

PRESIDENT'S DUTY.

Mr. Olney Sustained by State Department Experts.

EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY.

Mr. Adams Asserted This in Mr. Monroe's Cabinet and Maintained that the President Should Not Make Either House a Party to an Act Which it Was His Exclusive Right and Duty to Perform.

The international law experts of the State Department have recently been investigating the issue raised by Secretary Olney relative to the exclusive power of the President to recognize a foreign government, and have all concluded that precedent and facts sustain the Secretary.

"The President and the Senate in its executive capacity have the exclusive management of our foreign affairs. Resolutions of the legislative body, whether they be independent resolutions, concurrent or joint, meant to change or to hasten the course of the Executive as respects the recognition of a government, are usually mere attempts to censure the President by creating the impression that he needs to be urged to perform his constitutional functions, and at best are mere pretenses at conferring a discretion already possessed.

Mr. Clay's Contentions.

"When Mr. Clay began goading the Executive in 1818 into a recognition of the South American States he very plausibly justified the interference of Congress by stating that the power of declaring war—everywhere else lodged in the executive—was with us deposited with the legislature, and that if there were a risk that the acknowledgment of a new State might lead to war, it was well that the step should not be taken without a previous knowledge of the will of the war-making power.

"It is true that by an anomaly of our system the power of declaring war has been conferred upon the legislative branch, and it is also true that several times in our history Congress has been compelled, when an executive act was to be performed involving peace or war, to confer power upon the President by a law passed in secret—secrecy being contrary to John Quincy Adams observed, to one of the first principles of legislation. To thrust advice upon him, to precede his movements in a noisy and public manner, to disturb plans, perhaps well digested, which would, it may be, have succeeded to the satisfaction of a concerned but for the interference of the legislative branch must be considered an unwise and unwarrantable method of procedure, even when strictly within the power of the legislative body.

Act of Executive Authority.

"But the recognition of a new government is by our constitution an act of the executive authority. Mr. Adams asserted this in Mr. Monroe's cabinet when the President and several members thought it would be quite convenient to have them (the Senate and House) pledged beforehand to share in the responsibility of recognizing the independence of Buenos Ayres. After citing precedents in Washington's and Madison's administration Mr. Adams expressed the opinion that the executive in this instance ought carefully to preserve entire the authority given him by the constitution and not weaken it by setting the precedent of making either House of Congress a party to an act which it was his exclusive right and duty to perform.

"Clay and his followers wished Monroe to act in reference to the Spanish American provinces as Washington had acted toward the French republic. The language of Mr. Smith, a representative from Maryland, in the debate of March, 1818, may be used with great propriety to-day. He said: 'Did Congress on that occasion direct the conduct of General Washington? Did that Congress tell him that he did not understand what he ought to do and that they would instruct him? No; sir; they left him to exercise the powers vested in him by the constitution.'

DYNAMITE ON THE STOVE.

Two Women Killed Through the Carelessness of a Quarry Owner.

Two women were killed by an explosion of dynamite in the house of Elias Becker, ex-Sheriff of DeRks county, at Tucker, Pa. They were his wife, aged fifty-four years, and her step-daughter, Mrs. William Seidel, aged thirty. Both were terribly mangled. Mrs. Becker met instant death, and the younger woman died within twenty minutes. The house caught fire and was destroyed with all its contents.

Becker is a quarry owner, and had several sticks of dynamite, which were to be used for blasting purposes. He placed them in the kitchen stove to thaw out, and then left the house. A few minutes later the explosion occurred, and he rushed back to his home. The coroner will hold an inquest.

ROBBERS LOOT AN IOWA BANK.

They Blew Open the Safe and Carried Off \$5,000 or More in Cash.

At Sully, Iowa, a small town near Newton, Iowa, robbers looted the State bank. The bank was incorporated in 1891 with \$5,000 capital. The deposits were about \$17,000. A. Smith is President, and L. A. Sherman cashier. Details of the robbery are hard to obtain, because the town has no telegraphic connections. It is reported the robbers entered the bank, blew open the safe, and carried away an amount of cash estimated at \$5,000 or more.

PENNSYLVANIA ITEMS.

Epitome of News Gleaned From Various Parts of the State.

Milton Keltra, who shot himself at Summit Hill, died at the Bethlehem Hospital. Keltra was infatuated with a Philadelphia girl, who afterward refused to marry him. This fact preyed upon his mind and led to his committing the rash act which ended his career. Edward Williams, aged 19 years, a Sharpsburg mill worker, signed an agreement to pay his mother \$10 a month until he becomes of age. Young Williams was secretly married last week. When his mother heard of it she insisted that her son sign the agreement in order that she might be certain of support.

While Mrs. Rosa Gantz, No. 41 Ash street, Reading, was fixing the kitchen fire there was a sudden explosion which blew off a thumb and index finger and badly out the third finger of the right hand. Her left eye was so badly wounded that the sight will be destroyed.

It appears that while Willie, the 9-year-old son, was carrying his father's dinner he picked up a dynamite cartridge. He did not know what it was, and when he came home dropped it into the coal bucket. Earl, a year-old son, was struck above the right eye by flying debris, but not hurt very badly.

Michael Barry, of Kingston, was buried under falling rock in the tunnel driven into Plymouth Mountain by the Larksville Coal Company. James Keating, John Curtis and Joseph Clinton were with Barry at the time of the accident, timbering, when the roof caved in and all, but Barry succeeded in getting from under the fallen debris.

It was 6 o'clock when the fall occurred and after 9 when all the debris was moved. Barry was completely covered but fortunately two rocks of considerable size fell, one on each side of him, and kept the mass of earth from crushing life out. Picks and shovels were used to uncover the unfortunate man, and he was obliged to call upon the rescuing party to be careful in using their picks.

Miss Mary Winters, a splinter, of Orangeville, O., who claimed she saw the Lord in a vision, and was commanded by him to fast, died at her home in Pittsburg, from starvation. She had taken no nourishment for five weeks, and the efforts of the physicians to force her to take food were unavailing. For the last two weeks she has been in a deep sleep from which it was impossible to awaken her. She regained consciousness a short time before her death, but not sufficiently to converse with friends who were at her bedside.

Mrs. Barbara Hartman, an aged woman living alone at Penn Station, six miles west of Greensburg, was attacked by masked men at her home, and beaten terribly in an attempt to make her tell where she kept her money. The robbers secured a small amount of money. The old lady may not recover. The robbers escaped.

WORK AND WORKERS.

The annual convention of the Ohio miners' organization was opened in Columbus. The Anthor Grain Company, operating on the West Superior Board of Trade, made an assignment.

D. V. Iseman, one of the leading clothiers of Newport News, Va., assigned. Liabilities \$15,000; assets about the same.

The factory of the Nelsonville (O.) Sewer-Pipe Company was destroyed by fire, throwing 150 men out of employment for the winter. Loss, fully \$100,000, partly covered by insurance.

Everett's Hotel, Vessey and Barclay streets New York, one of the oldest and best-known establishments of its kind in that city, was closed. Its proprietor, Samuel H. Everett, has been in financial difficulties for some time.

A Massachusetts, Ill., despatch says that the coal miners' strike in St. Clair and Madison counties have been declared off. An effort will be made to have the men's wages increased, and if unsuccessful another strike will be started later.

The shoe manufacturing firm of Baker & Creighton, Lynn, Mass., has decided to enforce a cut of about 8 per cent in the wages of its employees. The Cutters' Union will act in this matter at once, but it is not expected a strike will result.

Announcement is made that Alexander Smith & Sons, carpet mills, at Yonkers, N. Y., will resume work soon after the close of the year. They have been shut down for two months. Only a few looms will be started at first, but gradually all will be at work.

George T. Murdock has been appointed receiver for Witherbee, Sherman & Co., Pittsburg, N. Y., upon application of interested parties, members of the firm who desire a partition and sale of the property. The firm is in no financial difficulty and has no indebtedness. The partnership expired by limitation.

In Austin, Tex., G. A. Bahn, leading jeweler, made an assignment, naming preferred creditors to the amount of \$30,000, of which \$5,000 is due Eastern creditors and the balance is distributed there, three national banks being sought for some \$10,000. The Eastern creditors are secured by real estate to the full amount.

A COUNTY INSOLVENT.

Commissioners Direct a Suspension of Interest Payments.

The commissioners of Lane county, Kan., have formally declared the county insolvent and issued instructions to the treasurer to refrain from further payment of interest on the county's bonded indebtedness.

The funded debt of the county is \$125,000. The loans are held by about forty different corporations and individuals in New York and New England and have been quoted almost at par.

Edward Helmie, chairman of the county board, states the county could not raise money enough by taxation to meet its obligations. He says the settlers in Lane are not repudiators and pay their taxes promptly, but that such is not the case with non-resident land owners.

About \$100,000 of the county's indebtedness is represented by bonds issued to aid in the construction of the Great Bend branch of the Santa Fe Railroad.

TWENTY LOST.

Passenger Train's Awful Plunge From a Bridge.

FELL OVER A HUNDRED FEET.

Villains Removed A Rail, Causing the Coaches to Leave the Tracks and Fall Into a Shallow River Far Below.

A special from Birmingham, Ala., says—Plunge in human form wrecked the Birmingham Mineral passenger train No. 40 at Cahaba River bridge, 27 miles from here, at 7.50 o'clock Sunday morning and 20 lives were lost.

That number of bodies have been recovered from the wreck, and further search may swell the list of dead.

The wreck is regarded as almost certainly accomplished by the removal of a rail on the middle span of the trestle. This derailed the train, which caused it to fall down the two spans and precipitated it into the river, 110 feet below.

The wreck was the worst that has ever occurred in the state, and the survivors are so few, and are so badly hurt, that they are unable to give any detailed description of how it all happened.

Were Mostly Miners.

It is not known and may never be ascertained just how many passengers were on the train. Most of them were miners and residents of mining towns in this district who had round trip holiday tickets, and were returning to their homes along the line of the Birmingham Mineral Railroad.

Conductor A. P. Connell, who probably knew better than anybody else as to how many passengers were aboard, is dead. It is thought, however, that there were not exceeding 25 or 30. But one passenger purchased a ticket at Birmingham.

Was a Local Passenger.

The ill-fated train was a local passenger, which left here at 6.30 A. M., and was scheduled to make a circuit of the Birmingham Mineral, which is a branch line of the Louisville and Nashville, reaching all the important mining towns in the district. The train, consisting of an engine, a baggage-car and two coaches, left here at 6.30 A. M., and went to Taceo, on the main line of the Louisville and Nashville. There it switched off to the Birmingham Mineral track, and went to Gurnee, from Gurnee to Blocton.

The Mineral trains operate over the Southern Railway's Brierfield, Blocton and Birmingham Branch, under a contract arrangement. Six miles south of Gurnee is the Cahaba river, a shallow mountain stream, which has a depth at this time of only about three or four feet.

This river is spanned by an iron bridge with wooden trestles on each side. Its entire length is 800 feet, and the length of the main span where the wreck occurred is 110 feet. The bridge was built only four years ago, and was regarded as a very strong structure. The main span and the span just beyond it, both made of iron, gave way and precipitated the entire train into the river.

Only Nine Escaped.

The engine landed on its side almost at right angles with the track. The cars piled upon each other through the main span. The entire wreck took fire soon afterward, and was rapidly burned to the water's edge, nine persons alone escaping alive from all who went down, and several of them will probably die.

The first news of the wreck was brought to Hargrove, a telegraph station four miles from the Cahaba River, by a farmer, who said that while passing near the place he heard a crash. Going nearer he saw the two spans of the bridge broken out.

He then discovered the burning wreckage in the shallow water below. He could hear the groans of the wounded and dying, but without waiting to see further he rode his horse rapidly to Hargrove, where the operator telegraphed to Birmingham and Blocton for relief.

Meanwhile a few people gathered at the scene to render what aid they could, but it was too late to do much. Nine people had gotten out and the others had been burned up in the wreckage.

OURRENT EVENTS.

Forest fires have destroyed 40,000 acres of timber in New York State in the past three years.

I takes thirty-seven specially constructed and equipped steamers to keep the submarine telegraph cables of the world in repair.

It is estimated that over 10 per cent of the potato crop of Southwestern Michigan was left in the ground by reason of the low price in the fall.

Throughout Western Florida the outlook for immigration this Winter exceeds anything of the kind known before in the history of that section.

All the previous fire records of Atlanta for one year have been broken this year. So far this year the Fire Department has made 373 runs against 353 runs last year.

Instead of his usual Sunday evening sermons a clergyman of Chapman, Kan., is reading to his congregation a continued story, called "Jake the Merchant," which he wrote himself.

A White Pigeon, Mich., resident has a family which is something remarkable in the way of weight. There are six of them, the father and mother, a daughter and three sons, and their average weight is 292 pounds. The State of Maine furnished one-eighth of the Governors chosen last fall in the different States of the Union. They are Llewellyn Powers in Maine, Hazen B. Fingree in Michigan, Frank S. Black in New York, and John R. Rogers in Washington.

At Trent in the Tyrol, a few weeks ago, the Italian residents unveiled a monument to Dante, who is supposed to have lived for some years in Trent after his banishment from Florence. One hundred and twenty wreaths were laid on the steps of the monument.

FLOATING FACTS.

The longest electric railway in the world is in Jasper County, Mo.

Apple growers in Missouri now weigh their fruit instead of measuring it. Last year 49,971 carloads of fruit, nuts, wines and vegetables were exported from California.

Motor omnibuses for the streets of Paris will be built to accommodate thirty persons. The Electric Cab Company of London will within a few weeks, put 250 horseless cabs on the streets for hire.

Coral found to be forty fathoms indicates either that the bottom has gone down or it has fallen from the forty-fathom depth.

The sailboat for the pilot's use is going out of date, and the steamboat is taking its place. One is in successful operation in New York waters.

The mints of the United States coined 1,914,000 silver dollars during the month of November. There were also coined 4,053,000 one cent pieces.

The largest gold coin in existence is said to be the gold ingot, or "loaf" of Annam, a flat, round piece, worth about \$325, the value being written on it in India ink.

In all, it has been estimated that over two million acres are devoted to the maintenance of deer in Scotland, and that about five thousand stags are annually killed.

The amount contributed for foreign missions during 1895 by all sections of Christians in the British Isles, according to Canon Scott Robertson's twenty-fifth annual summary, was \$1,347,665.

An estimate has been made from published statistics showing that of \$5,000 spent in twenty of the leading libraries in this country a little over \$170,000 was devoted to books, while other expenses consumed \$385,000.

Of 274,940 Hungarians Gypsies enumerated in the last census, 243,432 are described as sedentary, 2,405 as semi-sedentary, and only 8,333 as nomads, while 2,161 are soldiers or in jail. All profess some form of Christianity.

There is an old gentleman in Harrison County, Ga., who is 83 years of age and has never ridden on a railroad train or taken a meal at any kind of a public house. His son died in an adjoining town last week and he refused to attend his funeral because he would have had to ride on the cars.

Paris has found it necessary to put a check to the haphazard decoration of her public places. The prefect of the Seine has appointed a technical committee of artists, architects and other competent judges, to which all plans affecting the outward appearance of the city must be submitted.

BY A DISPLACED RAIL.

A Train on the Seaboard Air Line Sent Into a Ditch.

A frightful wreck occurred on the Raleigh and Augusta division of the Seaboard Air Line, one and a half miles west of Raleigh, at 12.30 o'clock Thursday morning. A displaced rail, which had without question, been removed but a few minutes before by professional train wreckers, precipitated freight train No. 22 into a deep cut, totally wrecking ten loaded cars and locomotive, killing the fireman, Alexander Oerby, and seriously wounding the engineer, John Robertson.

Seven cars and the caboose remained on the track, thus saving from serious harm, the balance of the train crew, Capt. Yearby, the conductor; B. J. Ardell, flagman, and Carter and Bryan, trainmen.

The evident intention of the wreckers was to catch the Seaboard Air Line Atlanta special, which was due at about that time, but this train being one hour and twenty minutes late, the express freight was running under orders on the Atlanta special's time.

Had this train been on time the loss of life would have been horrible to contemplate, as the point selected by the wreckers was adapted to that end, and the careful plans they had laid would have resulted in a complete wreck of a passenger train. The wreckers left a crowbar and other tools, with which they drew the spikes and displaced the rail.

Bloodhounds are now on the trail of the wreckers.

ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE.

Major McKinley will be the third Methodist President.

W. H. Mallock, the writer, is to edit a new London weekly, to be modeled after the "Spectator" and to be sold one-half cheaper.

A second edition of Sir Walter Besant's "The City of Refuge" is already made necessary, although the book was published only shortly after election.

William A. Wilde, of Boston, has presented to the Acton Memorial Library marble busts of Washington and Lincoln, the work of the sculptor, T. Ball, now in Italy.

It is usually dawn before the Sultan goes to bed and at 8 o'clock he is sitting again. He has no confidence in those around him, and his life appears to be worth hardly a day's purchase.

The Marquis de Montebain, the last male representative of the family of Quebec, died recently at Montpellier. He transmitted the name and title by legal process to an adopted son.

The Duke of York is the only member of the British royal family who can dance a sailor's hornpipe. He is said to take considerable pride in the accomplishment, which he learned while a cadet in the navy.

Sardon's hobby is building houses. In this way he delights in spending his wealth. On the outskirts of Nice he spent \$250,000 on a great stone foundation for a palace, but was prevented from completing it because it would interfere with the view from a fort.

Mme. Nordica possesses several taras, but the last one, which was recently presented to her, contains 223 diamonds, which range in size from one and a half to one-eighth of a karat. There are about a dozen of the larger stones, and the total weight of the diamonds in the taras is about 233 karats. Its cost is in the neighborhood of \$5,000.

M. Neldoff, Russian ambassador to Turkey, has notified the Sultan that the agreement of the powers upon the question of the enforcement of reforms in Turkey is perfect and that they demand that there shall be no delay in giving assent to the proposed reforms.

HOW KEROSENE IS REFINED.

Something About a Remarkable American Industry.

How many housekeepers, asks the Chicago Tribune, as they fill their lamps with kerosene oil or their summer stoves with gasoline, have any idea how these oils are made? And yet a few miles from Chicago, at Whiting, Ind., is the largest oil refinery in the world.

Naphtha, benzine, gasoline or kerosene, the last often called coal or illuminating oil, belong to the same family. The three first named being lighter oils, do not require nearly so much handling to bring them to perfection as the kerosene. This, of course, is easy to believe, but when it is said that from the same crude oil, after all the lighter oils have been distilled out, wax is made so closely resembling the product of the bee as to deceive even an expert, and that it is used in chewing gum factories, candle factories, laundries and even the candy factories, one is often met with a polite look of doubt or an incredulous shrug of the shoulders. Yet it is so. It is possible to get yet further, and say that hundreds of homes in Whiting and in Chicago will be made comfortable this winter by the refuse that adheres to the bottom and sides of the "stills" after even the wax has been pressed out. This refuse makes a good coke, is easily lighted, and is warmer, cleaner and cheaper than coal. Hundreds of tons are removed from the stills daily before they are "charged" again, and hundreds of those who use this fuel do not know that it was once crude oil, dug in the Ohio fields, and piped on to Whiting. The carbon used in electric lights is also made from this coke. Nothing is wasted.

As the most common kerosene oil is perhaps the most interesting of the products. After leaving the crude stills it appears again in "sweetening stills," or in the "compound cylinders," which perform the same work as the sweetening stills, but in a newer invention, and is patented by an outsider, who allows only forty in each refinery. The "sweeteners" form an important factor in the refining of Ohio oil. Owing to the "compound" before mentioned, and the continuous friction of the immense wire brushes, which keep the oil in a mad whirl, it loses much of its bad odor. It is again vaporized off, cooled in the condenser's boxes and passed off into the "steal" stills for the next process.

In the steam stills it is treated just the same as in the two previous processes, with the addition of a washing by steam from perforated pipes passing through it. It is "vaporized" off as before, and now one would suppose that it was ready for use. Not quite. The kerosene oil now passes into the agitator for the final process. The agitator is a funnel-shaped tank in which the oil is treated with acid and beaten and blown about by a machine called a blower and washed by torrents of water until it roars like the lake in a storm. Every particle of foreign matter is thus expelled. It is then pumped off into the storage tanks for shipping.

Military Signal Torch.

A new torch for military signaling consists of an asbestos ball in a wire cage, at the end of a long staff, just below the asbestos ball is a copper drip cup. The ball is dipped into a bucket of kerosene oil, and is set on fire at a little boufire, which is kept burning during the operation. As fast as the oil burns out, the torch is dipped in the oil, so that the signaling can go on as long as the kerosene lasts. The torch is extinguished with a copper snuffer. The old form of torch was a large copper cylinder, with an ordinary wick at the end of a staff. The cylinder containing the oil could be used for only a few minutes at a time, because it became heated and caused the oil to explode. The new torch gives out a much larger flame, which can be seen with the naked eye for seven miles, and through a field glass for twelve miles on clear nights, and at a good distance in rain or mist.

A Brave Mother.

As showing the force of maternal love among the lower animals, there are few more pathetic incidents than the following which comes from Australia: The owner of a country station was sitting one evening on the balcony outside of his house, when he was surprised to notice a kangaroo lingering about, alternately approaching and retiring from the house, as though half in doubt and fear what to do. At length she approached the water-pails, and taking a young one from her pouch, held it to the water to drink.

While her babe was satisfying its thirst the mother was quivering all over with excitement, for she was only a few feet from the balcony, on which one of her great foes was sitting watching her. The little one having finished drinking, it was replaced in the pouch, and the old kangaroo started off at a rapid pace.

When the natural timidity of the kangaroo is taken into account, it will be recognized what astonishing bravery this affectionate mother betrayed. It is a pleasing ending to the story that the eye witness was so affected by the scene that from that time forward he could never shoot a kangaroo.—Our Dumb Animals.

The Canadian Government is considering the advisability of deepening the St. Lawrence and the canals from Montreal to Lake Erie to twenty-one feet. Grain then may be sent by steamer from Duluth to Montreal and thence to Europe at a great saving of time and money.