For 40 Years The People's Friend.

Kansas City Daily Journal.

The Journal Leads in Circulation.

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GRAND OLD MISSOURI.

TO-DAY REPUBLICANS COME TO THE FRONT IN STATE AFFAIRS.

LEGISLATURE MEETS AT NOON.

A TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION PRACTICALLY AGREED UPON.

THE SPEAKERSHIP FIGHT IS ON.

CONTEST IS GROWING MORE INTERESTING EVERY DAY.

A Number of Members Are Ineligible to Seats by Reason of Technical Informalities in Their Election Certificates—Plenty of Candidates.

Jefferson City, Mo., Jan. 1.—(Special.) Booming of cannon ushered in New Year's and the advent of Republicanism to-day. The contest for speaker is not in any sense decided. Counter reports that Russell is losing, Russell is gaining, have been in circulation all day. Late to-night the situation remains unchanged, with Russell in the lead, Bittinger following, and then Bothwell and Tubbs in the order named. A combination between the forces in opposition to Russell would probably defeat him. Without a combination he will probably be elected. The coming of Major Bittinger lent an earnestness and a vim to the contest which it had lacked before. Something of a final and decisive nature may be developed later to-night. Democrats have worked themselves up to a blind fury over the fact that two colored men are candidates for elective positions in the gift of the house. The election of either of them must mean to the Bourbon negro domination. Of these two, Giles Bell, of Fulton, is the more prominent, and against him the arrows of race hatred have been mercilessly shot. He is wealthy, educated, competent and comes quite strongly indorsed. If he is defeated the slight taint of African blood in his veins will not be responsible. If he is elected it will be because he is worthy, honest and a Republican, and not because of his African descent.

Several caucuses have been held to-day by Republicans from the various sections of the state to agree upon the men whom they will support for the various places. Very little of an effective character has been resolved upon. These caucuses, because they are sectional and do not represent the state, can effect but little—concerted action is needed. The race for chief clerk seems to lie between Carter, Griffin and Church. They and their friends have made life a burden to representatives. For doorkeeper Pountain, of Moniteau, appears to have things all his own way and for sergeant-at-arms Burkheart, of Mexico, is plainly in the lead. For the other elective positions no one man seems to be so far in advance as to merit comment. It has been developed that some seventeen members, Democrats and Republicans, of the house and senate, are ineligible at present to take their seats because their certificates of election do not show that they have paid taxes within the year. This is probably purely technical and will not result in the unseating of anyone. Alonzo Tubbs, of Osage county, is one of the members whose certificate is faulty in this particular. He did not discover the fact until to-day, and, in order to take his proper seat to-morrow, telegraphed home to have tax receipts sent to him.

To-night Governor Stone kept open house and received informally all of Missouri who happened to be in the city and were willing to forego the canvass for a little while. The reception was of the regulation kind, and does not require special notice. The mansion, however, was thronged from 8 to 10 p. m., and yet the lobbies of the hotels were not nearly deserted. Judge Waltour M. Robinson, supreme judge, arrived in the city this afternoon. Being the man who had defeated Judge Black, he was the cynosure of all eyes. As a matter of fact, Black was the Democratic favorite of the judges of the supreme bench, and they never doubted that he would be elected by at least 40,000 plurality. So, when Judge Robinson came in to-day, he was pointed out as "the man who beat Black." Governor Stone finished proofreading his message this evening. No one outside of his office knows what it contains, but it has been an arduous task, and if the time and care consumed in the preparation of such documents is any criterion, it ought to be able.

In private conversation Governor Stone has expressed himself as favoring legislation amending the election laws, and of revising the code of criminal procedure, with a view to reduce criminal costs, and the message will probably recommend something along those lines. The house to-morrow, at noon, will be called to order by the secretary of state, Mr. Lesueur, and a temporary organization will in all probability be effected by the election of Dr. Pettijohn for speaker pro tem; R. C. Morse, chief clerk pro tem, and Fred Ruehrle, sergeant-at-arms pro tem. Then adjournment will be had, and later in the day the caucus will be held to nominate the permanent officers of the house for the session. The temporary officers of the house, as suggested above, were practically agreed upon by the leading Republicans to-day. J. R. Kirk, superintendent of public schools-elect, arrived on the afternoon train. As he will not assume his official duties until the 15th inst., he has some time in which to become acquainted, and to study the work which is before him. Joe Flora, railroad and warehouse commissioner-elect, is expected to arrive to-night. He has effected an arrangement with the other members of the board, whereby he will be allowed to control his proportion of the patronage, and in other matters will be given proper recognition. This courtesy comes to Mr. Flora at the suggestion of Captain H. W. Hickman, who will during the next two years sit as chairman. Farmer "Dick" Dalton has been circulating among his friends to-day. He is entirely satisfied with a $5,000 position under the government at St. Louis, and scouts the idea that he might be the Democratic candidate for governor in 1896. However, as his present job will end soon after the next national election, some of his friends insist that he keep an anchor to the windward.

MUST BE BUT ONE ISSUE.

Senator Stewart Declares the Financial Question Must Be Paramount to All Others.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Speaking of the St. Louis conference of the Populist party, Senator Stewart, of Nevada, said to-day:

"I am very much pleased with the following declaration of principles contained in the address of the St. Louis conference: 'We insist upon the restoration of the coinage of gold and silver as it existed prior to 1873 at the ratio of 16 to 1, without regard to the action of any other nation, and that all paper money shall be issued by the general government without the intervention of banks of issue, the same to be a full legal tender. We also declare our implacable hostility to the further issue of interest bearing bonds.'

"Against this issue the Republican party and the Cleveland Democracy present the gold standard, pure and simple. There is no doubt that a majority of the people of the United States cordially agree with the St. Louis conference on the declaration of principles above quoted.

"Unfortunately, however, this great issue is embarrassed by other subjects, about which there is a great diversity of opinion. I fear it will be impossible for the People's party or any other party to succeed in the main issue unless it is made the sole issue. The Omaha platform was made under very different circumstances. At that time it was not known that the two old parties would unite upon the single issue of the gold standard. Both parties denied, in their platform, that such was their purpose, and both declared in favor of the restoration of silver either by the United States alone or by international conference. It is true their platforms were ambiguous, but still it was claimed by the press of the West and the South that both of the old parties were for the free coinage of silver, and, by reason of the position of all parties, there was very little discussion of the money question in the presidential canvass of 1892.

"Since that time President Cleveland called an extra session for the express purpose of repealing all laws recognizing silver as standard money, reducing all silver coin in existence to mere token money, and adopting the gold standard. The great majority of the Republicans of the two houses of congress co-operated with the president in the extra session, and reduced the money of the United States to the gold standard. This union of the two old parties to maintain the gold standard requires the political union of all who are opposed to it. If that union can be effected, success is certain. If it cannot, defeat is inevitable. The importance attached to this one issue by those who are striving to establish a gold standard is shown by the facility with which party lines are obliterated, and it made a question.

"Whatever may be the separate value of the other measures indorsed by the conference, they are relatively of minor importance to the money question, and as they are certain to engender antagonisms and divide the friends of financial reform, it is in the part of wisdom to subordinate them to the main issue, which must first be settled before any other reforms are possible."

Kansans Were Satisfied.

Topeka, Kas., Jan. 1.—(Special.) "We had a great time in St. Louis," said Superintendent of Insurance Snider, one of the Kansas delegates to the Populist powwow in that city. "Yes, I believe I can say the Kansas crowd got all they wanted. Of course, no man gets exactly everything he wants out of a big meeting like that, but we all came away well satisfied in the main. The Corning referendum fellows were there, but they got absolutely no recognition. When they found that the chairman would not recognize them, one of them arose and announced that a meeting of all in favor of their particular insanity would be held elsewhere, and that all who believed with them were invited to follow out of the hall. Just four men followed."

The Kansas party say they were very much pleased with the appearance and talk of Coxey, but that "Marshal" Carl Browne disgusted everyone. He wore a long, shaggy overcoat made of some kind of hair, and sported a long string of beads around his neck. At every opportunity he bobbed up, but was as regularly squelched by the chairman.

GRAVEYARD GHOULS ABROAD.

They Despoil a Grave at Lawrence and Steal the Body of Carrie Carter.

Lawrence, Kas., Jan. 1.—(Special.) The grave of Carrie Carter at Oak Hill cemetery was found disturbed last evening and an examination made by the sexton and the chief of police showed that the grave had been robbed of its contents. The coffin had been opened and the body was missing. Carrie Carter was a young colored girl, who died in Kansas City about ten days ago under peculiar circumstances. Medical students wanted the body at the time but it was brought here for burial. On last Thursday a well dressed stranger came here, claiming he was out on a hunting trip. On Friday he was joined by two other young men and on Saturday night the grave is supposed to have been opened. The perpetrators of the robbery are supposed to have been connected with an out-of-town medical college and the police think they have a clew that will cause their arrest.

OUR AMERICAN COURT

BRILLIANT NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

FAIR WOMEN AND BRAVE MEN.

GORGEOUS COSTUMES AND SPLENDID FOREIGN TOGS.

Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland Were at Home Yesterday and the Executive Mansion Was Thronged With the Upper Ten and Lower Million.

Washington, Jan. 1.—With bright skies overhead, reasonably clean pavements under foot, and crisp, clear, wintry air, official Washington was favored with all the conditions necessary to the complete enjoyment of such a New Year's day as only Washington knows.

According to the time-honored custom, which was observed to the letter to-day, all the officials called at the White House, where they were received in the order of their rank, to pay their respects to the president. All the cabinet secretaries, generals and admirals in turn receive the officials of lesser rank, and many congressmen and others keep open houses for their constituents and friends. Society in general has in past time given itself over to the making and receiving of formal calls, but in Washington, as in other cities, the observance of the first day of January as a social day has come to be disregarded, and there were probably fewer open houses to-day than ever before. The people who did not take part in the old-fashioned observance to-day had fine opportunities, however, to observe those who did. When a Washingtonian desires to make an unpleasant comparison in the matter of weather, he customarily speaks of New Year's day, but the year of 1895 violated the tradition utterly, and furnished the finest sort of a show day. The brilliancy and interest of the day were for three hours sheltered under the roof of the executive mansion, where the gaslight in the ceremonial parlors fell on banks of palms and troops of richly attired ladies, and many notable men. Apart from the interest which always attaches to the president and his family, Mrs. Cleveland has a personal popularity which draws many to her receptions. To-day she shook hands with every man, woman and child who filed past in the long procession of three hours' length, and gave to the greeting of each one a warmth which gained for her the ever-lasting friendship of the recipient. The president also grasped every caller by the hand, and had a word for everyone when there was time. The irrepressible youngster was in line, as usual, and one of them to-day voiced his enthusiasm appropriately, as he thought, by shouting shrilly, "Hurrah for Grover," as he walked into the blue room. One old man, walking on crutches, seemed tired when he came in, and Mrs. Cleveland, noticing him, led him to a chair among the cabinet ladies, urged him to rest, and so he sat in the state parlor for half an hour, watching the procession.

The man "with wheels in his head," who has been personally commissioned by the Lord to do something ridiculous or dangerous, is the terror of these occasions. He was on hand to-day. Very appropriately, he wore long hair, and after he had passed the police he drew forth from his pocket a document bearing weird symbolic designs in red and blue, but the appearance of the receiving party seemed to dazzle him so that he merely shuffled past without putting it to any use. The policeman who endeavors to do his duty in compelling the observance of regulations and apprehends some high dignitary of the government in his misguided zeal, is always in evidence. To-day he endeavored to bar Secretary Lamont from the blue room, but readily yielded his point when the secretary good-naturedly revealed his identity. There were no accidents, however, and no unpleasant incidents, and the reception was a success, although not so many people attended as came last year.

The old White House had been thoroughly prepared for the day's ceremonies. Outside a canopy had been erected for the protection of the guests who came in carriages. On the inside canvas covers had been laid carefully to prevent the destruction of the rich carpets by the trampling of the thousands of feet which were to pass over them. As in past years the decorations of the rooms were all floral, but there was noticeable difference from the plan of last year in the display of potted plants and palms in place of the great banks of cut flowers which formerly graced the rooms. Consequently there was something lacking in color, but from an artistic point of view this was more than compensated for by the beauty of the growing plants neatly arranged in pure white jardinieres, of basket work design. The guests entered at the main door of the mansion and, crossing the lobby, passed into the red room, where they had an opportunity to divest themselves of their wraps and coats before entering the blue room, where the receiving party was stationed. Two heavy couches had been so arranged across this room as to leave a small open space in the center, thus shielding the president, the mistress of the White House and her servants from the long line of callers. The blue room, always the prettiest of the White House suite, was beatifully decorated with flowers, a star-shaped white blossom prevailing in such profusion as to charmingly subdue the all-prevalent blue tint of the artificial decorations and furnishings. In the lobby just within the main doorway was stationed the full Marine band, making a gallant show in their brilliant scarlet uniforms and discoursing with splendid effect a specially arranged programme of artistic merit. The music began with a grand inaugural march by Fanculli, the leader of the band.

The first to arrive at the executive mansion were the ladies of the cabinet, who were to assist Mrs. Cleveland in receiving. They were ushered upstairs, where they removed their wraps and were greeted by Mrs. Cleveland.

Promptly at 11 o'clock the Marine band struck up the inaugural march and the receiving party descended the western staircase. First came Colonel Wilson with Lieutenant Gilmore; then the president and Mrs. Cleveland, and then the members of the cabinet with their ladies. They entered the blue room and for a few moments there was a general exchange of compliments of the season between the persons in the rooms. Mrs. Cleveland was attired in white moire antique, heavily embroidered with silver and with full sleeves. Her mother, Mrs. Perrine, wore a heliotrope velvet gown, ornamented with silver passementerie.

Mrs. Gresham wore a gown of black and white satin. Black formed the most of the skirts, which was bordered with white satin, and this material also formed the sleeves.

Mrs. Carlisle wore gray moire antique trimmed with sable and passementerie.

Mrs. Lamont was in buttercup satin, elegantly brocaded in white, with a lace pattern. Brown velvet and lace formed a becoming collarette finish.

Mrs. Bissell wore white satin brocade with a waist in a fluffy effect of white chiffon, trimmed with pearl and silver passementeries.

Miss Herbert was in a light blue satin richly brocaded in pink and finely plaited chiffon frills on the bodice.

Mrs. Olney wore purple bengaline richly embroidered and trimmed with lace.

Miss Morton wore a toilette of black and white striped moire and brocade with point lace.

Mrs. Hoke Smith, being in poor health, did not take part in the reception.

A number of ladies, including the wives and daughters of prominent officials and personal friends of Mrs. Cleveland, had been invited to take positions behind the line with the receiving party, so that there was a brilliant array of handsome costumes in the room.

The president took a position near the west door next to Colonel Wilson and Lieutenant Gilmore, who were charged with the duty of introducing the callers by name to the presidential party. Mrs. Cleveland stood on the right of the president, and the ladies of the cabinet in line, the members of the cabinet joined the party in the rear, and the reception began. The diplomatic corps had gathered early, and under Private Secretary Thurber's charge had been marshaled in the red room. As the representatives of foreign nations they were accorded first place in the ceremonies. The corps made a magnificent display as it entered the blue room, headed by Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, with his tall and erect figure clad in brilliant diplomatic dress and his broad chest fairly blazing with the diamond star of the Garter and other orders of the nobility.

The diplomatic body was not in haste in paying their respects, but the members tarried for some time in the blue room, singling out friends and acquaintances among the party gathered in the rear of the receiving lines, and chatting with one another. The scene was attractive, and offered an excellent opportunity for comparison of the social customs of different nations as represented by the ambassadors and ministers and their ladies. The Chinese particularly attracted all eyes in their rich silks and unique cut, and everybody admired the pretty and picturesque figure presented by the wife of Minister Yang Yu.

The new Austrian minister, Mr. Hengelmuller, was resplendent in a Hungarian uniform that in color and richness outshone all others. Finally the diplomatic corps drifted slowly into the vast East room and mingled with the crowd gathered there, and the reception went on. By rights the supreme court should have come next, but they were belated, and came in after the other members of the judiciary, the court of claims and the court of appeals, the District judiciary being in fact preceded by a number of senators and representatives.

The prearranged plan was badly broken after the diplomatic corps and judiciary had been received. Senators and members of congress were slated to follow, but they arrived very irregularly, and but few were in the first section of callers. The number of members of both houses was noted as being unnaturally small. Hardly more than twenty senators were to be seen. There were more Republicans than Democrats among them. Among those present were Senators Sherman, Teller, Dubois, McPherson, George, Call, Lodge, Wolcott and Peffer. The members of the house were scattered generally through the line that followed for the next half hour. General Horatio King was in the section allotted to ex-cabinet ministers and ex-ministers of the United States to foreign countries.

The army and navy were the only official bodies which came in solid lines and they were the finest part of the exhibition, from a spectacular view, with their gold lace glittering through the corridors and their swords clanking martially. There was a notably large gathering of army officers, no less than three department commanders marching with their staff. Several of the higher officials were making their last New Year's round in active service, as they will be relegated to the retired list in the course of the year.

Leading the army, of course, were General Schofield, with his staff, General Vincent and Captains Schofield and Bliss.

Generals McCook, Ruger and Otis followed, attended by their staffs, but General Miles, who had been expected from New York, failed to appear. Other warriors in the front ranks were Adjutant General Ruggles, Inspector General Breckinridge, Quartermaster Bachelor, Surgeon General Sternberg, Paymaster General Smith, General Casey, of the engineer corps; General Flagler, chief of ordnance. Yellow cavalry plumes next waved through the doorway. The wearers were the officers of the Sixth cavalry, stationed at Fort Myer, and commanded by Colonel Morgan. Red plumes heralded the artillery, which was led by the officers of the Fourth, from the Washington arsenal, and after them several infantry officers on detached service.

The naval contingent made an even more brilliant array than the army. Two officers of the retired list, Admirals Russell and Erben, were at the head, followed by Admiral Ramsey and Commodore Selfridge, Commodores Pythian and Matthews, Chief Engineer Mellville, Paymaster General Stewart and Judge Advocate General Lemly. The uniformed delegation was ended by the marine corps officers, led by Colonel Heywood.

At half past 12 a long line of government officials was admitted. It included the regents of the Smithsonian Institution, the civil service and interstate commerce commissioners, the assistant secretaries of the departments, the commissioner of labor and heads of several bureaus.

The delegation of war veterans was smaller than usual, but included the representatives of the veterans of the Mexican war, the Loyal Legion, the G. A. R. and Union veterans, most of them wearing their plain blue uniforms. Several walked on crutches in the line and empty sleeves were numerous.

After these organizations several hundred people who had been shivering on the sidewalk in a long line poured through the White House gates and two by two were marshaled up the avenue. There were all conditions of society. All ages and not a few colored people composed this composite array. Several infants were carried through for the presidential benediction. The venerable members of the Society of Oldest Inhabitants of Washington, who never miss this yearly event, were somewhat belated, but secured a place in line. Promptly at the appointed hour of 2 o'clock Mr. Cleveland shook hands with the last person and the doors were closed. Those already in the mansion lingered, hoping to see the presidential party pass upstairs, but the president led the way through a side door and thus eluded his admirers.

WORLD'S CONGRESS AUXILIARY.

A Reunion Meeting Held at Chicago at Which Important Papers Were Read.

Chicago, Jan. 1.—The initial reunion meeting of the world's congress auxiliary was held at the Auditorium to-night. The auxiliary was formed for the purpose of renewing the friendships and commemorating the achievements of the world's congress of 1893. It is also proposed to continue the work and extend the influence and the interests of the congress. The meeting was called to order by C. C. Bonney, of Chicago, who was president of the congresses held during the fair. In his opening address, Mr. Bonney dwelt at considerable length on the work accomplished by the congresses in the past, and spoke in confident terms of the good that they will do in the future, if they only are carried on in the same manner as were the meetings of two years ago. Addresses of welcome were then made by Mrs. Charles Henrotin, Mrs. Elizabeth Boynton Herbert and Mrs. Caroline K. Sherman.

Dr. F. W. Gursaulus, of Chicago, followed with an address on "The Ministry of Culture, Literature and Art." Dr. Henry W. Rodgers, of Northwestern university, dwelt on "Higher Education and Good Government." Mrs. J. M. Flower discussed the "Public Schools and Good Government," and Professor Harper, president of Chicago university, spoke on "Higher Education and International Peace." A greeting from the Orient was read by Professor S. Choyo, late of the University of Tokio.

"The Religious Congresses of 1893, Crowned by the World's Parliament of Religions," was discussed by Rev. Frank M. Bristol, Rabbi E. G. Hirsch, Rev. L. P. Mercer, Rev. J. L. Jones and others. "The Brotherhood of Science and Faith" was the subject on which Dr. Andrew Morrissey, of Notre Dame university, Dr. J. M. Coulter, of Lake Forest university, and others spoke at some length. A number of addresses were made by speakers not on the regular programme, and letters of regret were read from Cardinal Gibbons, Prince Wolkonsky and a number of clergymen who took part in the congresses of two years ago.

The platform of the auxiliary was set forth by President Bonney in his opening address as follows:

"We would make the soci[illegible] purity and the moral power of which w[illegible]an is the divinely appointed representa[illegible]e as potent in public as it is in private lif[illegible]

"We would exalt and esta[illegible]sh all the useful industries of the wo[illegible] and crown them with blessings and h[illegible]rs for the services they render to man[illegible]d."

Other objects of the auxili[illegible] are to establish just and equal rela[illegible]s between labor and capital, and prov[illegible] for a system of co-operation between [illegible]n. Similar meetings to that held to-night are to be held, for the same objects, in other cities in countries which participated in the world's fair congresses, and partial arrangements have been made for the holding in Chicago, in the near future, of world's congress extension meetings in the departments of science, literature and religion.

Three Honest Prisoners.

Pittsburg, Kas., Jan. 1.—(Special.) Five prisoners celebrated New Year's eve by digging out of the city jail last night, going to Litchfield and becoming gloriously drunk. Two of them left for parts unknown, but the other three came back this morning and demanded admittance, saying that they did not wish to leave owing the city.

THE HIDEOUS TOTAL.

FIFTEEN THOUSAND ARMENIANS WERE SLAUGHTERED.

NO MERCY SHOWN TO ANY ONE.

WOMEN AND PRATTLING BABES BUTCHERED WITH THE MEN.

Further Details of the Atrocious Affair in Eastern Turkey Received in Boston—One Soldier Confesses That He Murdered Thirty Women.

Boston, Jan. 1.—A letter just received in this city from a point near the seat of the recent outrages in Eastern Turkey places the number of slaughtered Armenians at fully 15,000. It is written by a man in whom the highest confidence is placed and portions are too horrible to repeat. The writer, in part, says: "The Armenians, oppressed by Kurds and Turks, said, 'We cannot pay taxes to both Kurds and the government.' Plundered and oppressed by the Kurds, they resisted them; there were some killed. Then false reports were sent to Constantinople that the Armenians were in arms in rebellion. Orders were sent to the mushir, at Erzengan, to exterminate them. The orders that were read before the Armenian army collected in haste from all the chief tribes of Eastern Turkey were: 'Whoever spares men, women or children is disloyal.' The region was surrounded by soldiers and 20,000 Kurds also are said to have been massed there. Then they advanced upon the center, driving in the people like a flock of sheep, and continued thus to advance for days.

"No quarter was given; no mercy shown. Men, women or children were shot down or butchered like sheep. Probably when they were set upon in this way, some tried to save their lives and resisted in self-defense. Many who could fled in all directions, but the majority were slain. The most probable estimate is 15,000 killed and thirty-five villages plundered, razed and burned. Women were assaulted and men butchered. A priest was taken to the roof of his church and hacked to pieces and the edifice set on fire. A large number of women and girls collected in a church were kept for days, the sport of soldiers, and then murdered. It is said the number was so large the blood flowed out of the church door.

"The soldiers contended over a beautiful girl. They wanted to preserve her, but she too was killed. As a confirmation of the report the other day, several hundred soldiers were returning from the seat of war and one was heard to say that he alone, with his own hand, had killed thirty women."

NEW YORK'S NEW MAYOR.

Hon. William L. Strong Sworn In as the Head of That Great Municipality.

New York, Jan. 1.—For the first time in twenty-two years a mayor not of the Democratic faith is at the head of the city government. William L. Strong, who was to-day inducted into the office, represents very much the same conditions and social elements that asserted themselves in 1872 in the election of William F. Havemeyer to the mayoralty. In both instances there was a revolt against municipal corruption. Upon both occasions public sentiment was crystallized through the medium of a committee of seventy, the main purpose in 1872 being to overthrow the Tweed regime, and in 1894 to correct abuses, known or suspected in the police and other departments of the city government.

The exposure of the practice of levying blackmail by the police, particularly upon the criminal classes of society, who in consideration of their payments of money were granted immunity from arrest, was primarily the work of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, which procured the appointment of the state senate committee, which has become famous under the name of its chairman, Mr. Lexow.

The unearthing of corruption in municipal affairs is only a beginning of the work of reform which is in contemplation and which, before recurrences of such abuses can be prevented, it is claimed calls for radical changes in the state laws relating to the government of cities. Without an enlargement of the powers of the mayor, it is argued, Mr. Strong, whatever may be his disposition, is as helpless to combat corruption in the departments as his predecessors in office has been. It is proposed to enact a law giving the mayor power of removal over the heads of bureaus and an absolute control of the police department. Under the present system, while the mayor appoints members of the police board and other department chiefs, he may not remove them except through processes that practically amount to a deprivation of the power. The framing of new laws touching these points promises to be as important work as any that is likely to come before the state legislature and to bring out as many conflicting theories.

Shortly before noon the outgoing and incoming mayors met at the city hall. After the usual formalities, an interchange of greetings and the introduction of the several heads of the departments to Mr. Strong, Thomas F. Gilroy took his departure from the mayor's office and, as he has announced, from political life.

The new mayor will have a clean slate to work on, as Mr. Gilroy has left nothing unfinished in the routine work of his office when he left there last night. The board of aldermen will not organize until next week. The new sheriff, Mr. Tamsen, entered upon the duties of his position to-day and so did the new coroner. Conditions of the new officials will be somewhat different from those that have prevailed heretofore. The new state constitution goes into effect to-day. Under it every species of gambling is prohibited, and is classed as a criminal offense.

Of course, the public pool rooms have been closed for over a year and a half, but the initiated have no difficulty in placing bets in many of the handbook offices which have been running here.

Rumors of intended resignations of many officials in the city departments are rife, but it is generally believed that men in possession of these very coveted places will hold on until they see whether a power of removal bill will be passed at Albany.

KANSAS FEDERATION OF LABOR.

It Is Holding a Session in Topeka to Consider Matters of Importance.

Topeka, Kas., Jan. 1.—(Special.) The Kansas Federation of Labor met in Topeka to-day with an attendance of about thirty delegates from different parts of the state. The purpose of the convention is to formulate certain legislation which is asked for in the interests of the federation. The members are not satisfied with the workings of the eight-hour law and want it strengthened so it can be enforced. They also want a law legalizing contracts made with apprentices.

The officers of the federation are: William A. Doidge, of Leavenworth, president; L. A. Hart, of Kansas City, first vice president; W. A. Snyder, second vice president; J. G. Samuelson, secretary; F. E. Cook, treasurer; F. L. Whitaker, statistician. The last four are from Topeka. The sessions of the federation are secret.

Arrested in Topeka.

Topeka, Kas., Jan. 1.—(Special.) About December 1 William Frazier presented a money order for $20 at the postoffice in Oskaloosa, Ia., and had it cashed. It soon developed that the order had been drawn to William Frey, Sr., and Frazier, it is alleged, had changed it. The government officers have been looking for Frazier ever since and yesterday a deputy United States marshal located him in Topeka. He was arrested and is now in the county jail.

Seventeen People Burned.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 1.—Although seventeen persons, all attaches of the house, are supposed to be in the ruins of the Delevan hotel, no attempt has been made to search the ruins, for the whole mass is still so hot that work is impossible. Chief Higgins, of the fire department, says: "I do not know how many persons perished, but of their remains not even a bone will be found, for, in my opinion, every victim must have been completely incinerated."

Up to 11 o'clock none of the persons reported missing has been located.

MASKED ROBBERS FOILED.

They Uncouple the Baggage Instead of the Express Car and Get Nothing.

Camden, Ark., Jan. 1.—Six masked men made an effort to rob the north bound Cotton Belt train, due here at 10 o'clock, at a tank ten miles south of Camden. Their object was to secure the express money.

The train stopped as usual to take water and the colored porter got off the train to go around to the tank to let the water on. He was stopped, however, by a Winchester in his face, and ordered to uncouple the cars. This order was obeyed, and the engineer, who was under guard, was made to run the car up from the train a distance of half a mile. The bandits discovered too late that they had made a water haul, taking the baggage car instead of the express car. They had to grin, take their medicine and go to the woods. The leader told the engineer that he had the laugh on them, but would see him again. The work was so quickly done that the passengers did not know what was going on until the would-be robbers had found refuge in the dense forest.

The scene of the robbery is more than a mile from any residence. The small station, Buena Vista, is a mile south. There is no better place than this for bandits to ply their calling.

A posse has left here in search of the would-be robbers.

ANOTHER HOTEL HORROR.

The Miller Hostelry at Lancaster, Ky., Burned and Four People Cremated.

Lancaster, Ky., Jan. 1.—The Miller hotel was burned between 5 and 6 o'clock this morning. There were four persons in the building at the time, Edward A. Pascoe and wife, his baby, about 2 years of age, and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Masters. The wife only escaped.

The fire started in the cellar, where it must have been smoldering all night, as the Pascoes were about suffocated when awakened. The husband assisted his wife to the window and returned to assist his mother-in-law and babe, but was not able to return.

No other persons were in the hotel, which had been conducted by Pascoe, and he had made all arrangements to give it up to-day, having moved his furniture out of the building.

Pascoe was 26 years old and came from Nicholasville, Ky. Mrs. Masters was a widow.

The building was a three-story brick, belonging to Sam Miller, of Knoxville, Tenn., and was insured for $5,000. The fire is believed to have been of incendiary origin.

ROSWELL P. AND LEVI P.

One Steps Out and the Other In—Inauguration of Governor Morton.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 1.—Levi P. Morton was inaugurated as governor of New York at noon to-day. The ceremonies were simple. The new governor and his full military staff, in carriages, were escorted to the capitol by four companies of the National Guard. In the executive chamber the governor-elect was greeted by the retiring governor, who was surrounded by his military staff, after which all proceeded to the assembly chamber. After prayer by Bishop Doane, Governor Flower extended a formal welcome to his successor in office. In a brief reply, Governor Morton complimented his predecessor, both as a man and as an official. There was nothing of a partisan nature in either address. The oath of office was administered by Secretary of State Palmer. In the executive chamber Governor Morton received for an hour the congratulations of a great number of people, including members of the legislature and representatives of Republican organizations throughout the state. Subsequently Governor and Mrs. Morton and the Misses Morton held a public reception in the executive mansion.

HAVOC CAUSED BY SEWER GAS.

A Saloon Wrecked and Eight Men Injured in Chicago by an Explosion.

Chicago, Jan. 1.—By the explosion of sewer gas in the basement of Edward Keeley's saloon at 347 Fifth avenue this afternoon eight men were injured, several of them seriously. The explosion was caused by the ignition of sewer gas from a candle carried by a porter, who had gone into the basement for the purpose of drawing some wine. The porter, Henry Washington, was the most seriously injured, his head being badly cut, and he sustained internal injuries. The others injured were: John Clark, Patrick Ryan, George Doherty, George Fleming, George Hartley, Otto Budde and Terry Van Skye.

The explosion was so violent that the front of the saloon was badly shattered, and the stone sidewalk thrown into the street. The saloon is under the Lincoln hotel, and for a few minutes a lively panic prevailed among the guests. None of the injured will die, although Washington's condition is very serious.

KANSAS WEATHER IN DECEMBER

It Was the Warmest Month in Twenty-six Years Excepting Five—Rainfall Light.

Lawrence, Kas., Jan. 1.—(Special.) The weather report of Chancellor F. H. Snow, of Kansas university, for the month of December was issued to-day. It says that in twenty-six years there have been but five Decembers warmer than the past month and these were in 1875, 1876, 1889 and 1891. The maximum temperature of 71.5 deg. has been exceeded but three times. The lowest point reached during the month was 6.5 deg. and the average temperature was 36.93 deg. The rainfall was hardly two-thirds of the average, it being .96 inches. The total for the twelve months of 1894 now completed is 30.01 inches, which is 6.06 inches below the average annual rainfall. The cloudiness for the month was unusually low and the barometer remarkably high. There was one fog in December.

HANGED TO A TRESTLE.

Tom Blair Lynched by Twenty-five Desperate Men at Mount Sterling, Kentucky.

Mount Sterling, Ky., Jan. 1.—About 2 o'clock this morning a mob of twenty-five men went to the county jail, overpowered Jailer Best, secured the keys and took from the jail Tom Blair, of Morgan county, and hung him to a railroad trestle in the city limits. Blair fought desperately for his life and was beaten into almost insensibility before he was hung. Blair was one of the parties who assisted in killing Captain J. L. Bomar in this city last February. He was cleared of the charge and was in jail for shooting with intent to kill a few days ago. It is supposed that friends of Bomar were the lynchers.

Burglars at Pittsburg, Kas.

Pittsburg, Kas., Jan. 1.—(Special.) Burglars last night robbed Crowell's drug store and Borger's shoe store, obtaining valuable property. This makes the eighth time Borger has been burglarized since commencing business in Pittsburg. This morning a man giving the name of Thomas McGuire was arrested as he was trying to effect an entrance to William Moore's place of business. He had a chisel, which fitted the marks left at the entrance to the other two places burglarized.

Pays Little Attention to the Will.

San Francisco, Jan. 1.—Charles Fair was asked the direct question: "Do you intend to contest your father's will?"

"I know nothing about it," he answered, "I have no personal attorney and have not advised with anyone. I have given little consideration to the will except to read it over."

The Wrong Kind of Bitters.

Guthrie, O. T., Jan. 1.—(Special.) J. A. Booth, of Purcell, drank carbolic acid by mistake for bitters and died in great agony in a few hours.

A SCENE OF TERROR.

WILD EXCITEMENT CAUSED BY AN EARTHQUAKE IN MEXICO.

A STAMPEDE IN A THEATER.

PANIC STRICKEN PEOPLE STRUGGLE FOR ESCAPE AT THE EXITS.

WOMEN LEAP FROM THE BOXES.

PANDEMONIUM AMONG THE INMATES OF BELEM PRISON.

The Water Mains Burst and Flood the City, Adding to the Confusion and Distress—Shocks Predicted by a Seismic Prognosticator.

Mexico City, Jan. 1.—At 10:53 Sunday night an oscillatory earthquake shock was felt in this city and other parts of the valley of Mexico. The movement was east and north, but of short duration. The disturbance caused great alarm from those who feared a repetition of the disastrous earthquakes of November 2, which killed eighteen people and did great property damage. In the Arben theater, which is the only play house open in this capital, as the result of the damage sustained by the the other theaters by the previous shocks, a stampede occurred. Women leaped from the lower boxes, and the audience struggled for escape at the narrow exits. The manager appeared on the stage and tried to calm the fear-crazed people, and at last a degree of quiet was restored, but not until most of the audience had taken refuge in the streets, which were full of frightened people, many of them in their night clothes. The scene of November 2 was repeated in a large part, and thousands of penitents knelt in the open streets and prayed and cried in a loud voice for deliverance from death.

In Belem prison, where hundreds of wretched beings are huddled together in the prison barracks, pandemonium reigned, and the guards had hard work to prevent many from breaking out of their quarters and flinging themselves over the walls. The large supply pipes leading to the city burst, flooding the streets. The disturbance was foretold two months ago by Juan N. Contreras, of Guanajuato, the accredited and locally famous seismic prognosticator, who prophesied that between the 30th of December and the 2nd of January, this volcanic scene would be visited by another earthquake disturbance. Contreras is making his prophecies for three events in this line, and says the disturbances will contiue in greater or less degree at periods during 1895.

AN IMPORTANT CONVENTION.

Delegates From Cities of the First Class Will Convene in Topeka—The Programme.

Topeka, Kas., Jan. 1.—(Special.) Preparations are all complete for the convention of delegates from cities of the first class in Kansas, which convenes in Topeka on Thursday. At 2 o'clock p. m. the convention will go into business session, and in the evening a banquet will be given in honor of the visitors.

Mayor Harrison, of Topeka, will respond to the first toast, which is "Paving the Way." He will be followed by Mayor Nathaniel Barnes, of Kansas City, Kas., who will talk upon "Municipal Improvements." Mayor Cox, of Wichita, will address himself to "Police Power." "Municipal Government" will be discussed by Councilman George E. McGill, of Leavenworth, and "Public Health" is the subject assigned to Dr. J. B. Hibben. Mayor Goodlander, of Fort Scott, was asked to respond to the subject, "General Revenue," but, as he will be unable to be present, his place will be filled by Councilman P. C. Hesser, of that city. The other responses will be as follows: "Secret Service," Councilman S. B. Bradford; "Ways and Means," John R. Mulvane; "Annexation," S. M. Gardenhire; "Sewer Litigation," D. C. Tillotson; "Floating Bonds," P. I. Bonebrake; "Public Highways," William Sims; "Good Government," Peter Smith; "City Lighting," Colonel C. K. Holliday; "City Printing," F. P. MacLennan; "Fire Protection," J. K. Hudson; "Needed Legislation," Colonel George W. Veale; "Street Railways," W. E. Sterne; "Food for the Poor," A. C. Sherman; "City Finances," F. G. Noel. Senator W. P. Dillard, of Fort Scott, will act as master of ceremonies. The Modoc Club will furnish the music for the occasion.

All cities to be represented at this meeting have appointed a committee of five each, and the whole constitutes a legislative committee to look after the interests of cities of the first class. This committee has formulated some new laws bearing on the following subjects:

That in the annual settlements with and reports from the county treasurer to the city clerk, each year's tax be listed separately; that the sidewalk laws governing cities of the first class should be revised; that property owners be made liable for defective sidewalks; that all claims for damages must be presented to the city council within ninety days, and suits be commenced within one year from the time the damages occur; that all property be taxed, and that it be assessed at its actual value; that the city assessor be chosen on the first Monday in December, and that his duties commence on the first Monday in January; that the county commissioners be prohibited from vacating any streets and alleys within the city limits without the consent of the city; that the office of the commissioner of elections be abolished; and that the duties of that office be assigned to the city clerk.

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