FARMERS IN SESSION.

The Annual Conventions of the Wheel and Alliance Advocates.

TO COMBINE WITH THE KNIGHTS.

Committees Appointed to Prepare a Scheme for Consolidation.

IT WILL ONLY BE A TEMPORARY AFFAIR.

If the Two Bodies Cannot Agree They Will Separate Peaceably.

The various grangers organizations assembled in convention at St. Louis yesterday. They propose to effect a consolidation among themselves, and then enter into an agreement with the Knights of Labor. Some of the members do not favor the latter plan, however.

ST. LOUIS, December 3.—The annual convention of Farmers' and Laborers' Union met here to-day with a large number of delegates in attendance. The convention was called to order by President Evan Jones, of Texas. After addresses of welcome by Mayor Noonan on behalf of city and by Governor Francis for the State, and a brief response by J. H. McDowell, Chairman of the Executive Board, the convention took a recess until afternoon when it met in executive session.

At 1:30 the convention reassembled in executive session for business. These meetings are to be secret. The Committee on Credentials reported the following organizations as represented by delegates on the floor: Arkansas Wheel, Arkansas Alliance, Kentucky Wheel, Kentucky Alliance, Kansas Wheel, Virginia Alliance, Georgia Alliance, Tennessee Farmers and Laborers' Union, Louisiana Farmers' Union, Oklahoma Wheel, Maryland Alliance, Alabama Alliance, Nebraska Alliance, North Carolina Alliance, South Carolina Alliance, Missouri Farmers and Laborers' Union, Indiana Farmers and Laborers' Union, and the Texas Alliance, conditionally.

A NATIONAL ALLIANCE.

The following committees were then appointed: To Confer with Alliance North on Formation of National Alliance; on co-Operation with Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association.

After listening to addresses by President Evan Jones a recess was taken.

The delegates to the convention of the Northern Alliance meeting at the Planters House, under President J. D. Burrows and Secretary August Post, held an informal conference in parlor 22. There are 75 delegates to this convention, representing the State organizations of Illinois, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Dakota, Colorado, and Washington, and under the plan of consolidation with the Farmers' and Laborers' Union of America this body will probably adjourn to sit at the convention at the Exposition building.

At a meeting of the Farmers' Alliance this afternoon at the Planters House at the request of the Farmers and Laborers' Union a committee was appointed to confer with a similar committee from the union to discuss the advisability of a consolidatian. The following are the committee: I. M. Morris, Kansas; Alonzo Wardell, South Dakota; George W. Sprague, Minnesota; A. J. Streator, Illinois; John H. Powers, Nebraska; Walter Muir, North Dakota; N. B. Ashby, Iowa; William Ulrich, Wisconsin; T. V. Williams, Washington. The majority of these are not in favor of a consolidation.

THE CONSOLIDATION PLANS.

As to the proposed consolidation with the Knights of Labor, F. L. Livingstone, President of the Georgia State Organization, said: "We propose to form an offensive and defensive alliance with the Knights of Labor, and to co-operate with them as long as it is mutually advantageous. If our paths lead us along the same road it adds to the strength of both orders to work together.

"When our ways diverge we can part in friendship to meet further along in some other issue. I am not one of the principal advocates of co-operation with the Knights, but I can see the advantages to be derived from such a step.

POWDERLY'S PLAN.

Not an Amalgamation, but Only an Alliance, Intended—The New Land Plank of the Knights of Labor—The Communism Charge.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

PHILADELPHIA, December 3.—Mr. Powderly was seen in the Broad street station while waiting for the train for St. Louis, and in answer to a question concerning the approaching conference of the Knights of Labor officials and the Alliance, said:

I cannot tell you anything concerning the outcome of the meeting. The majority of the people have the idea that the amalgamation of the two organizations is intended. Now that is a mistake, for that is not our purpose at all. We intend to form, however, a strong alliance, which will have the weight of a practical amalgamation without causing either the Knights of Labor or the Farmers' Alliance to lose their identity as separate organizations.

The poor man does not hold a secure title to any land which he may own at the present time. There is a man in Scranton who purchased a lot some time ago, and now, as there is a railroad about to lay its tracks over a route which will cut right through this particular piece of ground, he will be compelled to surrender his property. I have no objection to that. The will and demands of the majority must be acceded to, but if it is right to allow a railroad to peremptorily demand property of the owner, why should not the Government have the same right? Our new land plank favors the plan of the Government controlling all of the land, and while it is considered right to allow corporations to come into the possession of the land by what is practically forcible possession, the cry of 'Communism' is raised as soon as we say that the Government has the same right.

The railroads now control more land than the Government, and in consequence the creature is more powerful than the creator, but that is not as it should be. I believe it is said that at one time, while the Pennsylvania Legislature was in session, a member arose and made the motion that "If the Pennsylvania Railroad had no more business to transact, I move we adjourn." Of course, he had to apologize, but his assertion contained a great deal of truthful force.

YOUNG WATTERSON ELOPES.

A Lovely, If Not Star-Eyed, Goddess Captures the Courier-Journal Scion.

NASHVILLE, TENN., December 3.—Some two months ago Ewing Watterson, son of Hon. Henry Watterson, editor of the *Courier-Journal*, took up his residence at McMinnville, a quiet little mountain town in Warren county, Tennessee, for the alleged purpose of studying medicine.

His tutor was Dr. Thomas Black, at whose home he boarded. Dr. Black has several children, among them a pretty black-eyed daughter, Jennie, aged 18. She and young Watterson soon became fast friends, and as nothing was suspected by her parents they were allowed to be together like brother and sister and soon learned that there was something sweeter than friendship.

Of course it was out of the question for them to ask the consent of Miss Black's parents for an early marriage, so on Saturday afternoon Watterson secured a horse and buggy and took Miss Black out for a ride, which extended to Smithville, in DeKalb county. This place was reached just before midnight.

The County Court Clerk was awakened and a license secured, and a minister was found and persuaded to repair to the residence of the bride's uncle, Alex Black, where at midnight the eloping couple were married.

They started back to McMinnville Sunday morning, reaching there that night. They passed through here this evening, en route to Louisville, where they will seek the parental blessing.

DOM PEDRO GAVE IT TO HIM.

A Highly Prized Medal Possessed by Captain Beers, of the Alliance.

NEW YORK, December 3.—Though the fact has never before been published, Captain James R. Beers, of the United States and Brazilian mail steamship Alliance, was probably the last man to receive a medal from Dom Pedro as Emperor of Brazil. Captain Beers is certainly the only American ship commander so honored.

The medal was presented the Captain on the last visit of the steamer to Rio Janeiro as a mark of the Emperor's appreciation of the Captain's bravery during the fire on board the Alliance last July.

The presentation was made by a special committee sent by Dom Pedro at a fete given in the commander's honor. The medal, of solid gold, has a portrait of Dom Pedro on one side, and on the other are the words in Portuguese, "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

Many of the nobility of Rio Janeiro were present at the ball, as well as a number of the passengers Captain Beers saved from certain death on that memorable July night. The modest Captain was banqueted in style and almost overwhelmed with honors. When the presentation was made it formed a fitting climax, and Captain Beers was fairly overcome. Afterward his officers, who with him had shared the perils of that night and helped to save the steamer from threatened destruction, crowded around and congratulated him. None were heartier than Chief Officer Meisner, whose curly brown beard was nearly burned off his face and who has not even now fully recovered.

A SCHOOLMARM'S GREAT LUCK.

Her Bravery Leads a Wealthy Mine-Owner to Offer His Hand and Heart.

CHATTANOOGA, December 3.—A most romantic story in real life has become known to-day by the arrival of Mrs. Dandridge Harrison from New Mexico to visit relatives. Two years ago Mrs. Harrison, then Miss Childress, was teaching school on Sand Mountain, and she became the object of the affections of one of her older pupils, Jim Majors, who, failing to have his affections reciprocated, began to circulate stories against her. Miss Childress procured a shotgun, and, hunting him up, demanded a retraction, which he made in the most abject terms.

The facts were published at the time, and attracted the notice of a wealthy mine owner in New Mexico, who wrote to her, asking her to correspond with him. She paid no attention to the letter, as she received hundreds of letters at the time from all parts of the country; but after a week, for some reason unknown to herself, as she states, she answered this letter, and the result was a correspondence which has now culminated in her happy marriage.

Mr. Harrison, the successful suitor, is the owner of valuable mining property, and the brave young school-teacher returns a wealthy lady.

A VICIOUS KENTUCKY HORSE

Kills His Master and Breaks the Legs of His Brother.

FLEMINGSBURG, KY., December 3.—Last Thursday morning Henry Waltz, a farmer of near Plummer's Mill, left his home to attend to some business matters at Muse, a village five miles distant. A few hours afterward his horse came galloping into the barnyard, the bridle hanging loose and the saddle overturned. Yesterday evening Frank Waltz, brother of the missing man, in company with neighbors, found the dead body of Mr. Waltz frozen in the ice in a creek. Marks on the body indicated that he had been thrown from his horse onto some rough surface and then rolled into the creek, where he was drowned.

After the body had been recovered Frank Waltz was sent home to break the news, but when half way there the same horse that had caused his brother's death threw him, breaking both legs and probably fatally injuring him, and he would have been killed outright by the vicious brute, which was biting and kicking at him, had not help arrived and beaten the animal off.

PATCHED IN MANY PLACES.

A New Jersey Man Who Has Survived All Sorts of Injuries.

CAMDEN, N. J., December 3.—With a big silver plate under the skin of his forehead, serving the purposes of bone, some of his ribs gone and his internal organs so awry that his heart gets in its work from the right side, George Burns manages to get along in life somehow. He was released from the Camden jail yesterday, where, it was alleged, he had been sent by mistake for drunkenness. He claimed that he had been taking morphine and sat down on a doorstep to rest, was arrested on a charge of drunkenness and sent to jail by Mayor Pratt for ten days.

Burns claims that he was an engineer on the steamer Savannah, which foundered at Gay's Head in October, 1884. While trying to reverse his engines he was thrown into the machinery. His left leg was broken in four places, the front of his head was crushed in, all the ribs of one side were crushed and broken, and he was hurt internally. He says he was patched up by Dr. D. Hays Agnew, of Philadelphia.

HE LEFT TWO WIDOWS.

Singular Disclosures in a New Jersey Damage Suit.

NEWARK, N. J., December 3.—An interesting story has been brought to light in this city through litigation over the estate of Frederick S. Stondinger, of Hilton. Stondinger was killed in an accident on the Morris and Essex Railroad about a year ago, and suit for $50,000 damages is pending. The brothers and sisters of the deceased claim that the woman whom the public knew as Mrs. F. S. Stondinger was not the legal wife of the victim of the railroad accident, as a Mr. Healy, who married the woman in 1873, and whom Mrs. Stondinger believed dead before she became the wife of Stondinger, has put in an appearance.

Healy disappeared mysteriously in 1873, and his wife waited five years before remarrying. She now sues to recover a share in the Stondinger estate.

REUNITED AFTER 40 YEARS.

Romantic Marriage of Two Old People Who Were Lovers Long Ago.

WILKESBARRE, December 3.—Hector Stephens, aged 72 years, and Mrs. Mary Ross, aged 55, were married at Nicholson on Friday. A son of the groom, aged 39, acted as best man, and a granddaughter, aged 20, was maid of honor. Forty years ago Stephens loved Mrs. Ross, but the great difference in their ages prevented a union. Stephens then went to Nevada and married. Mrs. Ross followed suit later.

Recently both lost their early partners in life, both got to hear of it, correspondence was started and the old love flame rekindled, which culminated in their marriage. Stephens is now wealthy.

A SMALL BUT FATAL WOUND.

A Man Hurts His Thumb Slightly and Dies of Blood Poisoning.

PHILADELPHIA, December 3.—About nine months ago Mark Casto, a middle-aged man residing in Atlantic City, received an injury to his thumb, which a few days ago resulted in blood poisoning and caused his death yesterday morning at the Episcopal Hospital. As the wound was slight, Casto neglected to attend to it, and a few months ago it began to decompose.

On Monday last the thumb was amputated, and Casto grew ill. His body began to swell, and he suffered excruciating pains, which were only alleviated by death.

GROVER CATCHES IT

From a Boston Broker Against Whom He Had Rendered a Decision.

NOTHING ELSE WAS EXPECTED.

By Mr. Vanner, Who Says He Wouldn't Have Given $100 for His Chances

WHEN MR. CLEVELAND WAS APPOINTED

The Prospective Loser in the Case Makes a Statement of the Affair.

Broker C. H. Vanner, of Boston, against whom ex-President Cleveland, acting as referee, has rendered an adverse opinion in a suit brought by George B. Phelps, is out in a statement. He says he never expected a favorable opinion from the ex-President, but doesn't say why.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

BOSTON, December 3.—Broker C. H. Vanner, who has offices in Boston and New York, but whose home is in this city, makes this reply to ex-President Grover Cleveland, who, as referee in the Vanner-Phelps case, reported against Mr. Vanner:

"I am not unmindful of the fact that a report made by ex-President Cleveland will have its influence upon some people, and for the time being, perhaps, work an injury to me, but I have no thought that the report can stand, because it is against the evidence. When the case was submitted to Mr. Cleveland I would not have given $100 to be guaranteed a verdict in my favor. The whole question is whether I acted as a broker, selling the bonds on commission, or whether I acted as a dealer, buying the bonds as low as I could and selling them as high as I could.

WHAT THE EVIDENCE SHOWS.

"There is no evidence which shows that I ever pretended to act as an agent or broker for Phelps. On the contrary, the correspondence proves that I accepted and bought the bonds at the net price fixed by Phelps. My books show that the transaction was just what I claim it to be, namely, for my own account, and not a commission trade. Furthermore, $25,000 of the bonds were not sold by me for nearly a month after I had bought the $100,000. There was no charge of commission or suggestion of one, which would have been the case had I acted as broker.

This transaction was in April, 1884, when it was not easy work to find a market for anything. In May, 1884, and again in November, 1884, Phelps offered me more of the same kind of bonds, which I didn't buy. In January, 1885, as the bonds defaulted their interest, Mr. Phelps was the contractor who built the Lamoille Valley Railroad, and he took these bonds in payment. He knew more about these bonds and their value than any one else, and it is ridiculous for him to say that I misled him as to their value.

HIS LAST LETTER.

My last letter from Mr. Phelps bears date June 15, 1886, or two years and two months after the transaction, and shows his views then of the character of the business, viz: That I bought the bonds of him, not selling them for him. The letter is as follows:

"WATERTOWN, N. Y., June 15, 1886.

"To C. H. Vanner & Co., Boston:

GENTLEMEN—Have you any objection to informing me who is the present owner of the $100,000 Lamoille Valley Extension Railroad Company bonds which you bought of me a year ago. Yours truly,

"GEORGE B. PHELPS.

"Many of my friends have seen the correspondence and agree that my position is right. If there had been any basis for the suit, which was not commenced for nearly five years after the transaction, I would not have fought it, but knowing it to be an unjust suit, I fought it and shall continue to fight it until that report is set aside. If Cleveland's decision should stand—something I do not anticipate—then every dealer will become a broker to the profits on securities purchased under an option."

A COMMERCIAL RESTRICTION

Imposed Upon American Vessels in the Canadian Pacific Waters.

OTTAWA, December 3.—Captain Roberts, of the steamer Olympian, has been instructed by the Collector of Customs for the port of Victoria, British Columbia, to land no more Canadian goods in bond from the United States. Some weeks ago representations were made to Ottawa that American vessels were permitted to do a coasting trade in British Columbian waters. As a result of these representations an order was passed by the Dominion Government which not only forbids American steamers carrying coast freight from different points on the British Columbia coast, but also prohibits them taking Canadian goods in bond for British Columbia from Sound ports to their destination.

This order has been enforced on the steamer Premier for over a month, she having been unable to take any bonded freight from Tacoma to Vancouver. But on account of the assurances of leading public men at Victoria that there was some mistake about the order, which would soon be rescinded, Mr. Hanley did not until a few days ago enforce it.

CLOTHES STOLEN FROM A CORPSE.

The Charge Made by a Witness in a Brooklyn Court.

NEW YORK, December 3.—In September, 1888, Augustine Tompkins, a marine, on leave of absence, was taken sick and died at the house of Mrs. Eliza Wilson, at No. 220 York street, Brooklyn. The boy was buried by Undertaker John McLean, who claimed that Mrs. Wilson had assumed the responsibility. She repudiated the claim against her, and yesterday McLean sued her for the amount, which was $66, in Justice Courtney's Court in Brooklyn. Much of the testimony was amusing, and that of James Callahan, an employe of McLean, especially. Callahan said:

"Mrs. Wilson told us to do the thing as cheap as we could, and we did. She got a suit of clothes for the corpse, but one of the boarders stole it, and so we had to bury the body with nothing on but a shirt, a collar and a pair of cuffs."

Justice Courtney dismissed the case.

KILLED BY CANNED CORN.

A Child's Death Results From Eating Food Prepared by Its Mother.

PHŒNIXVILLE, PA., December 3.—An infant child of Enos Griffith died to-day, it is supposed from eating canned corn, prepared by a new process involving the use of salicyclic acid. Mrs. Griffith herself put up the corn, which was eaten on Saturday—the child feeling well until this morning, when it was taken very ill and died in a few hours.

Meantime Mrs. Griffith fed a dozen chickens with the corn and every one of them died. The contents of another can, put up at the same time, are being analyzed by Dr. Emack, in order to discover, if possible, the true cause of the child's death.

A TUNNEL TO NIAGARA.

The Latest Scheme to Utilize the Power of the Falls.

BUFFALO, December 3.—Plans have been prepared for the construction of a tunnel from this city to Niagara Falls, through which it is proposed to conduct the water power of the latter place to this city, to be utilized as motive power for manufactories here. It will be made at a cost of $4,000,000.

Articles of incorporation have been filed by the Niagara River Tunnel Company, with General Jewett as President.

BIG GAME IN IT.

Startling Developments in the Wood Forgery Case—A Very Prominent Politician Now Said to be Implicated in the Affair.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

CINCINNATI, December 3.—Startling developments were made to day in the case of R. G. Wood, who forged the names of Governor-Elect Campbell, Senator Sherman, Congressman Butterworth, McKinley and S. S. Cox to the famous ballot-box contract used so prominently by the Republicans in the last campaign. Wood was arrested on the charge of circulating a libel, and his trial will come up in a few days. He has retained Colonel T. C. Campbell, of New York, to defend him.

During the past week Governor-elect Campbell has visited the city several times, and held consultations with the attorneys in the case. To-day Wood handed over to his attorney all the papers in the case. Among the lot are telegrams, letters and notes, that are said to implicate a very prominent Republican. Wood told his attorney the full story, but the papers tell more than Wood.

The name signed to the papers is that of this prominent Republican, and the contents show that he knew about the forgery long before it was sprung on the public. Colonel Campbell refused to make the papers public until the day of the trial.

Assistant United States District Attorney Probasco, a nephew of John Sherman, is the prosecutor in the case.

MAKING BILLIARD BALLS.

How the Spheres Are Fashioned From the Tusks of Elephants.

Mr. Burroughs, an English manufacturer of billiard balls, has been interviewed regarding his trade. He says the average number of balls cut from an elephant's tusks is ten, five from each tusk.

"The size of tusks out of which balls are turned are called scrivelloes. You cannot make a satisfactory ball out of a tusk that is over a certain size, because if you turn a 2 1-16 out of a tooth that measures 2¼ or 2⅜ you will remove too much of the outside skin or hard surface of the tusk. The nearer you have the tusk to the size of the ball the better surface you obtain. We consequently select different sizes for the English and Continental balls.

"The process of manufacture is very simple, but it requires great skill. The block of ivory is placed in an iron chuck, and one-half of the ball is turned. The ring that is taken off is, in the case of the smaller size, used as a coupling ring for a pair of horses, and in that of the larger is sent to India as a native bangle.

"After the second half has been turned it is hung up for a few months with its fellows in a net to dry. No artificial heat is used. They are kept free from any draught of air, as ivory cracks when exposed either to a hot or cold current. When considered thoroughly seasoned they are most skillfully turned by men who have been taught this process for years, and it is certainly one of the most wonderful pieces of handicraft there is. There are thousands of turners in the kingdom, but not one in a hundred will turn a billiard ball so as to produce a perfect sphere. Each one is carefully tested to insure accuracy. But, besides the size, the weight must also be exact, for this is essential to the correct playing of the game of billiards. A set of match balls weighs fourteen ounces. Balls of the same tooth will vary very considerably, and so there must be a careful selection. The polishing is the final operation, and that is done simply by whitening and water, with a good deal of elbow grease. A ball always retains its beautiful polish.

A DOG THAT FELT FOOLISH.

He Lost a Young Kitten While Holding it in His Mouth.

Boston Courier.]

A gentleman who has a big mastiff was much amused the other day to see how humanly absent-minded the creatures could be. There is in the family a tiny kitten with whom the big dog lives upon the terms of the greatest intimacy. The pair play together as might Tom Thumb and the Chinese giant in a circus, save that the contrast between their relative sizes is in this case greater. If Bruno hears the little thing cry he instantly runs to see what the trouble may be, and if possible to help his small friend.

One afternoon the pair had come into the library, where it was the tradition of the house that neither was allowed, and were having a fine frolic together; and at last the big dog, in perfect good nature, took his companion by the head and held her up in the air. Only a tiny black nose stuck out of the dog's mouth, and from the helpless kitten belonging thereto proceeded the most doleful of miaws.

The instant the first cry was heard, Bruno stopped in his play and listened. Evidently he did not remember that he had the kitten in his mouth and was at a loss to tell whence the cries came from. With puss dangling from his jaws and uttering the most mournful yowls, he ran all about the room in search of her, getting more and more puzzled at every step. When the gentleman, in pity for the kitten, called out to the dog to lay her down, Bruno obediently opened his mouth, and then when puss dropped and went scampering away as fast as her small legs would carry her, an expression of self-consciousness and foolishness came over his face which was most comical to see.

BELLES AT A BANQUET.

They Act as Eavesdroppers, but a Screen Falls and Exposes Them.

ST. LOUIS, December 3.—Society is discussing a rather novel affair which occurred a few days ago when the "School for Scandal," with the scandal left out, was played. It occurred in the halls of the University Club on the occasion of a very swell dinner party. Two society belles had the leading parts in this little comedy not down on the bill of fare. Both young women are prevented by deep mourning from accepting invitations to social events just now, and their hearts thirsted for some excitement. They got a gentleman friend to fix up a screen for them, and were smuggled in behind it, where they could have an opportunity of seeing the festivities, drinking anon sparkling champagne brought by male gallants into their retreat.

But during the evening the screen by a mishap fell and exposed the fair eavesdroppers in blushing confusion, whereat they withdrew. The young ladies were Misses Smith and Garrison, representing the very cream of St. Louis society, and their innocent adventure has caused no unfavorable comment except that of censuring their awkwardness in allowing the screen to fall.

LOOKING OUT FOR A FRIEND.

A Place Sought for a Foreigner Who Had Not Yet Emigrated.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.]

A Milwaukee statesman who deprecates the suddenness with which foreigners get into politics after arriving in America, says that when he was in the Legislature a few years ago a German member arose in open session and proposed that the Speaker should appoint Ludwig Schimmelpfennig chairman of a certain committee.

"Schimmelpfennig, Schimmelpfennig," queried the Speaker, "I don't recollect that name. What district does Mr. Schimmelpfennig represent?"

"Oh," was the reply, "he hasn't come over yet, but he will arrive in New York in a few days."

AWFULLY HARD TO DO.

The Trunk Line Presidents Again Try to Abolish Commissions,

BUT ALL WON'T SIGN THE BOND.

Private Stock Cars Constitute Another Ghost That Will Not Down.

THOSE CANADIAN ROADS AN OBSTACLE,

And Exceptions Are Readily Assented to in Behalf of One of Them.

The Trunk Line Presidents, even with George B. Roberts, of the Pennsy, in the chair, still find it hard to cut off all the scalpers at one fell swoop. They met in New York yesterday, and tried it again, in vain. They want the private stock cars to go too; but they linger.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

NEW YORK, December 3.—The officers of the Trunk Line Association at 346 Broadway to-day swarmed with railroad men. The Trunk line presidents invited the presidents of the New England and Central Traffic Lines to attend a joint conference to discuss the subject of abolishing passenger commissions, and also to find out whether the connecting lines would agree to banish private stock cars from their tracks, as the trunk lines agreed to do last summer.

About the same trunk line officials, with their subordinates, were present to-day as were at the presidents' meeting two weeks ago, and among the score of visitors from New England and the West were: President J. Gregory and John Porteus, General Manager of Through Freight Traffic of the Central Vermont; Arthur Mills, General Traffic Manager of the B. and A.: E. P. Vining, Traffic Manager of the N. Y. and N. E.; J. Whitmore, General Traffic Manager of the Fitchburg; M. E. Ingalls, President of the Big Four and C. and O.; H. B. Ledyard, President of the Michigan Central; J. N. McCullough, First Vice President of the Pennsylvania lines west of Pittsburg, and Commissioner George R. Blanchard of the Central Traffic Association. President Roberts, of the Pennsylvania Railroad presided.

Ex-Commissioner Albert Fink was present, having returned from his European trip on Saturday last. Nothing was said to-day about the appointment of his successor; but, as Mr. Fink is feeling pretty well again, it is not unlikely that he will be occupying the Commissioner's chair again within a month.

IT WAS HARMONIOUS, BUT.

The meeting was harmonious, but the results were unsatisfactory. Time and again the presidents have pledged themselves to stop the evil of commissions, and they went through the form again to-day, the Central Traffic Association and New England roads concurring in abolishing commissions and rebates in territory east of Chicago. One exception was made. The Central Vermont and Grand Trunk roads were allowed to pay commissions outside of Trunk Line territory, wherever they have to compete with the Canadian Pacific.

As for private stock cars, the New England lines were all in favor of abolishing them, but the President of the Central Vermont said existing contracts precluded his from taking the step at present. When the contracts run out they will be glad to abolish the use of such cars. The central traffic lines were not so unanimous. The Chicago and Atlantic and the Chicago and Grand Trunk representatives, while willing to do away with private cars, did not see their way clear to do so until competitors agreed to do likewise.

MERELY PRELIMINARY.

But when unanimity is secured in this regard, the Chicago and Atlantic and the Grand Trunk readily promised to fall into line. So all that could be done was to pass a resolution abolishing the use of private stock cars in trunk line territory.

This is not an inch further than the trunk line presidents got last summer, and the purpose of the joint meeting utterly failed, as far as this matter was concerned. The action in regard to commissions on passenger commissions is likely to fall flat, as long as the Northwestern and Transcontinental lines continue to feed the brokers. The Transcontinental lines allow agents and brokers $4 on every first-class passenger, New York to San Francisco, and all of the roads in the Western States' Passenger Association pay commissions from Chicago to Missouri river points. This furnishes the broker a good basis to begin on, and manipulation is easy with tickets of roads east of Chicago by "made-up" tickets.

SENDING TRUNKS BY MAIL.

Oddities and Conveniences of the Postal Service in Switzerland.

Bernese Oberland Letter to Providence Journal.]

It came to be quite an amusement, when nothing better offered, to go to the village and see the mail arrive. The postman left at 7 in the morning, going down a steep, narrow footpath between fences, to the high road that runs beside the river far, far below us. There is another postoffice where the passing stage leaves the mail bags thrice a day.

When the carrier comes to the house he only has a black leather bag slung over his right shoulder by a strap, in which are the letters and newspapers, and in his hand whatever bundles there are to deliver in our direction. But it is quite different when he comes up to the village. Then he has on his back a kind of shelf, painted a brilliant yellow, as are the vehicles of the Swiss postoffice. This shelf, as I call it, for want of a better English name, is a board about three feet long by two wide, a smaller board fastened at right angles to the upper end of it rests on the carrier's head. Another board, fixed like a shelf half way down his back, projecting the other way, and strengthened by two supports, holds all the bundles that can be tied on to it.

One can send almost anything in Switzerland by post, and at very small expense. For instance, an ordinary letter that costs 2 cents may weigh half a pound, and a newspaper costs two-fifths of a cent. A trunk that weighs 200 pounds may be sent by post at a rate varying with the distance. For 4 cents a pretty large bundle may be sent.

WHERE CENTS ARE USELESS.

Citizens of San Francisco Use Pennies Only to Buy Postage Stamps.

San Francisco Examiner.]

"Give me silver for this, please," said an Eastern tourist yesterday, as he dumped a double handful of 1-cent pieces on the counter of a prominent money broker.

"I don't want them. They're not worth counting. I wouldn't give 50 cents on the dollar for them," was the reply. "I never took them but once, and then I had to. A fellow owed me $5, and after repeated duns offered payment in coppers. I indignantly refused. The next day he came in, and, shoving a copper cent into my hand, asked me to give him credit for that amount upon the debt. He kept that up, making a payment of 1 cent every morning, noon, and night—3 cents a day—until I accumulated a cigar box full of coppers. They're here yet, and they'll stay here until someone comes along who has more time than money. I won't count them.

"The circulation of copper cents in San Francisco is limited to about 40 feet of the postoffice. They go in at the stamp window at the rate of $3 or $4 dollars a day. They are carried from there to the Money Order Department, where they are used in making change. They never get outside the postoffice door, but immediately find their way to the stamp window again.

HE GURGLES WITH DELIGHT.

New Styles in Dress Goods That Please a Western Society Editor.

Lassen (Cal.) Advocate.]

We noticed from our Eastern exchanges that some of the popular shades in dress goods this winter are described as "dragon's blood," "elephant's breath," and a pale pink called "stifled sighs."

We just gurgled with delight when we heard this, because all these colors are so unique. We were real glad with a regular Pan-American gladness for the dear girls, for a girl loves to be unique, don't you know, even if she has to wear it under her wrapper. A girl dressed in elephant's breath, hung in graceful folds and looped up and fastened at the corners with stifled sighs, with a corsage of old gold, slashed with dragon's gore, would be just too lovely for anything. We have been sighing for just such a girl for years, but our sigh had hardly stifle enough in it to match the new color. We have sent for a remnant of a stifled sigh to make a necktie of it. It appears to us that elephant's breath would be rather strong for real comfort in the summer time, especially if the elephant was inclined to be dissipated.

We are induced to make these harsh remarks by observing that men who go around all night to see the elephant have a breath on them in the morning that they can hang their hats on and have enough left to start the fire with. Dragon's blood should only be worn in spots, a la polka dot, as it were, and should never be worn without being well sprinkled with ashes of roses to tone it down. In the absence of roses, wood ashes or cigar ashes would answer as well. But there is a fullness and a pathos about the stifled sigh which will make it a rank favorite the moment society corrals it. It is so delicate and yet so far-reaching. A sigh at any time is a dear thing to look at, but when it is stifled and worn full in the back, with box pleating down the sides and caught up with silver buckles into a double cinche about the waist, it is simply a dream.

WOMEN WAGE EARNERS.

The Reason They do Not Receive as Much Pay as Men.

New York Evening Sun.]

One gets very tired of that woman who does a man's work and gets only half his pay. She is altogether too much with us. The first axiom of economics is, that the worth of a thing is just what it will bring in open market. If this woman's work brings $15 a month less than her husband's, it is worth just that much less, and her acceptance of the lesser pay signifies her assent to the fact.

And it is just. In 99 cases out of a hundred a woman's work will always be worth less than a man's, and will command less pay. A score of causes, more or less remote, are operating to bring about this effect. The main one undoubtedly is that the man is paid not alone for what he does, but for the things he may do in case a needed necessity. A man can do all a woman can do, and a hundred other things beside. He is paid for potentiality, for the reserve power which he may never need to use perhaps, but which makes him more available than a woman.

It isn't a question of equality of skill or of understanding; it's a question of physical strength, of units of horse power, if you will.

When any woman teacher can thrash an unruly youngster into whimpering submission, as a man can; when any saleswoman can lift bales and boxes as a man can; when every woman can dispense in all her work with any added thought for her safety and comfort—in short, when women can sing bass, then a woman's work will be worth just as much to the world as a man's is.

BOOTS AT A BARGAIN.

A Young Lady Gets a Pair by Walking to the Postoffice.

Lewiston Journal.]

She was as gentle of eye as a soft gazelle, that is she was, for this didn't happen this week. It was in a shoe store in Lewiston, and the gentle maiden was an acquaintance of the proprietor and always bought her No. 2s there when she encased her dainty feet in anything brand new. "Here's something that would fit you," said the jocular propietor passing out a pair of wool boots fitted with a pair of lumberman's rubbers. "I'll make you a present of them if you will wear them down to the postoffice and back."

"Wait a minute," said she, and in a "minute" she was arrayed in woolen boots and lumberman's rubbers. "Watch me to the postoffice," and she was gone.

"Her feet beneath her petticoat like little mice stole in and out as if they feared the light," wrote the poet 200 years ago, but he didn't refer to the Lewiston young lady who did this feat on foot, or he never would have said it. She was back in less than ten minutes, red-cheeked and laughing.

"There," said she, "as she passed up the boots." "Do them up. I'll send them to my father down in Penobscot county. I never lose a chance to help the folks at home," and the shoe dealer was as good as his word, and "dad" marveled at a pair of nice wool boots from his thoughtful daughter in Lewistown.

PULLMAN PORTERS IN DISGUISE.

Lots of People in England Who Levy Tribute on American Travelers.

Conflagration Jones, in Inter-Ocean.]

There are more Pullman car porters in disguise doing business in England than any place I ever saw. It was embarrassing at first to find people who in America could pass themselves off for Governors or Senators and not half try, and yet who act polite to you for tuppence, more polite for 4 pence, most polite for 6 pence, and would bump their brows on the floor for you for a trifle like a shilling. These people, whom you find pretty thick in hotels, stations and churches, invariably do a cash business. Quick sales and small profits seems to be their motto. I met am American here who came over to reform the country, and redeem it from the evils of tipping. He had resolved never to tip anyone. On your side he had been a fine, large, portly man of 210 pounds. To-day he surreptitiously wears two pillows to make his clothes fit him. He is holding out nobly, paying his hotel bills and nothing else, but there is no telling how long the spark of life will last.

We first saw him when he had fallen down in the street through weakness, not having tasted food for 11 days. The policeman would not pick him up, for he very foolishly had announced that he would die before he spoiled his record. No cabman would help him, for the same reason. We took him to his hotel, where he was shunned by everybody, and got him some beef tea, which we forced between his teeth. This man had paid every legitimate bill, and yet he was at the point of death from starvation. This is no fancy sketch.

A SOCIAL LAW IN BOSTON.

Impossible to Know a Man Until the Boston Takes Him Up.

Boston Courier.]

It is always well to be instructed in matters of social etiquette, and the remark which Mrs. A., one of the leaders of Boston society was overheard making to a young friend recently is admirably instructive.

"Do you know Mr. S.?" somebody asked the young lady, speaking of a man just then the fashion of the moment.

"Oh, yes," she replied. "I have known him for years."

"My dear," Mrs. A. said, the moment she had an opportunity of speaking to the other side, "you must not say you have known Mr. S. for years. Nobody could have known him before last winter, for he wasn't taken up till then."

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THE GRAND OLD MAN

Boldly Outlines the Future Policy of the Liberal Party.

IRELAND THE LEADING QUESTION.

Much Less Crime on the Emerald Island Than in England.

STANLEY IS STILL WRITING LETTERS.

The English Papers Are Much Pleased With the Presidental Message.

At the Liberal conference yesterday Mr. Gladstone, in an inspiring speech, outlined the course of action which will be pursued by the party. He is as firmly for home rule as ever, and very confident of ultimate victory. His address was received with cheers

LONDON, December 3.—At the meeting of the Liberal Federation at Manchester to-day, a resolution was adopted urging the necessity for a prompt settlement of the questions of the disestablishment of the Church in Wales and free education. Mr. Gladstone inspired great enthusiasm in his hearers at Manchester by his definite exposition of the Liberal policy.

He said Ireland is the leading question of the day, and that the Tories would have been converted to the Liberal view of the subject by this time but for the dissident Liberals. The split in the Liberal party, he said, would not have occurred except for the personal ambitions of some Tories and their allies, who desired more to form a national party than to do political justice.

A SEVERE ARRAIGNMENT.

He severely arraigned the Unionists' leaders on this point, and said that the plan of campaign was a necessary consequence of the Government's refusal to grant proper relief to Ireland. There was, he said, less crime in Ireland than in England. He was of the opinion that the country had clearly expressed the desire that there should be a change in the administration of Ireland, and the Liberals might look to the future with confidence. At this point he was cheered with great spirit.

Mr. Gladstone quoted the recent speeches of Lord Salisbury and the Marquis of Hartington as evidence that the Unionist party is now forming plans in anticipation of a decisive defeat when the time shall come for a general appeal to the nation. The only reason for the existence of the dissidents as a party is anti-Irish feeling. It was the curse of their destiny that they were chained to a wheel.

IN VERY BAD SHAPE.

They must revolve or stop with it and could not determine things for themselves. They had done much harm which was, perhaps, unintentional; and in addition to the unintentional harm they had done some unintentional good. They had promoted the aspirings of Scotland and Wales to definite national recognition. Furthermore they had caused an enormous increase in the radicalism of the Liberal party. They had advanced its political position.

It behooved them to consider well their position in the light of the knowledge that with the settlement of the Irish question they will be extinct as a party. He concluded by giving his warmest thanks to the comrades who had stood by him in a time of adversity amounting to discomfiture, bating no jot of their confidence in a noble and generous people.

PARNELL MISSING.

The *St. James Gazette* states that Mr. Parnell disappeared several weeks ago, and since then has not been heard from. His whereabouts is a mystery, and his prolonged absence causes much trouble to his adherents.

The *Gazette* says that though it has been Mr. Parnell's custom to occasionally seclude himself, his period of retirement has this time been longer than usual. He has even failed to keep a number of important engagements, among which was one to meet