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FORTY SEVENTH YEAR. PITTSBURG, TUESDAY, JUNE 14 1892—TWELVE PAGES. THREE CENTS.

GROVER'S SHOW GETTING BETTER.

His New York Delegates Expect to Withdraw From Their Contest.

THEIR VOTES NOT NEEDED.

Harrison Willing to Treat His Late Opponents Fairly.

Platt and Miller to Confer Before Deciding What Course to Pursue—The Former Has as Yet Nothing to Say—General New Heartily Welcomed by the President—Ohio Not Expected to Indorse Cleveland To-Morrow—Too Many Ex-President Lovers in Steubenville's Convention for the Antis—The Silver Influence in the Oregon Election.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH]

ALBANY, N. Y., June 13.—Ex-Senator Norton Chase, of this city, who has been prominently identified with the Cleveland movement, and who was chosen a delegate to Chicago by the Syracuse convention, said to-day that in case they found that Mr. Cleveland had sufficient votes outside of New York to nominate him, they would not apply for admission to the convention as a contesting delegation, preferring that there should be perfect harmony as far as New York State was concerned, and they don't believe they will be needed. If, however, they found that Mr. Cleveland had a majority in the convention, but not the requisite number to nominate, they would ask for admission as delegates from New York.

The Hill people, on the other hand, say that while Mr. Cleveland will have the largest vote on the first ballot, he will not have enough to either overrule the Credential Committee's report or obtain the nomination, and that after the first ballot he will steadily lose votes.

Figures of Both Sides.

The total number of delegates to the convention is 898, and two thirds, or 599, are necessary to a choice. The tables given by leaders of the two factions as to the support they have already been assured them, when carefully analyzed, show a possible first ballot standing as follows: Cleveland, 357; Hill, 222; Boies, 37; Carlisle, 77; other candidates, 86; no preference, 66.

The Hill people say that the votes credited to Mr. Carlisle and to Mr. Boies will be turned over to them, as also will Illinois, now credited to Palmer, and Indiana's 30, now given to Gray. They further claim that the entire North and South Carolina delegations will be for Hill.

Hill Talks With His Friends.

A special from New York says: Senator D. B. Hill had a talk with the Democratic leaders of the State at the Hoffman House to-day. He arrived from Washington at 6 o'clock this morning, and was joined soon after by Edward Murphy, Jr., of Troy, Chairman of the delegation to Chicago, and Lieutenant Governor William F. Sheehan, who came on from Buffalo to meet him.

The Senator was in the best of health and spirits, and his callers came away from his room satisfied that there was a surprise in store for those who have been depreciating his strength in the Chicago Convention.

Besides the New York leaders and his personal friends, the Senator is also said to have received some visitors from out of the State who were described as delegates to Chicago from New England. He will return to Washington to-morrow. Chairman Murphy's conference with the Senator was very short, as he returned to Troy on a morning train. He will return to leave for Chicago with Mr. Croker, Lieutenant Governor Sheehan and Corporation Counsel Clark, Wednesday. The four have engaged sections on the Pennsylvania limited. On Thursday afternoon the delegates will leave on the same road, and on Saturday the Tammany Hall braves will start.

Tammany Prepares for Chicago.

The final arrangements for the departure of the Tammany contingent were made at a meeting of the Committee of Twenty-four this afternoon, when it was reported that 1,200 tickets had been sold. Representatives from the First and Twelfth districts go over the Pennsylvania road in special trains, which begin to leave at 1:45 o'clock P. M., and those from the upper districts go over the New York Central in specials which leave at 9 and 10 o'clock A. M.

United States Senator Arthur P. Gorman was in town to-day, but did not register at any of the hotels. Among the delegates to Chicago whom he met was ex-Governor Samuel T. Hauser, of Montana, at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

The *World* this morning prints replies received from nearly all the Democratic State committeemen, in answer to the question whether they would give their support to the ticket, no matter who was nominated at Chicago. The substance of the answers is that they will work for whoever is nominated at Chicago. They are Democrats first, and Hill men afterward. Hill is their favorite, but if Cleveland is named they will give him just as good and as enthusiastic support.

Another Set of Figures.

Up to date the managers of Senator Hill's canvass for the Presidental nomination have not given any figures tending to verify their claim that the Senator has more than an even chance to win at Chicago. One day last week a very prominent leader of Tammany, said that Hill would have at least 260 votes on the first ballot and Cleveland probably 500. There has been a tally kept of the preferences of delegates so far as could be ascertained.

A national delegate from the midwinter State convention has canvassed the roll of States carefully with these resulting totals: Total delegates, 898; necessary to a choice (two-thirds), 599; Cleveland, 453; Hill, 336; Palmer, 48; Carlisle, 35; Boies, 26. These results are arrived at by splitting delegations, but it is believed most of the States will vote under the unit rule. If they do, Mr. Hill's vote would be reduced 255, and Cleveland's increased to 577, or within 22 of the requisite number. In this event either the vote of Kentucky, Iowa or Illinois would nominate the ex-President, unless South Carolina and Virginia, whose delegations are claimed to be equally divided, should cast their 42 votes for Hill.

The nine Cleveland men from Connecticut prefer Hill for second choice, and that is about the way the Hill managers figure most of the delegations. They feel confident that if Cleveland does not win in two ballots his chances are destroyed.

HARRISON IS FORGIVING.

The President Willing to Let Bygones Be Bygones—If His Opponents Will Be Fair With Him He Will Forget Their Course at Minneapolis.

WASHINGTON, June 13.—[*Special.*]—One of the Republican leaders who went to Minneapolis said to-night that it was well understood by the Quay-Clarkson-Foraker crowd that the President would do the fair thing by them hereafter if they would do the fair thing by him. He has told them that he is willing to overlook the past, and if they will work heartily in his interest he will reciprocate. Accordingly, the word has been passed along the old anti-administration to close up the ranks. The only sulking still perceptible is among the silver men.

It is said here to-night that there is a disposition on the part of many influential Democrats, hitherto identified with the Cleveland movement, to hedge by forming combinations in favor of various "favorite sons." They are not quite ready to acknowledge their error of judgment and come out for Senator Hill, but they see now that the logic of the situation points to the nomination of the candidate of the united New York delegation, and that it would be a stupendous folly to pit against Harrison the man who was beaten so overwhelmingly by him four years ago. In order to avoid this disaster they are encouraging the notion of splitting up the first ballot as much as possible and throwing the votes of their several States for Carlisle, Morrison or Palmer, Gorman, Boise and others in the hope that in the end the candidate who is really the strongest may be nominated and the weakest candidate of all eliminated from the contest.

The anti-Cleveland sentiment among the Southern and Western Democrats is growing apace at the Capitol. The prevailing opinion is crystallized in the following remark made by Congressman Dungan, of Ohio: "The Republican ticket will be a beautiful one to beat, if the Chicago Convention doesn't nominate Cleveland. The trouble with Cleveland is that he is weak just where we need strength, and strong where we would win anyway. If he heads the Democratic ticket it means a second term for President Harrison."

There are a number of Democrats here who are talking like this to-day, and many others are thinking so who are ashamed to say so yet, because until lately they have been heading the opposite direction. The indications are that an unusually large number of Democratic Senators and Representatives will go to Chicago. A few, including Senator Brice and Representative Wilson, of West Virginia, have already started, but the general exodus will not begin until Thursday or Friday.

READY FOR ACTIVE WORK.

Republicans Returning From Minneapolis Yielding to the Inevitable—Blaine Men Sorrowful, but Accepting the Result Manfully—What Some Say.

CHICAGO, June 13.—The visiting statesmen to the Republican Convention at Minneapolis are straggling into Chicago in small bunches. The Harrison men are joyful in a quiet way, and naturally the anti-Harrison men are not making a great display of enthusiasm, but on the other hand, they are not opposing the ticket, and are reluctantly yielding to the inevitable and paving the way for active work in behalf of the party candidates. A half dozen or more Blaine men paid visits to the World's Fair. A. W. Clancy, one of the few Blaine delegates from Iowa, was greatly disappointed, and feared the party had a hard fight on hand. "If Cleveland is nominated we will have a hard fight on our hands," said Mr. Clancy, "and should Mr. Boies, of Iowa, be nominated, I am not quite so sure he would not carry Iowa. Boies is a very popular man, particularly among the young voters."

General Asa Bushnell, one of the "Big Four" of Ohio, said he was now a Harrison man, but it was unfortunate that Blaine had been defeated.

Tom Reed, of Maine, and Congressman Robert R. Hitt left town early in the morning, and took their private car for Washington. Mr. Reed declined to talk about the nomination, except to say that he was a Republican and never stabbed a candidate.

General Ihrie, now of Tacoma, Wash., and General Grant's Inspector General Aide de Camp during the war, and at present World's Fair Commissioner from Washington, said 75 per cent of the voting Republicans in his State were for Blaine, and were greatly disappointed at the defeat of their favorite. He thought the Democrats had a good chance of carrying the State next fall, although it is usually Republican by from 6,000 to 7,000.

GUFFEYITES PULL OUT.

Their Choice for the State Senate Wins by About 100 Votes.

GREENSBURG, June 13.—[*Special.*]—The official count of the vote cast on Saturday gives to D. C. Ogden the Senatorial plum, he leading Kuhns by a little over 100 votes. McCann is nominated for Sheriff and Dale, Wangaman, Fretz and Rock for Assembly.

The Alliance people will hold a convention here Thursday, and it is said a full county ticket will be put in the field. Amos Trent, of Mt. Pleasant township, has notified Secretary Armsbrust that he will accept the nomination for Senator. Mr. Trent is a Republican. It is likely the balance of the Alliance ticket will be composed of Democrats.

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

Democrats Would Have Carried Oregon but for Free Silver.

PORTLAND, ORE., June 13.—Governor Pennoyer, referring to the late election in Oregon, says the Democrats could have easily carried the State if they had not abandoned "free coinage" and indorsed Grover Cleveland.

From 8,000 to 10,000 Democrats were driven from the Democratic People's party by the open treason to principle and blind idolatry of the late Democratic State Convention, which changed the party platform to suit its plutocratic candidate.

CONGRATULATES THE TICKET.

The Ohio Society Passes Resolutions Complimentary to the Leaders.

NEW YORK, June 13.—The Ohio Society at its meeting to-night in this city adopted resolutions congratulating both Harrison and Reid—members of the society—on their nominations.

President Strong, in an address to the members, added that the Democratic party would in all probability nominate another member of the society, ex-Governor James E. Campbell, for Vice President, if, indeed, Governor Campbell was not nominated for the Presidency as a compromise candidate.

HALE DENIES IT.

He Says Mr. Blaine Would Not Go Into the Senate If He Could.

WASHINGTON, June 13.—The statement sent out from Maine yesterday to the effect that ex-Secretary Blaine's friends intended to run him as a Senatorial candidate against Eugene Hale is denied by the latter. The story was that the solicitous friends of Mr. Blaine thought some recognition should be given him for his recent disappointment and for the distinguished services rendered the Republican party in the past.

Senator Hale's term will expire on March 4 next, and hitherto he has been considered a candidate for re-election. He still is. He states that Mr. Blaine does not want the position of Senator from Maine. He also says that Mr. Blaine would probably not accept the position if it were offered to him. His ambitions do not run in that direction. The Senator furthermore said that his friends are Mr. Blaine's friends, and Mr. Blaine's friends are his friends, and that anything like a contest would be entirely out of the question.

PLATT NOT TALKING.

He and Miller Will Hold a Conference and Decide How They Will Act.

NEW YORK, June 13.—[*Special.*]—Herman O. Armour's private car Mascotte rolled into the Pennsylvania Railroad depot in Jersey City, attached to the regular 2 o'clock train, this afternoon. It bore, among other returning defeated Blaine boomers from the Minneapolis convention, ex-Senator Thomas C. Platt, who looked travel-stained and weary, and who was more inclined to talk about the weather than the nomination of Harrison and its possible results on the Republican politics of this State. He went directly to the Fifth Avenue Hotel, where he received no callers, and this evening he spent in a social call at the house of a friend.

Although Mr. Platt was reticent about the future policy of the Republican machine of the State, it was learned that a conference of his friends and those of Warner Miller will soon be held in this city to discuss the situation. It is probable that this will be next week. Platt and Miller are both expected to attend, as are also the majority of the members of the State Committee, which is controlled in Mr. Platt's interest.

At this meeting, it was said to-night, will be decided the part that Platt and Miller will play in the campaign, and whether they will conduct the campaign through the State Committee or allow the friends of President Harrison to run things in their own way. The meeting will not be held until the return of Chairman William Brookfield, of the State Committee, who is still in the West.

TOO MANY CLEVELAND MEN

For the Opposition to Down in the Convention at Steubenville.

STEUBENVILLE, O., June 13.—[*Special.*]—The Cleveland forces were completely routed to-day in the Democratic County Convention, but rallied later on and managed to get a resolution through, after a bitter fight. It was a fight between the Campbell and Cleveland factions, and the former were finally compelled to surrender. J. W. Trainer was Chairman. The delegates chosen to the State Convention are W. M. Trainer, John Francey, W. L. Medill, Nick Shiffler, Fred Owens and J. N. Edmundson. Dr. J. W. Collins offered the following resolution:

Resolved, By the representatives of the Democratic party, in convention assembled, that the delegates to the National Convention be instructed to use all honorable means for the nomination of Grover Cleveland as President.

An attack followed, and its author withdrew it. Then H. H. McFadden tried to smooth matters over with the Cleveland men, whose resolution he had so bitterly opposed. He offered the following:

Resolved, That this convention expresses its unbounded confidence in the administration of Grover Cleveland, and that in him they recognize the best Democrat in the United States.

By this time the anti-Cleveland men were mad, and the last clause was so changed as to read "ideal Democratic leader." Delegates were also selected to the Congressional Convention, to meet in this city some time in August. Hon. Daniel McConville has declined a Congressional nomination and General A. J. Pearson, of Woodfield, Monroe county, will likely be nominated by acclamation.

OHIO WON'T INDORSE GROVER.

Only One Way Out of the Contest in the State Convention.

COLUMBUS, O., June 13.—[*Special.*]—The principal contest at the Democratic State Convention, to-morrow and Wednesday, will be on the selection of delegates-at-large to the Chicago Convention. It is conceded that Senator Brice and Ex-Governor Campbell will be selected without opposition, but there is opposition to A. W. Thurman, on the ground that he is a pronounced Cleveland man. If Thurman is defeated in the convention it will be an indication that the Cleveland strength is much weaker than it has been credited with.

The anti-Cleveland men, and those who have favored Hill, are talking to the effect that it will not do to nominate either, and many of them are openly talking for Flower, while the real undercurrent strength and systematic workers are making preparations to put on a boom for Whitney. Several people are here claiming to represent Senator Brice, and say that he is anxious that Whitney shall be nominated. There will be no effort made to instruct for Cleveland, as had been contemplated.

HARRISON WELCOMES NEW.

A Hearty Greeting for a Leader of the President's Faithful Forces.

WASHINGTON, June 13.—The President had a large number of visitors to-day, including General Estee, of California; Colonel A. M. Hughes, of Tennessee, and other delegates to the Republican Convention. It is safe to say, however, that none of the visitors had as cordial a reception as General New, who stopped in the city to-day, on his way to London, where he will resume his duties as Consul General. He left here this evening, and will sail from New York Wednesday on the City of New York.

Among the many congratulations received by the President to-day were cable messages from Minister Phelps at Berlin, and Minister Grant at Vienna.

MAGEE MAY BE CHAIRMAN.

Clarkson to Withdraw in Favor of a Pronounced Harrison Man.

NEW YORK, June 13.—[*Special.*]—It was said to-night that when the Republican National committee meets in Washington for permanent organization, June 27, Chairman Clarkson will step aside and permit the election of a pronounced Harrison man to the Chairmanship, although the anti-Harrison men control the committee.

The men most talked of for chairman are L. T. Miebener, of Indiana, and C. L. Magee, of Pennsylvania. The latter is not a member of the committee, but it is said that for the purpose of the coming campaign Senator Quay's man is willing to withdraw and allow Magee to run things for Harrison.

Harrison to Hear the News Monday.

WASHINGTON, June 13.—The President has received a telegram from Governor McKinley, Chairman of the committee appointed by the Republican convention to notify President Harrison of his renomination, asking if it would be convenient to him to receive the committee Monday next. The President responded in the affirmative.

TORN BY A TORNADO.

Chicago Experiences the Worst Gale Known for Many Years.

HOUSES BADLY WRECKED.

Democratic Wigwam Unroofed, Several Workmen Injured.

ARMOUR HAS A NARROW ESCAPE.

Lightning Adds Its Terrors to the Wildness of the Scene.

TWO KILLED AND SOME FATALLY HURT

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

CHICAGO, June 13.—Three of Chicago's best known residents looked death squarely in the face this afternoon during the phenomenally violent storm. One was John J. P. O'Dell, President of the Union National Bank; one was S. B. Barker, a Director, and the other was Phillip D. Armour, the great packer and philantropist. The first named was seriously cut about the head and body by flying glass. The other gentlemen escaped without injury.

O'Dell sat at his desk during the storm. His back was toward a great window. Suddenly came an awful crash. Four of the mammoth panes had been shattered. The one directly behind which O'Dell sat was blown clear of its fastenings. It struck the banker on the head, knocking him to the floor and covering him with fragments of glass. He was bleeding profusely.

The injured banker complained of pain in the right hip and on examination disclosed an irregular gash in the fleshy part. That Mr. O'Dell was not killed outright is considered almost a miracle. The pane of glass was three-eighths of an inch thick and weighed nearly 200 pounds.

Armour Makes a Lucky Jump.

While these scenes were being enacted similar ones turned the counting room of Armour & Co. across the hall into pandemonium. Armour's favorite desk faces north and is 15 feet from the west wall. During the storm the packer was dictating letters to his Secretary, Chas. H. Dowell. When the big sheet of glass fell both jumped from their chairs. Armour got out of harm's way but the Secretary was caught by a flying fragment and was cut in the ankle.

It was one of the most severe storms known here for years. It lasted only a short time, but during that time two persons are known to have been killed, five or six injured, and much damage done to property. The great wigwam on the lake front, in which the Democratic National Convention is to be held next week, was badly wrecked.

For three days intensely hot weather has prevailed in this city. About 3 o'clock this afternoon heavy clouds began to gather, and calf an hour later the darkness was so intense that the electric and gas light had to be called into use in the offices and stores down town. A few minutes later a tornado swept down upon the city from the northwest, accompanied by terrific thunder and lightning and torrents of rain and hail. In the west division of the city trees were broken down, awnings torn off and windows shattered. Several buildings in course of erection were totally or partially wrecked. A brick cottage at 1336 Whipple street was demolished, 2-year-old Emma Klima killed instantly and the mother and another child badly injured.

The Democratic Wigwam Wrecked.

In the district between Twenty-second and Thirty-third streets east of the river, a great deal of minor damage was done. Telegraph, telephone and electric systems were completely demoralized for a time. Large chimneys on two or three manufacturing establishments were wrecked and some houses struck by lightning and badly damaged. Portions of the roofs of several buildings on State street, between Twentieth and Thirtieth streets, were blown off, and many chimneys.

Seventy-five men were at work in the big Democratic wigwam. A quarter post holding the northeast corner of the umbrella-shaped canvas roof gave way and tore through the canvas. The wind got under it, guy wires snapped like twine and an instant later the great 90-foot center mast snapped and fell with a crash, smashing through the floor and ruining 100 chairs. The canvas cover then went to tatters, and rain flooded the wigwam. The workmen marvelously escaped injury.

Contractor Allen said this evening that the damage to the wigwam will amount to fully $8,000. He has had enough of canvas and a timber roof will be ready for the convention.

Several large stores in the business district had plate glass windows blown in and suffered some damage from rain. The flag staff was torn from the tower of the Pullman building and fell into Michigan avenue, narrowly missing a buggy occupied by two women.

Timber Piles Blown Away.

During the progress of the storm the cable lines experienced considerable difficulty in handling their trains because of the electrical current on the cables being in some instances conducted through the levers to their hands. Several of the gripmen on the State street line were quite severely shocked. The storm played havoc with the great piles of lumber in the district about Blue Island avenue and 22nd street. For half an hour the air seemed full of flying boards and shingles and the piling of the lumber will entail considerable expense. Three employes in one yard were badly injured.

An idea of the force of the wind may be gleaned from the fact that a six inch timber was picked up and driven endwise through a box car standing near by. It also wrecked a merry-go-round. When the gale struck it the children were panic-stricken and great confusion ensued. They were, however, got out of the tent safely. Very soon after they had left the tent was razed to the ground. A number of the performers made their escape in undress uniform to neighboring houses. A Catholic church at the corner of Twenty-fifth place and Wallace place was badly damaged, the steeple and a portion of the roof being demolished. A passerby was badly injured. An elevator near Butler was struck by lightning, a large hole being torn in one side of the building. The grain was badly damaged by the rain.

Damage in the Business Center.

Down in the center of the business district the storm seemed most severe near the Board of Trade. The Home Insurance building, on La Salle street, was struck by the furious gale.

The driving rain deluged the bank and did considerable damage. One large window was blown in, but no one was hurt. On the upper floors a number of windows were broken. Three or four young women employed in the office fainted, and there was a precipitate rush for the staircases and elevators. To make matters worse lightning burned out a switchboard near the dynamo and all the electric lights in the building went out at the height of confusion.

Armour's "D" elevator at Morgan street and the river was struck by lightning and completely wrecked. Charles J. Roberts, who was at work in the boiler room, was buried beneath a mass of brick and timber and his body was not recovered until late this evening.

Late this evening a number of additional casualties were reported to the police. Several men working on new buildings were badly hurt by being blown from scaffolds or struck by flying debris.

The live saving station reports that three men seen in a row boat some distance from the shore before the storm must have been lost. After the storm had passed, no trace of them could be seen in any direction.

About 9:30 to-night another severe storm swept over the city lasting about three quarters of an hour. Two buildings were struck by lightning and set on fire and other minor damage done.

No fatalities are reported. The storm had the effect, however, of demoralizing the telegraph service again and for a long time Chicago was cut off from communication with the East.

A STARTLING RUMOR.

Rumored Loss of a Chicago Steamer With 97 Persons on Board.

CHICAGO, June 14.—The steamer Viola, with a party of 97 ladies and gentlemen from the Northwestern University, is reported lost with all on board. No further particulars at this hour—3 A. M.

The graduating class of the Northwestern University, numbering 97 young ladies and gentlemen, took the steamer Viola at the Depster street pier at Evanston at 4 o'clock this afternoon for Highland Park, where they intended to spend the afternoon and evening in a picnic and general class jubilee. The storm that did so much damage to property in the city broke forth shortly after the excursion party had left, and the capsizing of the boat was counted among the possibilities by the friends and relatives of party. No details have been received.

BUTCHERY IN AFRICA.

Catholics Massacred by Protestant Soldiers—Six Hundred Driven Into a Lake and Drowned—The Uganda Slaughter Confirmed.

BRUSSELS, June 13. — Further letters which have been received from the White Fathers' mission in Uganda, East Africa, repeat the charges made against the Protestant forces in that kingdom of mowing down the Catholics, including many women and children, with a deadly rain of shot from the mitrailleuse with which they were supplied.

The letters also say that after the Catholic army had three times repelled the desperate attacks made on their ranks, the survivors were at length driven toward Victoria Nyanza. So hard pressed were the routed forces of the Catholics that they were actually forced into the great lake, and from 500 to 600 of the poor people were drowned miserably like a herd of animals.

The letters add that Major Kuehne saved the lives of Bishop Hirth and King Mwanga, who led the Catholics, by his timely arrival at the scene of carnage and his display of the German flag.

RAVAGES OF CHOLERA.

Deaths Reach an Average of Four Hundred Daily in Some Places.

LONDON, June 13.—The mortality from cholera at Meshed, Persia, has reached 400 daily. Business is completely suspended. The Persian Government has ordered that a military cordon be placed around Teheran at a distance of 40 miles from the city.

The Russian Government is taking rigorous and extensive measures to prevent the entry of cholera into Russia, and has persuaded the Ameer of Bokhari to cleanse his hospital and put it in a sanitary condition. The sanitary operations nearly caused a native revolt and the Ameer had to threaten beheading as the penalty for non-compliance with the new regulations.

MRS. DRAYTON'S VINDICATION

May Come in a Contest for Her Share of the Astor Millions.

NEW YORK, June 13. — [*Special*]—On July 21 the will of the late William Astor comes up for probate. It is again reported, but without any definite authority, that Mrs. J. Coleman Drayton will contest the will. It will be remembered that no provision was made for her in the will. The portion of $850,000 which was given to each of the other daughters was in her case settled upon the children. Henry Day, who is the legal advisor of the Astor family, was not at his office to-day. His son, George Day, who represents him in his absence, knew nothing of the matter. At the offices of the Astor estate there was the same disinclination to talk about any action that Mrs. Drayton may contemplate.

When Mrs. Astor returned to Europe Mrs. Drayton remained in this city. If she has taken legal steps the matter has been kept very quiet, but Mrs. Drayton's friends believe that by contesting the will she will seek a vindication.

POISONED AT A WEDDING.

Twenty-Two Suffer and Three Are in a Critical Condition.

YOUNGSTOWN, O., June 13.—[*Special.*]—Twenty-two persons residing in Certsville township, this county, attended the wedding of Miss Inez Baily and W. V. Cowden, and all were poisoned either from eating ice cream or boned turkey.

Three, Miss Blanch Kern, George Robinson and William Moore, are still in a critical condition. It is supposed that the poison was caused from some unclean vessel. The case is being investigated.

Blaine Can Go to the Senate.

MINNEAPOLIS, June 13.—Congressman Boutelle, of Maine, is still in this city, spending a week with his brother and sister, who reside here. He was asked to-day to give his opinion of the talk about sending Mr. Blaine to the Senate to succeed Mr. Hale. He said he did not know whether Mr. Blaine would care to go to the Senate, but he had no hesitation in saying that any honor in the gift of the Republicans of Maine that Mr. Blaine may desire would be enthusiastically bestowed upon the great leader.

Coal Tar Works Burned Down.

PHILADELPHIA, June 13.—The works of the M. Ehret Company, dealers in coal tar roofing materials at Thirty-sixth street and Gray's Ferry Road, were burned to-night. Loss, $100,000; insurance, unknown.

BIG FIRE AT CHICORA.

The Whole Town Likely to Be Destroyed Before the Flames Are Quenched.

CHICORA, PA., June 13.—[*Special.*]—At about 11:30 o'clock to-night fire broke out in the lower end of Slippery street, near the depot, and proved uncontrollable from the start.

About 100 buildings were burned, from the depot up to the corner of Main and Slippery streets, including the Butler Bank building and Westerman Brothers.

The water supply has given out, and the whole town will undoubtedly be destroyed.

MAY END IN BLOODSHED.

A Possible Result if the Scale Is Refused by Carnegie and Non-Union Men Employed—Strike May Occur—The Entire Association Involved.

YOUNGSTOWN, O., June 13.—[*Special.*]—District Vice President P. H. McEvey, of Amalgamated Association, who has been over Sunday prior to returning to convention in Pittsburg to-day, concerning the scale question said: "I don't know whether the manufacturers are cognizant of my feelings or not, but I would deeply deplore a strike."

"Will there probably be a strike?"

"As to that I am not in a position to say, although I have my own individual opinion. If the manufacturers of the Mahoning Valley insist upon the adoption of the scale formulated by them at Cleveland and presented to the association there will be a long and bitter strike, the end of which would be hard to predict. It would not only be a strike of puddlers but would involve the entire association."

"When will the scale be completed?"

"Next Wednesday and the convention will probably adjourn on Thursday of next week."

"What will be the result if the scale is refused by Carnegie and non-union men be put to work at Homestead?"

"There will be serious trouble, which may culminate in bloodshed and murder. It was at this place that the worst labor trouble on record took place. As regards this district the Mahoning Valley carries the banner in the Amalgamated Association, and the men could stand it to endure a long strike."

Efforts are being made to have the next Amalgamated Association Convention held in this city.

GALVA WRECKED BY WIND.

A Cyclone Strikes It, Kills Several Persons and Tears Down Dwellings.

PEORIA, ILL., June 13.—Word has just reached this city that Galva, a town in Henry county, 45 miles north of here, was this evening wrecked by a cyclone. Several persons known to be killed and many buildings were destroyed.

CUT HIS WIFE'S THROAT.

Brutal Murder Committed by a Lazy and Improvident Husband.

MANSFIELD, O., June 13.—[*Special.*]—News of a brutal murder at Hanover township, Ashland county, reached this city today. William Stell and wife, each about 30 years of age, live in a little cabin in an unfrequented part of that township. Of late they have not been getting along very well, Stell being lazy and failing to provide for his wife and two children.

Stell and his wife quarreled yesterday, so the report goes, and he knocked her down and deliberately cut her throat in the presence of their children. The murderer is at liberty and a posse of citizens are after him. The neighbors say that Stell is a bad man, and has been suspected of every crime committed in that vicinity. The people of Hanover township will, therefore, fell better when he is out of the way.

PEACE REIGNS AT GUTHRIE.

The Race War That Seemed Imminent Averted by Prompt Action.

GUTHRIE, O. T., June 13.—The race war which seemed imminent last night has been averted and comparative quiet reigns today. The disarmament of the boisterous negroes and whites had much to do with calming the excited people and no more trouble is anticipated. Hlo Holley, the negro who assaulted a white woman Saturday night, has been removed to the Wichita jail.

The story of the other assault, that upon Mrs. Guyken by Anthony Lawson and the latter's killing by a mob, is untrue. Lawson attempted to break into Guyken's house, but was driven away. There is nothing to show that he contemplated any future crime. A committee of vigilantes has been formed and divided into three companies each to do duty eight hours daily. Their organization is strong and together with the officers will be able to preserve the peace.

GERMANS NOT WANTED THERE.

Families Driven Out of Russia Because They Stuck to Their Religion.

BERLIN, June 13.—A number of German families who had been arbitrarily driven out of Russia have arrived at Thorn, a town of West Prussia. These people tell an interesting story of the vigorous methods adopted by the Russian Government in dealing with those persons who dare to disobey imperial mandates.

They say that they had settled in Kieff and had established comfortable homes in that place. During the recent religious movement in Russia they were ordered to join the orthordox Church under pain of banishment. They refused to give up their own religion and were thereupon summarily expelled from the country, not even being granted time to sell their property.

A Rival of George Francis Train.

George Francis Train has a rival in Miss Ann Piper, of Glen county, Ga., who has only spoken to three persons in the past 16 years. Although Miss Piper lives within wo miles of a railroad she has never seen a rain.

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THE CITY'S ANSWER

To the Suit Filed by Taxpayers Against the Assessors and Other Officers.

DENY THE JURISDICTION

Held to Be Vested in the Court of Common Pleas to Decide

THE QUESTION OF ASSESSMENT.

Sweeping Denials Made to the Charges of the Plaintiffs.

ARRANGING FOR AN EARLY DECISION

The city's answer to the complaints of Paul Hacke and others, plaintiffs in the suit in equity against the Board of Assessors and other officials in relation to the last triennial assessment, has at last been prepared and submitted to the various defendants.

The answer will be filed in court to-morrow. City Attorney Moreland, who prepared it, yesterday read the document to Controller Morrow, City Treasurer Denniston, Delinquent Tax Collector Ford and Assessors Case and Hoerr. Assessor Larkin's signature is yet required to the bill before its presentation. He is out of the city, but is expected home to-morrow and the document can then go into court. An effort will be made, it is said, to have a judge from each of the three Common Pleas Courts sit on the case when the arguments are made, which will be during the present court term.

To Set Aside the Assessment.

When in the early part of May the equity suit against the city was filed, it will be remembered that the plaintiffs were Paul Hacke, James McKay, Charles J. Clarke, Mary S. Murtland, Rev. I. S. Hartley, Isabella Hartley, Frances M. White, Georgiana White, J. F. White, William White, James Rafferty, the trustees of Jane M. Ward, Alexander Murdoch, J. R. Murdoch and J. M. Shields, "for themselves and such other owners of real estate and taxpayers of the city as may see fit to be made parties thereto."

Their bill was detailed and lengthy. After fully stating their grievances it prayed that the assessments on their properties be set aside and declared void because the assessors had not complied with the law and because they had no municipal function to levy taxes; that an injunction be made restraining the city from collection of taxes from the plaintiffs; that the Delinquent Tax Collector be enjoined from filing liens against them for the collection of the taxes; that all the city officers be enjoined from allowing, crediting or accepting any exoneration from city taxes for the current year, and that the property tax of the plaintiffs be gauged by the valuations of their properties by the county assessors in the various wards and computed at the millage fixed by Councils.

Insisting the Assessment Was Legal.

The city's answer is equally lengthy. The assertions of the plaintiffs that they are the owners of property they describe and that the assessors have recently made a triennial assessment are admitted, but objection is made to the claim that it was a "so-called" assessment, and it is claimed the assessment is not merely "so-called," but a valid and legal one.

The statement that it is the duty of the Board of Assessors to take the duplicate furnished by the County Assessors as the basis for the city assessment is flatly denied, and it is averred that the figures of the County Assessors are not conclusive upon the board. A further denial is made to the point raised by the plaintiffs that as a Board of Assessors their duty is limited under the act of May 5, 1876, to simply revising and correcting errors in the County Assessors' duplicates. On the contrary it is claimed that under the law creating the Board they are empowered and directed "to make, revise or alter assessments of all subjects of taxation for city purposes."

The assessors deny that in making the triennial assessment they did it in violation of any act of Assembly; they deny that they made any assessments without having therefor the basis required by law or that they made the valuation upon property of the plaintiffs without having examined, revised or having made an honest effort to make an equalization of all property.

The Assessors Make Counter-Claims.

It is claimed that the board, in as far as they had time or opportunity, personally inspected all properties subject to assessment, and where they had not the time or opportunity, sought and obtained the best information procurable. They deny that they arbitrarily or without reference to ward duplicates revised, equalized and assessed the property of the plaintiffs or any others but, on the contrary, claim they did use the County Assessors' valuation for a basis as well as the information they gathered from other sources. To the charge made by the plaintiffs that they had violated the law by making a primary assessment on the books in their office of all the real estate in the city, the assessors enter an emphatic denial and aver that they honestly and justly valued all property for taxable purposes, taking as a basis the figures submitted by the County Commissioners. This, it is said, is the most important charge made by the plaintiffs, and the one upon which their attorneys place the most reliance in winning the case.

The assessors deny as alleged that valuations fixed by them rested solely upon a previous assessment, and state that under what they believed to be their duty they sought by all means in their power to obtain a just, fair and honest valuation of all properties and also took into consideration the valuations of the County Assessors, which, however, they did not wholly accept because they discovered some of them to be erroneous and unfair.

Exercised Their Own Judgment.

It is admitted that "it may be true that what the plaintiffs aver to be a primary assessment so made by the said Board of Assessors differed from and was largely in excess of that made by the ward assessors, and it is true that the said Board of Assessors under their general power revised and corrected the same in all instances in which, in their judgment, they believed the same to be erroneous. In all cases, however, they had in their possession either the original assessments made by the ward assessors or duplicates thereof prior to the assessments made by the assessors." These were, they say, equalized, revised or altered as their judgment directed.

As to the charge that the report of the board should have been submitted to Councils, according to law, in January, and was not returned until February 29, no denial is made, but it is claimed that the report is only required for the information of Councils in order that they may fix the tax millage, that this is a question to be determined more by Councils than private taxpayers, and that it is not manda-