

The Dispatch

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TWELVE PAGES

The further returns from the disaster
on Oil Creek permits a clear conception of
its cause and extent, and give an approxi-
mation of the loss of life. The character of
the explosion is a repetition of the Johnston
flood, with the variation in the character of
the population lying along Oil Creek, includ-
ing the cities of Titusville and Oil City, is
probably equal to that of Johnston, but a
smaller population was in the submerged
district, while the flood was not so sudden.

There are evil elements about the emo-
tional features of a convention, but there
are good elements as well. The publicity
of the occasion is more advantageous to
the exercise of unprejudiced and impar-
sonal judgments than is the secrecy of
the deliberations of a special indus-
try. The delegates and politicians do
what they will, the people are convinced
that no man can make as grand a fight or
fill the Presidential chair so well as James
G. Blaine.

NOT A MATTER OF LATITUDE.
The occurrence of a lynching at Fort
Jervis, New York, last week has evoked
expressions of surprise from the Eastern
press generally that the lynching fever
should spread to that section. It was the
impression of these organs of public opin-
ion that lynching was indigenous to the
West and South and would not stand
transplantation. The idea is one which
it will not do to pin much faith. Lynching
is possible wherever there are ignorant
and violent mobs whose passions are sus-
ceptible of being aroused, and a lax or
corrupt administration of the law to af-
ford a pretext for it. Mob law in its
milder form is not infrequently appealed
to in the Northern States. So long as that
is the case, the spirit of lawlessness is dis-
seminated, and the point of hanging peo-
ple can only be made impracticable by
educating the masses up to a full un-
derstanding of the importance, first, of
having a vigorous, impartial and effective
administration of the laws, and second,
of popular respect for the laws as admin-
istered. We have not observed that the
East has taken such pains to establish
these conditions as to create any presump-
tion that lynching is more impossi-
ble there than anywhere else.

THE CANADIAN QUESTION.
Two members of the Canadian Cabinet
were in Washington last week to confer
with Secretary Blaine on the subject of
improving the commercial relations be-
tween the two countries. The questions
especially pending are those of transporta-
tion and navigation. The Canadian repre-
sentatives have been in the city for some
time, and have been making a commercial
bearing. Canadian Commissioners visited
this country last fall, but were notified to
come again, because the President wished
to take part in the negotiations, and he was
just starting on his trans-continental trip.
Their visit was renewed, but they were
without power to travel. Having arrived on
the day of action, a third trip, with a
presumably better provision of powers,
they are turned back again because the
exigencies of Presidential politics produce
a Cabinet rupture just when they are
here.

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THE NATION KNOWS

More uncertainty pervades the atmo-
sphere at Minneapolis on this, the very day
preparing for the opening of the Convention,
than has been the case hitherto. Arith-
metically, biased as much by their sym-
paty for a knowledge that two or three really
make four, are at work on behalf of the
two leading factions. And they publish
results of their estimates which may be
taken rather as indicative of desires than
of facts.

From latest news the Harrison forces
claim to have secured more pledges of sup-
port than have the men who wish to see
the nomination of James G. Blaine. But
aside from the fact that a desperate man
often makes louder boasts than he who
feels reasonably confident of success,
there is so much chicanery with regard to
the pre-convention pledges of Federal
officials that the matter still re-
mains as much in nubibus as ever.

It is by no means improbable that the
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New York, June 6.—The hat-bottle,
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SHEPARD'S SENSATION.

He Says Harrison Can Prove That Blaine is
Not the Statesman the People Suppose—
He Also Says That the Canadian Pacific
Is Backed by the Knights of the Broom-
stick Statement.
NEW YORK, June 6.—The Mail and Ex-
press prints the following from Minneapolis:
The Blaine bubble has been pricked. The
Republican party will suffer a blow
calculated to render it almost hors de
combat if its delegates be foolish enough
to make a mistake as to who is the stronger
man, or selfish enough to play their
party false for personal emoluments, when
they have discerned the merits of the
man best fitted to represent the cause of
protection and to gain a glorious victory
for his standard.

It is under such a stress of circumstances
as that which Oil City and Titusville are
experiencing that one is able to believe that
the universal brotherhood of man is some-
thing more than an empty name, a
chimerical and utopian fancy. It is true
that in the first mad moments of panic
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ONLY POLITICS AT THE CAPITAL.

Even Momentous Legislation Attracts, but
Little Attention.
WASHINGTON, June 6.—Politics, and not
ing but politics, reigned supreme at the
Capitol today. There was very little deal-
ing of important legislation in the House that
doubtless, advanced materially the date of
final adjournment, but at both ends of the
building the all-absorbing topic of conserva-
tion, or speculation and of gentianization
(whenever a group of Senators or Represen-
tatives assembled) was the Minneapolis
question. The little man named Be-
publicans left on picket duty here did not
monopolize the subject, for the Democrats
felt that the result of their own convention
at Chicago would surely be affected in no
small degree by the outcome of the bitter
contention at Minneapolis. So everybody
brought the subject up, and every bulletin
sought the latest news, and every bulletin
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THE CONVENTION BEHEAVY.

Should Cooked to Feed 15,000 Hungry
Shouters at Minneapolis.
MINNEAPOLIS, June 6.—[Special.]—One of
the features of the convention hall in the
beauty, but the truth has not been told.
Probably a third of the crowd who are able
to get into the convention will have no
dinner. It is a long building nearly oppo-
site the hall, and is capable of seating about
500 at once. The idea is one of Mr. George
Brackett's. When he first came to Min-
neapolis, he saw that the hall was not big
enough to hold the convention, and he had
a banqueting room built, and he had a
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generous heart, and each does the best he
can, not only for his own dependents, but
for all who suffer with them.

It is by no means improbable that the
new scale of wages for iron workers may
be converted into an important political doc-
ument. But the workmen of this country
are not so easily duped. They have learned
to appreciate the advantages of protection,
and have common sense enough to account
for a reduction of wages in one industry
without confusing coincidences with cause
and effect.

It is a thing that one hardly likes to
suggest, but the report that the Hon.
Benjamin Harrison has been guilty of
fraudulent practices in his own handwriting
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THE WHALEBACKS TO DOT THE SEA.
The Northern Pacific Will Control Them
but They Will Fly the British Flag.
New York, June 6.—The hat-bottle,
hull-like steamer known as the "Wahle-
back," now a common sight on the Great
Lakes, is to be made a feature of the trans-
atlantic freight trade by a company which
includes some of the big money interests
of the West. The company is going to build
a fleet of whalebacks in England that will
compete for a substantial slice of the ocean-
carrying trade. Among the men already
interested in the project are the Hon.
Gold Hoyle and Joseph L. Colby. It is said
that the capital already pledged is \$10,000,000.

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CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

The King of Siam has a house built of
glass.
The wearing of green veils is said to be
injurious.
In South America there is a race of cats
to which "miao" is an unlearned accom-
plishment.
The Turkish Government has forbidden
the importation of all patent medicines into
that country.
The total working expenses of the
railways over 50 per cent. in various
ways to the wage earners.
A merchant has been fined \$25 at Frank-
fort, Germany, for using a Bible quotation
to head an advertisement.
Even the beauties of old had their
blemishes. Grecian women had longer feet
than the average man has now.
If a wolf could be dug to the depth of
40 miles the density of the air at the bottom
would be 30 times that at the surface.
The finest emeralds in the world, it is
said, are those which belong to the Spanish
crown, and they were all found in America.
New York has become an cosmopolitan
city in recent years that more than one hundred
languages and dialects are spoken in the
city.
The tallest oak tree in Great Britain is
known as the "Duke of Wellington" and
is higher than the spire of Westminster
Abbey.
According to Sappy, the famous physi-
cologist, the stomach contains 3,000,000
of germs, and these are constantly destroy-
ing it.
The longest bridge in this country is the
trestle which crosses a portion of Lake
Okeuchee, in Louisiana. It is nearly 20
miles long.
The extreme life of a grain of wheat is
13 years. Experiments have made it certain
that wheat cannot grow after that period
has elapsed.
It is observed that in antique statues
the second toe is longer than the first, or
great toe, but in men of the present time
the first toe is longer.
Rats ate up \$3,000 in paper money be-
longing to the late Henry Warner, of Ben-
ton, Pa. The money had been hidden for
years in a hole in the wall.
A turquoise mine has been discovered
near the town of Ibrahim-Ohla, about 10
miles from Samarcand. This is said to be
the first turquoise mine found in Central
Asia.
People have been known to wear a
potato with a hole bored through it so as to
form a gigantic finger ring, as a cure for
rheumatism. Two men were recently seen
in their pocket for the same purpose.
It is not unusual for a green Italian
applying for work to seize and kiss the hand
of his employer. The act comes from
down from the feudal days, when laborers
acknowledged fealty by kissing the master's
hand.
In the case of a humming-bird the sound
is caused by the beating of the wings against
the air. The hum or buzz of insects is pro-
duced by the underpart of their hind wings
beating against the air. The wings are
strapped, which are toothed like a saw.
An old Indian chief, La Plar, has in his
possession a human skull 50 feet long, and is
regarded as a priest at one of the Indian
missions says that it was made from the
skull of a man who was killed in a battle.
The European or American, in order to
sleep well, ordinarily requires a downy pillow,
but the Japanese, stretching himself
square block of wood under his head, and
does not sleep well if he does not have it.
Among the most remarkable spiders in
the world is the one which spins a web of
water in pursuit of its prey, and dives to
escape its enemies. Strayer says in the Ar-
gonaut, that he has seen a spider spin a web
of water, and that it was very strong, and
keeps its eggs, and rears its young at the bot-
tom of streams.
The Orientals who come to New York
keep up the customs of their country, to
the extent of their means. A Syrian recently
paid a visit to an English in his office. As
soon as they reached the door they took off
their hats, and entered the office in
profound humility.
Extensive coal fields have been discov-
ered north of Ottumwa, Ia. For several
weeks past a general excitement has been
going on at Ottumwa, Ia. On Saturday, at the remarkably
shallow depth of 90 feet, a five-foot vein of
coal was struck. The coal is of fine quality.
The find is of inestimable value.
A resident of Terryville, Conn., in
drawing water from an old well the other
day found the rope entangled with a water
snake. He pulled it