

THE STATE CAPITOL BURNED.

THE SENATE CHAMBER AND HOUSE DESTROYED.

The Main Building a Complete Mass of Ruins.—Loss Over \$500,000 Partly Covered by Insurance.—Cause of Fire.

Fire destroyed the main Capitol building at Harrisburg on Tuesday afternoon, and the law making bodies of Pennsylvania are without a home.

The fire which started in the rooms of Lieutenant Governor Lyon some time Tuesday forenoon, but was not discovered until a few minutes before 1 o'clock is responsible for this condition of things.

The lieutenant governor's apartments are on the second floor of the main capitol building directly over the senate chamber, and it was only a short time before the senate was to have reconvened that a page hurried to the desk of President Pro. Tem. McCarrell, who was about to take his seat preparatory to calling the body to order, with the information that there was fire in the room overhead, and in a twinkling everybody on the floor knew of the fire.

The senate was to have received the amended Mitchell treasury investigation from the house and for this purpose the senators took a recess at 12:25 o'clock until 1. But the resolution was forgotten and the attention of all was turned in the direction of the room in which the smoke was discovered. "Get out your buckets," was the command of Chief Clerk Edwin M. Smiley to a group of excited senate attendants who were standing about not knowing what to do. The chief clerk's orders were obeyed; but the most efficient bucket brigade in existence could not have extinguished the flames that were eating their way around the upper part of the building between the brick work and the walls. As a proof of this the most earnest efforts of the Harrisburg fire department were found to be entirely unavailing so far as the saving of the main building was concerned. The men with the buckets returned to their chief with the news that the fire could not be reached. Anticipating this Senator Librarian Miller pulled the auxiliary fire alarm in the senate library. When they reached the building the flames had gained such headway that old firemen predicted the destruction of the entire structure. And so it proved.

With their apparatus on the ground the firemen saw before them a blaze peculiarly hard to reach because of its location. To get a stream in play required the scaling of a small annex back of the senate chamber and then the ascension to the roof of the main building. Meanwhile the flames had burst forth from the numerous chimneys on the roof. An attempt was made to put a line of hose in through the rotunda and up on to the second floor. While this might have been effectual had the department arrived sooner it was ineffectual now and it was not long before the whole upper floor west of the main corridor was a seething, hissing mass of flame. Nor were the efforts to prevent the spread to the house portion of the building successful, and all efforts were made to save the adjoining buildings. An hour and a half after the alarm had been sounded this condition was brought about and it was announced that the other buildings were safe. The weather conditions were most disagreeable. There was a driving storm of rain and snow, accompanied by a wind that threatened to throw the embers on to the adjoining structures; but happily this did not occur.

Senator Grady declares he detected the smoke as early as 10:30 o'clock, and this would seem to bear out the assertion that the fire had been burning slowly some hours before being discovered. The Philadelphia Senator dispatched page boys at different times to see if there was not something burning in some portion of the senate chamber or in one of the committee or clerks' room, but they all returned with the message that there was nothing wrong. Just before the senate took its recess the same senator says the smell was more pronounced and during the recess the fire was discovered.

The scenes in and about senate when it became known that the building was doomed were striking. The excitement was intense. Chief Clerk Smiley first thought of the records and many of these were taken to places of safety. The most valuable state records were not in the burned building, having been taken, soon after its completion, to the fire-proof executive building.

The theory which has the most foundation in fact is that it originated from the open hearth fire in the lieutenant governor's room and burned under the

floor along the joists to the hall partition where it was discovered. This hearth was ordered rebuilt last summer by Senate Librarian Miller as he deemed it unsafe at that time. The accumulation of the dust of many years and inflammable particles made the progress of the fire under the floor an easy matter.

The first persons to reach the actual scene of the fire were Senator Saylor, of Montgomery, and Senate Librarian Herman P. Miller. Senator Saylor says that when he entered the room of the lieutenant governor he found it thick with smoke. Taking a hatchet he cut through the floor back of a book case from which shot forth flames that gave unmistakable evidence that the fire was of a serious nature.

There was very little effort made to save the furniture in the building. The fact is that the fire was looked upon as trivial too long before it became only too apparent that it was to be a most disastrous conflagration.

The capitol building was one of the four on the hill. It stood at the head of State street and faced toward the Susquehanna river. The structure was "T" shaped. On the right of the main entrance was the house and on the left the senate chamber. The long hall was lined with committee rooms on either side. Above them were the rooms of the president pro tem of the senate, the forestry and game commission and the caucuses rooms. There were no offices over the house chamber. Above the senate were the rooms of the lieutenant governor and the department of education.

While the senate was excited over the fire the house was transacting business. But it did not take long to convey the information to the lower branch that the fire was in progress. Messengers brought the word and soon there was a hurried adjournment. Many of the members lingered thinking the blaze was slight. When they realized the situation fully they started to work to save their property. Others then appeared and a few desks and chairs were removed. When the last man had left the flames were leaping along the roof of the house. Representative Charles E. Voorhees was the last man to leave and he made his escape just as an explosion occurred in the dome of the building.

Before the flames had been got under control the search for a new house for the legislature began. A number of members expressed a strong desire to go to Philadelphia, where it was presumed adequate quarters could be secured, but this plan was found to be open to grave constitutional objections and has been practically abandoned.

A telegram was received from Governor Hastings, who was in Philadelphia, announcing that he would return and call a meeting of the board of property at 8 o'clock. There was a general discussion, ending in a decision to have the senate meet in the supreme court room and the house at the same hour in the United States court room. Seats and some temporary desks will be provided by that time. The legislative program was considered at some length. Some of those present discussed a recess for some time, while others thought the legislature should remain in session and provide for a new capitol.

Senator Flinn has made a practical suggestion which is meeting with general favor. He thinks a church building with two halls can be secured so that the senate and house can meet under the same house. Two of the trustees of one of the finest church structures in the city are of the opinion that it can be secured and will bring the matter before a meeting of their colleagues. Governor Hastings said there was not the slightest necessity for the legislature to be abandoned for a single day.

There were about fourteen persons hurt at the fire, but fortunately the injuries of the greater part of that number were slight. At least a score of persons were bruised or scratched while in the house when the ceiling fell or were thrown violently about when walls and partitions came down near them and caused strong currents of air. Not a few of the spectators got scratches and bruises by falls in endeavoring to get out of the way of falling material or of hose line.

A number of firemen encountered great risks and perilous situations in fighting the fire before it had spread all through the building. When the explosion of gas occurred a party were working in one of the wings and they were hurled with great force against the walls and floors. There were several men who had very narrow escapes after the fire was under control in the senate ante-rooms and the committee rooms. They were using streams on the blazing ruins and large portions of the ceiling fell. Those who worked outside were in constant danger from the fall of cornices and not a few men were struck by pieces

CONCLUSION OF COURT.

A SHORT SESSION WAS HELD THIS WEEK.

Complete Report of All Cases Disposed of Last Week—Only a Few Cases Put on Trial.

The following is the report of proceedings in court last week, from Wednesday.

The following criminal cases, entered to January sessions were disposed of as follows, last week. Com. vs. Geo. Johnson; charge betrayal; prosecutrix Esther Grubb; recognizance renewed to April sessions.

Com. vs. Charles Daywalt; charge betrayal; prosecutrix Martha Parsons; defendant plead guilty and received the usual sentence in such cases.

Com. vs. Frank Snyder; charge receiving stolen goods; prosecutor Jere Brumgart; bill ignored.

Com. vs. Geo. B. Shaffer; charge rape; prosecutrix Sallie Auman; bill ignored.

Com. vs. Andrew Immel; charge false pretense; prosecutor A. F. Harter; bill ignored and the prosecutor to pay the costs, save the \$4 due the county.

Com. vs. Geo. Grimes; charge surety of the peace; prosecutrix Caroline Grimes; bill ignored and the county to pay the costs.

Com. vs. Joseph McCulley; charge betrayal; prosecutrix Dolly Martz; settled.

Com. vs. Samuel Butler; charge betrayal; prosecutrix Mabel McCloskey; defendant renewed his recognizance to April sessions.

Com. vs. Wm. Reed; charge assault and battery; prosecutrix Josephine Reed; bill ignored and J. M. Keichline to pay the costs.

Court called on Monday morning with Judges Love and Faulkner on the bench. The greater portion of the forenoon was consumed in hearing petitions and motions.

The list of jurors called and thirty-three answered to their names.

The following civil cases were disposed of on Monday.

Michael Canavan vs. Orrin L. Schoonover; settled.

David Rothrock, administrator, de bonis non cum testamento annexo of Henry Rothrock, deceased, in part of the use of David Rothrock and John R. Rothrock vs. Henry Rothrock, Jr. with notice to John Woods, Geo. Garbrick, Sallie J. Kelley, Wm. Kelley and David Kelley as terre tenants; this case is special.

James Auman vs. the Central R. R. of Pa.; plea trespass, non suit.

Alfred Thompson and E. C. Schildt, trading as Thompson & Schildt vs. Wm. Oswald; settled.

Montgomery & Co. vs. R. C. Irvin, defendant, and H. R. Curtin, administrator of etc., of Constans Curtin, deceased; verdict in favor of the plaintiff for \$135.36.

Michael Nicholas vs. R. M. McLain and Isaac Thomas, trading and doing business as A. M. McClinton & Co.; continued.

Montgomery & Co. vs. R. C. Irvin, defendant, and H. R. Curtin, administrator of etc., of Constans Curtin, deceased; verdict in favor of the plaintiff for \$270.34.

John A. Mann vs. George Deitz, Robt. J. Mann and James R. Fye; continued.

Wm. Mann vs. Robert Cooke, Jr.; non suit.

Frank Withey and Morgan Griffith trading as Withey & Griffith vs. Wm. Farker; verdict in favor of the plaintiffs for \$720.

Rose Sternberg Lyon vs. Gustavo Lyon; continued.

John M. Long, Endorse vs. Wm. T. Leathers and Allison H. Leathers, executors of etc., of John B. Leathers, deceased, who was endorser for W. M. Leathers; non suit.

Geo. R. Boak vs. Geo. Bows, Arthur Graham, and Harry Fye; verdict in favor of the plaintiff against Geo. Bows for the land described in the writ.

W. H. Williams and Jennie B. Williams administrators of etc., of Aaron Williams, deceased, vs. S. R. Pringle, executor of etc., of Terrance McAlarney, deceased; verdict in favor of the plaintiffs for \$325.20.

Recent Union Co. Deaths.

Emma, wife of Isaac L. Zellers, formerly of Millinburg, aged 55 years.

Peter Ketchum, of White Deer, aged 68 years and 4 months.

Edward Hubler, of Buffalo X Roads, aged 32 years.

George Baker, of Mazeppa, aged 83.

Mrs. Grace Knauer, of Swengel, age 70 years.

New Columbia, wife of Solomon Ranck, aged about 65 years.

Rev. Hoarick's Appointments.

Sunday Feb. 7, at Centre Hall, at 2 p. m.; at Spring Mills at 7 p. m.; at Tusseyville at 10 a. m.

THE GANG DEFTY ARREST.

Entrenched with Plenty of Arms and Ammunition.

There is intense excitement around Centerville, Snyder County, owing to the fact that a band of five men, accused of having attempted to break into the dwelling of a neighbor, and who were driven away at the point of his rifle, defy the officers of the law to arrest them. Among the gang are a nephew and brother of a man by the name of Ettinger, the latter having committed suicide while imprisoned in the county jail for complicity in the Kintzler murder, for which he had been sentenced to life imprisonment. Two men by the name of Moyer were hanged for this murder in 1880.

The people who reside in this sparsely settled district are terror-stricken at this new outbreak of lawlessness. The desperadoes are safely entrenched in a little hut on the edge of a neck of timber and defy the constabulary force to take them. They have revolvers, rifles, knives and ammunition to repel any onslaught that might be made against them, and threaten all parties with death who dare to break in upon them with a view to their capture.

A Coasting Accident.

Four young people were seriously injured and eleven more or less hurt in a coasting accident at Bellefonte on Saturday night. Fifteen young men and girls were coming down a steep grade on Allegheny street on a big sled when the guider lost his hold on the ropes and the sled collided with a tree, piling the occupants with terrible force on the stone curbing and pavement.

The four who were badly hurt are: Fred Thomas, colored, who was guiding the sled, leg, jaw and three fingers broken, badly cut and bruised.

Florence Jacobs, ankle sprained, severely cut and bruised on face and head.

Jennie Irwin, had bruises and cuts on head and body.

Bruce Barnhart, leg broken, badly cut and bruised.

Typhoid at Lewistown.

A despatch from Lewistown states there are thirty-five cases of typhoid fever in Lewistown and the epidemic seems to be spreading. The borough has failed to comply with the law requiring it to have a board of health, the town council refusing to appoint one when the last board resigned. No effort has been made to ascertain the cause by local authorities and new cases are developing daily.

The state board of health has been notified. The blame is laid to the water and recent digging up of the streets for putting in the new water system. There have not as yet been any deaths, but there are several persons critically ill.

Reform in Primary Elections.

Senator Losch, of Schuylkill county, has introduced a bill for a change in the manner of conducting primary elections. The bill proposes radical changes from the present way of conducting primaries. Among other things the bill, which is a voluminous one and which is to thoroughly legalize all the machinery of primary elections, provides that the primaries of all political parties desiring to nominate candidates for state and county offices shall be held at the regular polling place on the third Tuesday of August of each year from 2 to 7 p. m. and the elections shall be conducted by the general election officers of the precinct.

These primaries are termed "nomination elections." The bill provides for assessments to defray the expenses of elections. Under its terms the assessments are as follows: For presidential elector, \$25; for governor, \$1,000; lieutenant governor, state treasurer and secretary of internal affairs, \$500 each; auditor general, \$400, and judges of the supreme and superior courts, \$1,000 each. The assessment of candidates for county offices varies according to the population of the counties in which they are running. In Philadelphia the assessment is fixed at five per cent of the salary of the office for a year. The bill does away with nominating conventions and has a penalty clause which imposes a fine of \$100 and an imprisonment of not less than three months nor more than two years for any violations of the terms of the act.

Governor Charged with Contempt.

Philadelphia, Jan. 31.—Application was made in court yesterday, and held under advisement by Attorney J. W. Newlin for an attachment against Gov. Hastings for contempt of court. The Governor has neglected to obey a subpoena to testify in the settlement of the Hare-Powell estate.

Take a Church.

Grace M. E. church, in Harrisburg, has been secured for the meeting of the legislature. This would be a good time to have a revival in that church. If the Methodists can convert the legislature there will be extra joy in Heaven and all over Pennsylvania.

MCKINLEY'S CABINET.

SELECTING MATERIAL WHICH DOES NOT MEET APPROVAL.

Gage, His Secretary of Treasury, a Peculiar Republican.—The Same Old McKinley Tariff Up for Discussion.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—If there is anything in the old superstition, McKinley's ears must have been burning ever since it was announced that he had chosen Lyman J. Gage, of Chicago, a man who voted for Cleveland, signed the petition upon which Gov. Altgeld pardoned the Chicago anarchists, and who has for years been known as almost a free trader in his tariff views, for his Secretary of the Treasury. It is a great effort for the Republicans in Congress to keep from expressing publicly the disgust they feel for this break of McKinley's, but in view of the official pie that McKinley will soon begin to distribute, they are making the effort.

After all that has been said and done about the intention of the Republicans of the House Ways and Means Committee to give us a new and thoroughly conservative tariff bill, they are proceeding to give us the same old McKinley bill, having already adopted several entire McKinley schedules.

The arbitration treaty has been amended and favorably reported to the Senate, although every silver man on the Committee voted against it.

Although it is the policy of the Republican leaders in both House and Senate to keep the Cuban question in the background, there are some men who refuse to be gagged. One of these is Representative Hardy, of Indiana, who got the floor to speak on the Agricultural appropriation bill, and proceeded to make a red hot five minute speech for Cuba, which he would have continued had not his request for unanimous consent for an extension of time been refused. He made a direct attack upon the administration, and those Senators and Representatives who, he said, were dining with the Spanish minister too often to be able to hear the appeals of the people struggling for liberty.

It was brought out during a debate in the House which resulted in the rejection of the Conference report on the bill to confer the rights and franchises of the Atlantic and Pacific railroads upon the purchasers under the mortgage foreclosure, that at least two of the New England Republicans in the House do not entertain exalted opinions of each other. They are Mr. Powers, of Vermont, who as Chairman of the Pacific Railroads Committee, had charge of the report, and Mr. Barrett, of Mass., who opposed the report as a stock-jobbing scheme. Mr. Powers started by poking fun at the dudish dress of Mr. Barrett and wound up by slurring at the whole Mass. delegation, and charging that Boston was the place where railroads were wrecked. This aroused the ire of Mr. Barrett, who said: "I am a young man. I came here with no reputation beyond service in the legislature of my state, but the gentleman from Vermont came here after a long term of service on the Supreme Court of his state. What was the record of that Court? Ask any one of the shareholders of the Central Railroad of Vermont, who were robbed by the decrees of that Court, and then let the gentleman talk to me of Mass. wrecking railroads." Attempts were made to stop Mr. Barrett on a point of order, but Speaker Reed with a grim smile overruled the point.

According to Republican gossip, one of the surest ways to get an aspirant for Cabinet honors turned down by McKinley, is to get him endorsed by Senator Chandler. It is said that McKinley dreads nothing so much as that he may by accident do something that Chandler wants him to do, or appoint somebody whom Chandler wants appointed.

Senator Allen took occasion to reply to the various rumors saying that he would vote for the Republican tariff bill, by saying: "I have said that I believe the proposed tariff measure of the Republicans ought to be permitted to pass, if it has sufficient votes, after a reasonable debate. This does not mean, however, that I will vote for the Republican tariff bill. On the contrary, I shall vote against it." In other words, Senator Allen occupies the same position toward the tariff bill that Senator Jones and other prominent Democrats do—that no filibustering shall be indulged in to prevent its coming to a vote. It was just the same with the Monetary Conference bill which was passed last week.

Although it was considered a matter of doubt, the Republican managers had hopes that some of the silver Republican Senators might be persuaded to vote with their old party when the new tariff bill comes up for action at the extra session of Congress. They

no longer indulge such hopes. They know that not only will the silver Republicans not vote for the tariff bill, but that they will vote against it if their votes can defeat it. This has been fully determined upon since the Republicans resorted to such extraordinary tactics to defeat Senator Dubois, of Idaho, as a punishment for having followed his convictions and the wishes of his constituents by having supported Bryan and silver in the late campaign.

Death of George B. Roberts.

George B. Roberts, president of the Pennsylvania railroad, died at four o'clock Saturday afternoon at his home in Bala, a suburb of Philadelphia, from heart failure, which was superinduced by indigestion, aged 63 years. He was forced to take to his bed about two months ago with catarrh of the stomach and grew steadily worse until the time of his death.

President Roberts began railroadng as a rodman and rose to fill the highest position in the greatest railroad company in this country.

Some 20 years ago Mr. Roberts was in Centre Hall, with several other directors of his company, on a trip over the proposed route for our railroad. He was a man of few words but what he said went to the point, hence many took him to be cold, which was a mistake. The editor of this paper, as Chairman of a Committee to further the interests of the road thro our valley, at different times met with Mr. Roberts in his office in Philadelphia, and all those interviews left a highly favorable impression of Mr. Roberts upon the members of the Committee. His manner was pleasing and he accorded the Committee respectful hearings.

As the head of a marvelous railroad system, Mr. Roberts had no superior in this country or Europe. The successful management of so great a railway system is more intricate than the control of our National government. Under his cool head, wise judgment, devotion to his high calling, and constant study to put it upon a high plane, both for its patrons as well as its stockholders, the Pennsylvania railroad became the world's model. His conservatism and probity kept the corporation free from discord and strife; it was not conducted to serve the stock gamblers, but ran in a channel of its own, steering clear of the breakers that stranded other great railroads.

Mr. Roberts was a strictly business President, and so close was his devotion to his duties, that his years were lessened by overwork. But, he ended his days, leaving behind the grandest monument of railway enterprise in the world. He was the embodiment of honor, a helper in Christian work and a liberal and cheerful giver.

Frank Thomson, first vice-president, will, no doubt, be chosen Mr. Robert's successor. All eyes seem to rest upon him. He is eminently fitted for the responsible position and will tread in the footsteps of his lamented chief and friend.

The funeral on Tuesday was attended by eminent men from all parts of the country.

Since writing the above, Mr. Thomson was unanimously elected President of the Company.

RESIGNED HIS PASTORATE.

Rev. F. F. Christine to Leave Elysburg.

Rev. F. F. Christine, for nine years pastor of the Elysburg Presbyterian church, has resigned and will move to Centre Hall, where he has been called to the pastorate of the Presbyterian church at that place. During his pastorate at Elysburg Mr. Christine built a church at a cost of about \$5500, built the Mountain church at a cost of about \$5000 and repaired the Rush church at a cost of \$2400, and added many new names to the church roll. That the members of his charge regret to have him move to another field is attested by the following action of Elysburg and Rush churches in passing resolution of esteem and regret at his departure from them.—Sunbury American.

Weekly Weather Report.

Temperature: Highest. Lowest.
Jan. 28 13 2 part cloudy.
" 29 18 5 cloudy.
" 30 24 5 part cloudy.
" 31 26 1 bel. 0; clear.
Feb. 1 30 3 above 0; p. cl.
" 2 36 25 cloudy.
" 3 36 22 clear.
On 28th storm; on 2nd Feb., 11 inches snow during day.

One Way to be Happy.

Is to attend to the comfort of your family. Should one catch a slight cold or cough, call on R. E. Bartholomew, Centre Hall, and G. H. Long, Spring Mills, and get a trial bottle of Otto's Cure, the great German Remedy free. We give it away to prove that we have a sure cure for Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Constipation, and all diseases of the throat and Lungs. Large sizes 50c. and 25c.