe, which came so near going ashore in the storm on the Far Rockaway beach, was towed into Stapleton yesterday morning by the tug I. J. Merritt. Captain Kinney, of the bark, said that he sailed from St. John, N. B., on December 18, bound for this port, with a cargo of lumber. When off Fire Island the storm of Wednesday night and Thursday morning struck the vessel. He was obliged to heave to and the vessel labored heavily in the big seas. The cargo shifted, which gave the bark a list to port. She lay to off Fire Island until the weather moderated somewhat, when the voyage for this port was resumed. The tug met her on her way and towed her in.

LOSS OF LIFE FEARED IN NEBRASKA.

PEOPLE IN THE DROUTH REGION HAD NO FUEL AND NO MEANS OF ESCAPE.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 28.—The storm which swept over this State Wednesday night continued throughout yesterday and increased in severity last night. The temperature fell thirty-four degrees in twenty-four hours. Snows are reported from Alliance, Greeley Centre, in the Black Hills, and in Montana. All trains were delayed yesterday. The temperature was twelve degrees below zero at Hastings yesterday morning and fifteen below at Chadron. The snow was light, which was fortunate for the stock, for in the drouth district thousands of animals have been turned loose by their owners to pick up their subsistence from the grasses and weeds of the prairie, and a heavy snow would entirely destroy their only food. Telegraphic advices last night indicated that loss of life must have followed this blizzard. It may be several days, however, before the anticipated calamities will be known, for some of the worst drouth-stricken counties are without railroad and telegraph stations. The special correspondent of a local newspaper, writing from this district last night, said:

"There is no doubt that this blizzard has caused great loss of life. These people are entirely without fuel. In some of these counties there is not a tree or a twig. Nothing is burned but cow chips. The people have no animals to carry them to places of safety, and in a day or so we shall hear of wretched deaths from this cold."

Robert B. Peattie, correspondent of "The World-Herald," has just returned from a two weeks' tour into Southwestern Nebraska, in order to investigate the reports in circulation of the destitution in that portion of the State. The results of his search through the counties of Buffalo, Dawson, Lincoln, Keith, Perkins, Hitchcock, Chase, Hayes, Dundy and Frontier may be thus summarized: In these counties, particularly in Keith, Perkins, Chase, Hayes and Dundy, the destitution is extreme. Almost two-thirds of the people in these counties are dependent upon charity for existence. There is little or no fuel in the county; cow chips are in many places the only fuel. The remarkably mild weather is all that has prevented loss of life by exposure. There is no money in the county treasury to help the destitute, because in fifteen counties of the State almost no taxes have been collected since June. The shiftless have left the country, and only the farm-owners remain. There is almost no water there. No crops were raised at all last year, except in the occasional irrigated districts, and ditch irrigation is not possible in some of these counties because there are no streams. Most of the destitute live in sod houses. There have been only three crops raised in nine years. Heartrending cases of destitution and suffering are heard of in every township. The present cold wave will certainly cause death to a large number of settlers if it continues and no aid comes. Fuel, provisions and clothing are needed, and the railroads will generally ship them free if sent to the county commissioners at the county seats of the stricken counties.

A BLOW AT ANDREWS.

THE GRAND JURY MAKES A PRESENTMENT AGAINST HIM.

HIS FAILURE SINCE THE SNOW CAME TO MAKE LOCOMOTION ABOUT THE CITY WORTHY OF A CIVILIZED PLACE BRINGS OFFICIAL CONDEMNATION DOWN UPON HIM.

The Grand Jury of the Court of General Sessions gratified the people of New-York yesterday by a presentment severely censuring W. S. Andrews, Commissioner of Street Cleaning, for his inexcusable negligence and utter incompetency, as shown by the condition of the streets since the storm of Thursday. The police force of the city was associated with Andrews in the presentment. General regret was expressed yesterday that instead of censure the Grand Jury had not seen its way clearly to indict Andrews and put him on trial for malfeasance in office and gross misuse of the public money. The Grand Jury called attention to the frightful condition of the city's thoroughfares during the last two days, the result of the apparent incapacity of Andrews and his department to deal with such an emergency as a snowstorm.

Particular stress was laid on the large appropriation with which the Street Cleaning Department was provided, and the want of judgment in using it. There seemed to be an utter absence of the most ordinary foresight in the department. The police were scored for failure to enforce the city ordinances, which householders and others were expected to respect.

The presentment is as follows:

The Grand Jury respectfully calls the attention of the Court to the condition of the sidewalks and streets of the city during the recent snowstorm. In the residence districts many of the sidewalks were almost impassable, and throughout the condition of the streets was such as to indicate without any doubt that the authorities upon whom are charged the duty of cleaning the streets have been derelict in their duty.

The Department of Street Cleaning has an immense appropriation for this purpose, and the utter failure to keep the streets in decent condition shows that the management of the department cannot be conducted with foresight or efficiency.

In addition to the resources of the Department of Street Cleaning a city ordinance directs each householder to clean the sidewalk before his residence. To enforce this ordinance is the duty of the Police Department. It is manifest that no effort has been made by that department in this direction. We beg, therefore, to present to the Court the Department of Street Cleaning and the Police Department for neglect and inefficiency in performing the duties imposed upon them by law. As a result of this neglect the condition of the streets of this city during the last two days is a disgrace to the municipal government.

The presentment is signed by William D. Barbour, as foreman. Judge Martine said he would see that copies of the presentment were sent to the two departments.

Commissioner Andrews refused to talk yesterday afternoon about the presentment made against him by the Grand Jury. He said he had not been officially informed of the matter, and when he had been he might feel justified in making an official reply. He said, however: "I am doing the best I can. I cannot, by law, employ people who are not citizens, and I find that people who are citizens don't want to work on the streets. It has come to be a fact that American citizens won't do this class of work any more. The year's appropriation for cleaning the streets of snow was $40,000. I have spent $20,000 already, and have all the present snow to move. You can see how I am handicapped, both by the need of money and men."

Yesterday about 200 more men were engaged by the department and put to work.

AMERICANS NOT ANXIOUS TO DO THE WORK.

RATHER DIFFICULT TO GET THEM TO HELP CLEAN THE STREETS AT THE PAY ALLOWED.

The new law which requires that none but American citizens shall be eligible for employment in the Street-Cleaning Department of this city has revealed the fact that American citizens, as a rule, will not work for $1.50 a day or a night, as the present exigencies of the embryo blizzard require. The Department of Street Cleaning advertised in yesterday's morning and afternoon papers for 2,000 to 3,000 men to shovel snow from the streets into wagons. A month or so ago such an advertisement would have brought thousands of men in response. It brought thousands in response yesterday to the offices of the Street-Cleaning Department in the new Criminal Court Building in Centre-st., but not thousands of American citizens. Not more than 150 alleged American citizens responded to the alluring offer of $1.50 for a night's work. The bulk of the men calling for the work had to admit, or rather their appearance proclaimed, that they were not citizens. The work of clearing the streets, from the necessities of the case, must be done largely at night-time, after business hours. Gangs of men were set to work about 7 o'clock and will work steadily until daylight shovelling snow into carts. For this service the pay is $1.50.

Superintendent Robbins is anxious to secure about 2,000 men for the emergency, and has advertised freely for them, but down to a late hour yesterday he has found that less than two hundred American citizens in this city will work for that sum.

The two hundred men who were secured were set to work in the principal downtown streets last night. The city has been divided into forty-two sections, which will be cleared of snow as fast as the men to do the work can be secured. Of the two hundred men secured by the department yesterday only twelve were believed to be American-born. Superintendent Robbins's office was open all night last night, and will be open all to-night in the hope that the requisite number of men may be secured.

Thirty carts with gangs of men were put to work in Park Row last night to clear the street of snow, and some progress was made. The department has 200 carts of its own, and besides this it has hired 400 other carts. The streets on which there is the heaviest teaming, such as Broadway, Fulton, Chambers, Canal and Grand sts., will be cleared first.

SLEIGHING HUGELY ENJOYED.

THE 400 WERE OUT AND SO WERE THE 400,000 WHO COULD GET TURNOUTS.

"Oh! what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!" So once sang a poet, and judged from the scenes in Central Park, in St. Nicholas-ave., and out in the Annexed District yesterday, that poet knew what he was writing about. The snow which fell on Wednesday was not entirely destroyed by Thursday's rain. Hardly. There was lots of it left yesterday, and every lover of sleighing in New-York rejoiced thereat. The jingle of the sleighbell began early yesterday morning and ended early this morning. Exactly how early cannot here be told, but the big presses of The Tribune were still at work before "the tintinnabulation of the bells" had ceased to resound in snow-enshrouded Central Park, and out on the roads beyond. The scenes in the Park yesterday were at once brilliant and non-brilliant, as far as the sleighs were concerned, but as for the people who drove yesterday over the "white velvet," it can be said that they all enjoyed themselves, and the humbler the "turnout" the more fun there seemed to be.

Wrapped in costly furs, seated in smoothly gliding sleighs drawn by haughty thoroughbreds, with equally haughty coachmen and grooms on the box, "my lady" enjoyed the smooth gliding motion of her sleigh. And "Pat O'Connor," with the "ould woman" and the "childer," occupying a drygoods box on runners, was just as happy as "my lady," if not more. Family parties were in evidence. These were generally in large, old-fashioned sleighs, and consisted of grandma and grandpa, papa and mama, papa and mama's pretty daughter and the young man who is going to marry the pretty daughter. And when the young man surreptitiously squeezed the hand of papa and mama's pretty daughter, the "old folks," who plainly saw the action, tried to show that they had not, and began violent conversations on the weather and other subjects. And they were all happy.

The dark clouds which spread o'er the city yesterday afternoon only added to the enjoyment of the sleighers. For these clouds presaged more snow, and this meant more sleighing, and this in turn meant more fun. St. Nicholas-ave. was the scene of many an exciting "dash" yesterday. Here the drivers of blooded horses can give free rein to their steeds and race to their hearts' content. And they did. The outfit of the "sports" consisted generally of one horse, one sleigh, a buffalo robe, a fur coat, a sealskin hat and a "thirst." This last was quenched at the road houses. In the Casino, at Mount St. Vincent, at "Gabe" Case's and at every place all along the line the bars were crowded, the clinking of glasses was heard in the land and jolly men swapped stories of old-time winters, when the sleighing season lasted into the middle of July.

And the sleighing ceased not with the coming of darkness. Many men and women of assorted ages, who could not "sleigh" in the daytime, took advantage of the night.

The coachmen who drove yesterday were fearfully

Continued on Seventh Page.

DENIAL FOLLOWS DENIAL.

WILLIAMS ADMITS NOTHING.

PRESIDENT MARTIN COULD NOT MAKE THE SAME STAND.

HE CONFESSES THAT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS RULED HIS COURSE AS COMMISSIONER—THAT SADIE WEST INCIDENT—SEVERAL CAPTAINS CALLED—THE LEXOW COMMITTEE LIKELY TO END ITS PUBLIC SESSIONS TO-DAY AFTER HEARING SUPERINTENDENT BYRNES.

Police Inspector Alexander S. Williams has been known as