The Somerset Herald.

WEDNESDAY, ... January 29, 1873.

On Wednesday last the Legislature of New York re-elected Hon. ROSCOE CONKLING, U. S. Senator, for another term of six years.

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS, late Vice President of the rebel confederacy, has been nominated for Congress, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the death of General WRIGHT, from the Eighth district of Georgia. Mr. STEPHENS has accepted the nomination and will doubtless be elected.

THE U. S. Senate has adopted a resolution abolishing the franking privilege on and after July next. Should the House concur, the Post-office Department will be self sustaining, and postage can be largely reduced, as it is the transportation of matter free of charge that makes the mails so bulky, and so expensive to transport.

THE lower House of Congress, a few days since, by a very large majority, voted for the repeal of the bankrupt law. If the Senate should concur, we will be restored to the old order of things, when every indigent debtor will have to pay the last penny he owes before he can be discharged from his liabilities. Those desiring the benefits of the present law had better hurry up.

IT is reported from Harrisburg that Gov. GEARY devoted the last days of his official life to the pardoning of scoundrels from the penetentiaries. His ex-Excellency during his term of office exhibited a peculiar fondness for the exercise of the pardoning power, attributed by some, to his excessive kindness of heart, the moving power being quite as probable a vanity that led him to believe that in his person was vested a wisdom and knowledge superior to that possessed by the courts of the State.

The heaviest corn crop ever grown in the United States was that of last year, which the Agricultural report states at the huge total of 1,100,000,000 bushels. Not only is this the largest crop, but it is said to be corn of a better quality and of greater intrinsic value than usual. Iowa was the banner corn-growing State, her average being nearly forty-one bushels an acre. Unfortunately for some of those who would like to have the Iowa corn, it takes the price of four bushels of said corn to get one bushel to the Atlantic markets.

LATE information from Harrisburg states that, a perfect flood of bills asking for special Legislation has been poured into the Legislature. It has been predicted, that in anticipation of the Constitutional Convention restraining this kind of legislation an attempt would be made to secure grants and privileges for individual and local benefits, and it turns out that the prediction was true. Governor HARTRANFT has taken sound ground in his inaugural on this subject, and we trust, if the Legislature should weakly give way to the pressure, and lend itself to the schemes to frusstrate the good intentions of the Convention, that he will promptly and unsparingingly use the veto power with which he is armed.

GENERAL JOHN B. GORDAN, the famous rebel commander, was on Wednesday last, 22d, elected U. S. Senator by the Legislature of Georgia. What a commentary on the howl of the last campaign, about the down-trodden and disfranchised white men of the South, and the nursing of the hatreds of the late war. Here is one of the ablest and most determined enemies of the Union, who eight years since, was assisting to lead the hosts of rebellion, returned to the highest Legislative tribunal of the country, there to assist in making laws for the government which he did his utmost to destroy. Could there be a more sublime spectacle of forgiveness and leniency on the part of a Nation, exhibited to the world?

THE inaugural address of our new Governor, unlike the State papers of his immediate predecessor, is a model of brevity. It is a plain, practical, terse document, dealing with the leading subjects of interest to the people of the State, devoid of partisanship, without attempt at ornament, and like its author modest and matter-of-fact. The people will heartily endorse his suggestions in regard to the public debt and sinking fand, the the discrimination in taxation in favor of the industrial interests of the State, and the establishment of schools where the soldiers' orphans may be taught trades after they are educated. We commend this address to our readers, and feel satisfied that an attentive perusal of it, will satisfy them of the practical common sense, and sound judgment of our new Governor.

IN fixing the time for the spring election throughout the State on a day in February we think the Constitutional Convention has made a grand mistake. In this section of the Commonwealth at that season of year, the weather is generally the most inclement, and the roads frequently impassable. The people often cannot, and as a rule would not turn out in such weather as we generally have in February, to attend these elections. Consequently, those who live near the polling places, would virtually control them. Surely, in so important a matter as the election of all their local officers, the interests and convenience of the people should have been better consulted. By the wanton disregard of public convenience in these changes, which are not reforms, the Convention shows a stolid disregard of popular sentiment, and endanger the adoption of the entire instrument.

IT is not pleasant to read that a handful of Indians have whipped thrice their number of Federal troops, yet such is the news we receive from California.

It is rumored through the papers that the opponents of the Local Option Law are gathering in force at Harrisburg for the purpose of having the act repealed, and that the liquor interests of the State have raised a fund of two hundred thousand dollars for the purpose of effecting their object. Experience has shown that money is a potential agent at Harrisburg, but we hardly think that a majority of the members of the present Legislature are either sufficiently corrupt, or reckless of public opinion to lend themselves to the repeal of a yet untried law. The member who does so vote, must do it with the full assurance that his motives will be more than suspected, and himself ticketed for political oblivion.

ON Tuesday last, Hon. SIMON CAMERON was elected U. S. Senator by the Legislature of Pennsylvania for the fourth time. Gen CAMERON was first elected to the Senate in 1845, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. BUCHANAN to accept a position in POLK'S cabinet. He was again elected in 1857. In 1863 he was a candidate, and was beaten one vote by BUCKALEW. In 1867 he was elected for the third time for a term which expires on the fourth day of March next, and now he has been chosen for the fourth time.

The re-election of Gen. CAMERON is a deserved recognition of his faithful services to the people of Pennsylvania. In his long career he has always been true to their interests, and in return, their representatives have renewed their pledges of confidence in him. General CAMERON is well stricken in years, but with a constitution unimpaired, vigorous health, and strong intellectual powers, he has doubtless a still further career of usefulness and honor before him.

GOVERNOR HARTRANFT has appointed Hon. SAMUEL E. DIMMICK, of Wayne county, Attorney General, Col. M. S. QUAY, of Beaver, Secretary of the Commonwealth, and has nominated Hon. T. J. BIGHAM, of Pittsburgh as Commissioner of the new Bureau of Statistics, established by the last Legislature. Mr. DIMMICK is at present a member of the Constitutional Convention, has the reputation of being one of the ablest lawyers in his section of the State, and his appointment is received with universal approbation.

Col. QUAY is well known, especially in the west, as a shrewd, able and active politician. He was formerly private secretary to Governor CURTIN, is familiar with the duties of his office, and has the ability to make a first-rate Secretary of State.

Hon. T. J. BIGHAM is widely known as the former Senator from Allegheny county, is possessed of both learning and industry, and is the very man to take charge of and effectively organize the new department of which he is made chief.

The Governor has also selected Major A. W. MORRIS, of Philadelphia, who was a gallant soldier of the late war, as his private Secretary.

The Modoc Indian War.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 20.—A dispatch from Yreka to-day states that a messenger had just arrived at that place from the headquarters of General Wheaton, commanding the troops in the campaign against the Modoc Indians. A severe battle was fought last Friday. Troops under command of Wheaton numbered 250 regulars, two companies of Oregon volunteers, twenty-five California riflemen, commanded by Captain Fairchild and a few Klamath Indians, altogether about 400 men. The battle took place on the eastern shore of Tub Lake.

On Friday forenoon Captain Bernard opened the battle against Captain Jack, who had about two hundred warriors concealed among the rocks along a line two miles in length.—Wheaton heard the firing, and had no alternative but to move to the aid of Captain Bernard. The troops fought an unseen foe from 8 A. M. to dark, under a terrific fire, during which scarcely one Indian was seen. Loss to the troops, forty killed and wounded; loss of the Modocs unknown.—the troops were finally obliged to retreat to the camp. Benard's forces bore the burnt of the battle, and suffered terribly. All the cavalry fought on foot. Among the killed are Frank Trimble, J. R. Brown, and G. W. Roberts, mortally wounded; Capt. Perry, of the Regulars, seriously; Lieutenant, Kyle, slightly wounded. The movement was called a forced reconnoisance of Captain Jack's position. It is said one thousand men will be required to dislodge Captain Jack. Troops for the present will only try to prevent the Modocs raiding on the settlement and wait for reinforcements.

Part of a Passenger Train Thrown Over an Embankment.

About eight o'clock on Sunday morning an accident occurred on the Pittsburg, Baltimore and Washington railroad, about two miles East of Connellsville, which came very near being a second Scrubgrass disaster. A gravel train had a few moments previously pulled off the main track, and the switch had unfortunately been left unadjusted. The passenger train due in this city at 10:55 came along at ordinary speed, and the engineer did not notice the open switch until the locomotive was almost on top of it.—The engine was immediately reversed, but too late, and the car with its tender went off the track and over an embankment fifteen feet deep, landing on the bank of the Youghiogheny river. The engineer and firemen were both carried down with the car; but as it did not turn over they were uninjured except by the shock they received. Conductor Whaley was also considerably affected by the shock. Otherwise there were no persons injured except from slight bruises received by the sudden jolting of the cars. The locomotive, though disabled, was but very slightly damaged. Another engine was procured and the train after being delayed about forty minutes proceeded on its course. Considering the danger of the situation the slightness of the results are among the most remarkable on record.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, Jan 23, 1873.

FOGGY LOUISIANA.

It appears that two Senators have been elected by the Kellogg Legislature of Louisiana. One Mr. Ray, for a very short unexpired term of Senator Kellogg, whose gubernatorial honors require his resignation from the Senate, and the other, acting Governor Pinchback, who has been elected to fill a six-year term. The muddle in all the affairs of that State, and the mix-up of these circumstances has befogged many anxious inquirers regarding the exact status of Senatorial matters there. Warmouth is the central figure in the entire affair. He, at last accounts, was highest in the ballot for United States Senator by his own Legislature. It is said that the decision of Judge Durell in favor of the Kellogg Board of Canvassers has already been made. This is yet apocryphal, but if it prove true, will pretty well settle the legal status of Kellogg, Ray and Pinchback.

ANOTHER INDIAN WAR.

The Modoc war, in which so many of our troops were recently killed and wounded, turns out, as usual, to have resulted from attempts on the part of the government authorities to do the Modoc Indians a great injustice. The disposition to encourage settlers in taking all the good land, and making Indian reservations out of rocky barrens, is at the bottom of this Indian war. The Klamoth reservation, to which these Indians were assigned, is admitted to have been badly selected. It is subject to killing frosts through all the Summer, and deep snows in Winter, being a high valley among the Cascade Mountains. No more cheerless region for farming purposes could perhaps be found in the country. Goaded by cold and hunger, the Indians kill a few settlers and ravage a settlement as the means their experience teaches them to be most certain of calling the attention of the Government and securing better treatment. It appears that Agent Dyar says his Indians, the Modocs, can not sustain themselves on the reservation assigned them, and the result is, they are turned upon the settlements.

They are therefore fighting for their lives and those of their families. They fortify themselves in the fastnesses of the rocks on the mountain sides, and fight with terrible energy, seldom giving the troops a chance to reach them, while they pick off the troops with impunity. This mismanagement of the Modocs is in direct violation of the President's Indian policy, and the sooner the injustice is receded from, and the Indians are treated with justice and humanity, the better it will be for the settlers of that region, as well as the finances of the country. A war carried on in that section must take with it millions, before actual force can catch and compel the Indians to succomb to what, to them, is worse than death—slow starvation and constant dread of famine from snow drifts hemming them into a compass just small enough to keep the dreadful end of their miserable lives continually before them.

PENSION OFFICE BILL.

The committee on pensions in the House of Representatives have unanimously agreed to report a bill to amend the pension laws now in force, and make an important change in the salaries of those engaged in that bureau. The salary of the commissioner, chief clerk, and heads of divisions, will be raised to a sum more in accordance with the amount of labor performed and responsibilities assumed. A new office will be created, that of assistant commissioner, with a salary of $3,000, the amount now received by the commissioner. The fees of examining surgeons all over the United States will be raised, thus enabling more experienced physicians to fill positions which they now positively decline on account of insufficiency of compensation.

One of the most important sections of this bill is contained in the proposition to publish in each county newspaper a list of the pensioners of that community, thus by publicity preventing gross frauds on the government, which are now daily being perpetrated by reason of the secrecy which is maintained in regard to pensions.

PHONOGRAPHY.

The Buell records which were lost from the office of the War Department, have been supplied by the phonographic notes taken on the spot at the time of the Court of Inquiry. The notes have been re-transcribed in long hand, and cover a long period of great historic record. It makes 3,361 pages of legal cap, averaging 225 words to the page. Mr. Benjamin Pittman, one of the best phonographers of the land, arrived here to-day with this record for use here.

LOCAL.

The House bill, as amended, providing for the construction of ten, instead of six, war vessels, passed the Senate by the decided vote of 39 to 8.

The House bill, amended, abolishing the franking privilege *in toto*, has just passed the Senate. It will go to the House for concurrence.

Armstrong, the sitting delegate from Dakota, has been confirmed in his seat, and the expenses of his opponent have been paid by congressional order. C. M.

A Horrible Murder.

LITTLE ROCK, January 20.—A horrible murder occurred near the penitentiary Saturday night. Enoch Jackson, colored, while asleep was knocked in the head with a dray pin and killed by his wife and another woman. After they had succeeded in killing him they threw the body into the fire. Soon after the wife called a neighbor saying that when she retired Enoch was sitting by the fire, and that she was awakened by a strange smell and discovered her husband in the fire; that he had no doubt fallen in. The body was dragged out, when it was discovered that the man had been murdered. The children, who were sleeping in the room, state they saw the mother and another woman first knock Enoch in the head and then throw the body into the fire.—Enoch was a drayman. A coroner's inquest was held on the body to-day, and rendered a verdict that deceased came to his death from blows inflicted by his wife and another woman, who afterward threw the body in the fire. Both women are in jail.

Further From the seat of the Modoc War.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 24.—The men wounded in the late fight with the Modocs are doing well, and there are no further deaths. General Wheaton established his headquarters at Lone Tree, and will commence active operations on the arrival of reinforcements. He has detachments stationed to prevent the the savages raiding on the settlements. Much excitement was created to-day at Yreka by the report that a Modoc scout was seen in that vicinity. The report is pronounced unfounded. Nothing has been heard from the troops which left this city on Monday night.

OUR HARRISBURG LETTER.

HARRISBURG, January 23, 1873.

The House committees, as announced by Speaker Elliott, seem to meet with general approval. I notice that your representative, Mr. McMillen, has been appointed to serve on the following committees, Education, Pensions and Gratuities, Divorces, Banks and Manufactures, several of which are very important committees.

Tuesday was an extremely disagreeable day—rain, sleet and snow all mixed up—yet despite the bad weather, the inauguration was an imposing success. The procession, which is said to have been the finest ever had here on any like occasion for years, was under the marshalship of Gen. Charles M. Prevost, of Philadelphia, and moved off at 11 o'clock a. m., precisely, parading through the principal streets, arriving at the Capitol at 1 o'clock. The military in line numbered about 2,500, and embraced upwards of thirty organizations; the Grey Reserve Regiment of Philadelphia making a particularly fine display. The number of bands of music was twenty-three, among them were Beck's, of Philadelphia, Fisk's Ninth Regiment band of New York, the Marine, of Washington, and the National Cornet, of Norristown. Several fire companies from Harrisburg, Philadelphia and elsewhere were also in line. But probably by far the most interesting and agreeable feature of the procession was the presence of the soldiers' orphans to the number of 700. The boys were all comfortably and neatly clad in regulation suits, and marched with the precision of veterans. Their fine appearance tells its own story, in that the State is indeed acting the part of a parent towards the children of her fallen heroes. After the parade the children were all provided with a free dinner. Upon the arrival of the Governor elect at the Capitol, a salute was fired by a battery of artillery from the arsenal.

After the oath of office had been administered by Speaker Anderson, Governor Hartranft delivered his inaugural address, pledging a faithful administration of the affairs of the State. Special legislation was strongly condemned, and the Governor declared that no measure impairing the value of the sinking fund should receive his sanction. After the inaugural ceremonies were over, Gov. Hartranft, Gov. Geary, and the House committees on Epucation visited the Court House, where were the soldiers' orphans. Appropriate addresses were delivered to the children, in which they were told what the State had done and would do for them, and what the State expected from them on their part.

The election for United States Senator came off on Tuesday and on Wednesday. Both Houses met in joint session for the purpose of casting up the vote and declaring the result of the same, when it appeared that Hon. Simon Cameron was again elected, having received 76 votes to 50 for W. A. Wallace, 1 for Mr. Wright and 1 for Mr. Marshall.

On Tuesday evening Senator Cameron was visited by the Cameron Club of Philad'a, accompanied by Beck's Band, and serenaded. The veteran Senator acknowledged the compliment in a neat speech, in which he thanked his friends and the people of the State for the many honors heaped upon him.

A resolution has been introduced in the House that no Senator or Representative shall receive extra pay for serving on any committee during the session. Should this pass, it will effect a saving of $30,000 in the matter of contested elections alone.

The Judicial contest from the Bucks and Montgomery District has assumed a curious phase. Mr. Roberts, whose seat as President Judge is contested, has resigned, and Governor Geary filled the vacancy by appointing thereto.

Mr. Smith still contests the election before a joint committe of the Senate and House, and if successful, Geary's man will probably be turned out in the cold.

The recent freshet has caused great destruction of property along the lower Susquehanna. At several places the ice gorged, causing the water to overflow the banks of the river. At several points the water has been four feet higher than ever known before. Port Deposit, Md., has suffered severely; it is said that it will take a month to repair the track of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad at that point.

The Flood in the Susquehanna.

PORT DEPOSIT, January 23.—The great ice flood inundation continues. The ice is gorged between the island and the lower end of the village, and the breakwater floods the vessels. There are five or six feet of water in the streets fronting on the Susquehanna. All the buildings on the lower side of the street are deserted, the people being compelled to leave to save their lives. The quantity of ice in the river is immense. The gorge is more fearful than that of 1857. The railroad track and depot are four feet under water. The telegraph office is deserted in the center of the town, and a temporary one has been opened at Rock Run and at Hockus Hollow, on the north side of the town. The ice varies from twenty to fifty feet in hight, and is caked upon the streets and along the wharf. In the upper part of the town sloops and canal-boats are driven to the main street, blockading the railroads. The water was rising up to midnight, but it appears to be falling now. If the ice should break at Safe Harbor and McCalls it will probably be very disastrous for this place. If the water keeps falling and leaves the ice as it is, it will take a month to get the railroad and telegraph in good shape. It will give a month's employment to about one hundred and fifty men. The only way to get through the streets is by boats. Rumors from McCall's and other points up the river say that gorges there have gone away, and a mass of ice thus forced is expected to arrive here this evening. All sorts of predictions are indulged in. The Port Deposit railroad is covered for a distance of four or five miles with many thousand tons of ice. Houses, barns, and canal-boats, timber, etc., are covered with water and ice. The streets are only navigable by boats, and that only where the ice has not encroached upon them. All the lower part of the town fronting the river is destroyed by ice. Much suffering and loss of property has already occurred, and much more is anticipated, even should the water abate and allow the ice to remain. Many weeks of labor and many hundreds of laborers will be required to remove the ice. The telegraph companies have already suffered heavily, their wires being carried away for a distance of two miles. The Automatic company whose wires cross the river here having been caught by the ice and carried off, will suffer the most.

HARRISBURG.

The Pennsylvania Legislature.

HARRISBURG, January 20, 1873.

Senate met at seven o'clock. On motion of Mr. Rutan the rules were suspended for the purpose of going into the nomination of United States Senator.

Mr. Graham nominated Simon Cameron.

Mr. Petriken nominated William A. Wallace.

Mr. Collins nominated Hendrick B. Wright.

Mr. McClure said the Liberal Republican caucus had not met.

Mr. Humphreys was named teller on behalf of the Senate.

General Prevost was unanimously confirmed as Major General of the First Division Pennsylvania militia.

The Governor sent in a message that he had signed the bill for an increase of salary.

Mr. Rutan offered the following resolution, which was adopted: That the clerks and other officials employed by any committee of officers of either House shall only receive compensation when the additional labor is great, and if not, officers shall be paid pro rata as such.

HOUSE.

A resolution continuing Governor Geary as a member of the Centennial Committee passed unanimously.

The Senate met in joint session in the House of Representatives, to draw the committee in the contested case of Judge of Bucks and Montgomery counties. The following were the committee drawn: Senators Maclay, Strang, Warfel, and Weakly; Representatives Brown, Burkholder, McCormick, Mahon, Mitchell, Mylin, Sample, Short and Kauffman—all Republicans.

Out of respect to Governor Geary, his message was read.

The petition contesting the seat of Littermary by McGown was withdrawn.

HARRISBURG, January 22.—In the Senate bills were introduced extending the time for the completion of the Pittsburg, Virginia and Charleston Railroad; incorporating the Homestead Life and Trust Company, and providing for the taking of evidence in homicide cases where the defence is insanity. Adjourned.

HOUSE.

House met at 11 o'clock and proceeded to business.

Mr. Young moved the printing of 20,000 extra copies of Gov. Hartranft's inaugural.

A resolution was introduced to fix the time for final adjournment on the 10th of April.

A member from Luzerne moved to cut off all pay from committees on contested seats. Objected to and referred to the Ways and Means.

Mr. Ballantine—An act regulating the organization and pay of county officers.

Mr. Murray—An act relating to rates of interest.

Mr. Bowman, of Armstrong—Establishing a ferry over the Allegheny an Shakely Run; an act to incorporate the Armstrong Improvement Company; incorporating the Brady's Bend Cemetery, and fixing the day for voting on local option law in Kittaning.

Mr. Henry, of Cambria—Supplement to Johnstown Savings Bank supplement to the poor laws, and fixing monthly return days for Cambria county.

Mr. Lawson, of Clarion—Authorizing the building of a new jail; supplement to the local option law; for building a bridge across Red Bank at Millville.

Mr. Brockway—A general act relative to evidence in cases of libel and slander; also a general act authorizing assignees of policies of insurance to sue in their own name.

Mr. Smith, of Fayette—Supplement to the road laws.

Mr. Ballantine moved to extend the hour of adjournment until bills in place were gone through with. Agreed to.

Mr. Latta, of Westmoreland—An act authorizing the Agricultural Society to borrow money; also to repeal the prohibitory liquor law in West Newton; also an act to provide for the election of State Treasurer. The bill fixes the election on the third Tuesday of March, the Treasurer to serve till next December; a new Treasurer to be elected at the regular fall election.

Mr. Lemon, of Philadelphia—An act fixing legal holidays.

At 12 o'clock the joint convention to count the vote for United States Senator met. Simon Cameron, 76; William A Wallace, 50. Wallace voted for Hendrick B. Wright, and McClure for Thomas Marshall.

A message was received from Governor Hartranft announcing the appointment of Marshall S. Quay, of Beaver, as Secretary of the Commonwealth, and Samuel E. Dimmick, of Wayne, as Attorney General.

Mr. Delacy, of Luzerne, reported a bill incorporating the Pittsburg *Evening Telegraph* Company. Rules were suspended and the bill passed finally. It now goes to the Governor for signature.

HARRISBURG, January 23.—The Judiciary Committee reported a number of bills with negative recommendations for the reason that the courts had the power; so it is settled that no bills will pass the Senate when the courts have power to grant relief.

Mr. Randall introduced a bill incorporating the Loyal Hanna Railroad Company. The road is to commence at the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, between Latrobe and Greensburg, and extend to the Western Pennsylvania Railroad.

Mr. McClure—To change the election law of the city of Philadelphia.

Mr. Graham—Authorizing mining and manufacturing companies to give, and banks to hold, mortgages, notes, &c.

Mr. Wallace—An act relating to taxing timber and coal lands.

A bill passed to repeal the cumulative law so far as the same relates to Connellsville.

There were five efforts made to adjourn the Senate over from to-day until next week. One Senator offered a resolution to adjourn over until Monday evening; another a joint resolution from the House to adjourn over until Tuesday. Both resolutions were defeated by large majorities, which commits the Senate to opposition to long adjournments.

Mr. Graham resigned from the Committee on Vice and Immorality for the reason that he was on more committees than he could attend.

Senators Graham, Alaxender and Wallace were appointed on the committee to fit up the Governor's mansion.

Adjourned until to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

HOUSE.

House met at eleven. Nearly the whole morning hour was exhausted in debate to adjourn over till Tuesday. Monday evening was finally fixed.

Reports from committees being in order a whole raft of local bills were reported, which are to be printed and put on the regular calendar for next Tuesday.

SENATE.

HARRISBURG, January 24.—In the Senate the following petitions were offered.

Mr. Wallace—To prevent the importation of "Heathen Chinee."

The following bills were reported from committees:

Appropriating $25,000 to the Harrisburg Lunatic Asylum to replace the wash-house and machinery destroyed by fire. Passed.

An act regulating license and other fees paid by foreign insurance companies.

An act to apply the local option law to McKeesport was negatived.

Mr. Fitch—An act to provide for the filling of receipts in part payment of mortgages in the Recorder's office of the different counties of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Playford—To incorporate the Dollar Savings Bank of Connellsville.

Adjourned until Monday evening. House not in session.

Change of Presidents.

Yesterday afternoon an important special meeting of the Directors of the Pittsburgh, Washington and Baltimore Railroad was held at the office, on Water street, to take action in reference to a vacancy in the Presidency. For some time past President Wm. Keyser has found the duties of his dual position—President of the Connellsville route and Vice President of the Baltimore & Ohio—increasing upon him, and at last found in necessary to relinquish one or the other of his official connections. Having, in connection with his duties as Vice President of the Baltimore Road, the special charge of the new route to Chicago, which is under way, he found the work sufficiently extensive to require all his time and energies, and to necessitate, in justice to himself, and the work he had in hand, his retiracy from the presidency. This fact was made known to the directors recently, and resulted in the special meeting yesterday, at which the resignation was accepted and the vacancy filled by the election of Mendous Cohen, Esq., of Baltimore, was unanimously chosen.

Mr. Keyser made an exceedingly efficient and useful officer, and under his management the "Connellsville Route" has had a reputation for safety and accommodation for travelers, and promptitude for shippers, second to none other that centres in Pittsburgh. His successor, Mr. Cohen, comes with the highest recommendations. He was formerly manager of the Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad, and has been connected with the Hudson River Road, and the Baltimore & Ohio, where he has displayed peculiar aptitude for "railroading," and has acquired extensive experience that makes him worthy of the cordial indorsement he received from the Board yesterday.

The change will take place immediately, and President Cohen will have his headquarters in Baltimore.—*Pittsburgh Gazette, Jan. 14.*

EUROPE.

LONDON, January 23.—The report of a terrible marine disaster last night in the English channel has just been received. The Northfleet which sailed from here several days ago for Australia with 412 passengers, exclusive of her crew, came in collision at midnight, two miles off Dunginess, with an unknown foreign steamship, and was cut to the water's edge. Only eighty-five persons are known to have been saved. It is believed that every other person who was on board has found a watery grave. No attention was paid by the steamship to the emigrant vessel after the collision, and she proceeded on her course, leaving the sufferers to their fate.

LATER.—When the collision between the emigrant ship Northfleet and the unknown steamship happened last night, a panic occurred on the former vessel. The passengers, who were asleep, rushed from their berths to every portion of the ship where they thought they might be safe and utterly refused to obey the orders of the Captain. That officer, as a last resort to enforce obedience to his commands, was compelled to fire upon the terror-stricken people. One of them was wounded. It is believed that if the passengers had obeyed the orders of the Captain more of them would have been saved.

Additional particulars of the terrible marine disaster off Dunginess lighthouse last night have been received. The Northfleet was lying at anchor at the time the collision occurred. Her cargo consisted of railway iron. Three hundred and twenty-one persons were drowned, including the captain of the ill-fated vessel. The name of the steamer which ran into the ship has not yet been ascertained, but she is believed to have been a Spanish vessel, bound from Antwerp. The Board of Trade of this city has offered a reward of one hundred pounds for her discovery.

LONDON, January 23.—Noon.—The steamer which ran down and sunk the emigrant ship Northfleet off Dunginess, is believed to be a Portuguese craft. Her name cannot be ascertained until she reaches port.

LONDON, January 23.—Twelve other persons have been saved from the emigrant ship Northfleet, making ninety-seven known to have been saved. The Lloyds have telegraphed their agents at all southern stations to stop, if possible, the steamer which run the Northfleet down.

Railroad Accident.

CHICAGO, January 25.—The locomotive of the Freeport Express on the Northwestern Railroad, coming to this city this morning, jumped the track just as the train was passing a switch on which stood the Maywood local passenger train, and ran into the latter, injuring Mr. Clydesdale, wife and three daughters and a son who were sitting in the rear passenger car. Mr. Clydesdale is reported to be dying, but the rest of the family were not seriously hurt. The accident is thought to be due to the accumulation of ice at the frog or an imperfect rail.

The express was running at the rate of about twenty-five miles an hour, but the force was broken somewhat before the collision by the locomotive, which had broken from the rest of the train, striking on a number of ties. The rest of the train kept the main track, but by oscillation probably was thrown against the side cars of the other train and smashed them considerably. Fortunately passengers who were expecting to come in on the Maywood train were on the platform or there might have been great loss of life. Mr. Clydesdale is a well known real estate dealer in this city, whose residence is in Maywood.

Frozen to Death.

Yesterday there arrived in this city by the Wilmar train, one of the poor sufferers by the late terrific storm. This man, whose name is Charles O'Neil, was taken to the Sister's Hospital, to undergo the operation of amputation of both feet and an arm.

His story, as gathered by a *Press* reporter, is substantially as follows: On the morning of the terrible Tuesday, a party of five men, Charles O'Neil and his brothers John and Stephen, and Mike and Thomas Holden, started from Beaver Falls, Renville county, with five loads of grain for Wilmar market. Wilmar is distant from Beaver Falls about thirty-five miles of open prairie, twenty of which are without a settler. Quite early in the afternoon it began to snow, but the wind was light and the party pressed on, anxious to reach Wilmar with no delay.

When within about eight miles of Wilmar the wind began to increase, and blew directly in their faces. They viewed the situation with considerable dismay, and about half concluded to turn about and retreat to a house about eight miles in the rear, and fortunate would it have been had they done so. But about a mile ahead was the house of a Mr. Meagher, and the party finally determined to press on to this refuge.

The storm continued to increase in violence, however, and the wind hurled the falling and drifting particles of ice against and about them until they were obliged to turn their faces from the storm and trust to the instincts of their animals to keep the right direction. Drifts began to meet them, and their horses could scarcely flounder through them. It was now too late, and equally too hazardous to take the back track, and they pushed on into the bitter hurricane in the hope of reaching Meaghers. But now their horses gave out, and became stalled in a succession of deep drifts. It was found impossible to extricate the sleighs, and the only alternative was to build the best protection their circumstances would allow. One sleigh box was set up edgeways, turned from the wind, and another was leaned against it to serve as a cover and brace. About this insecure and flimsy shelter sacks of grain were packed, and inside the live men were crowded, after having first cut loose the horses. This was about four o'clock Tuesday, and of course they had no food, and but a meagre supply of blankets. The snow driven across the prairies like stunning darts of lightning, was forced through every crevice, and packed against and above the little shelter, and in upon the men, and with such force was it blown that it was packed firm as sheets of ice. Tuesday night passed, and Wednesday Mike Holden announced his intention of seeking Meagher's house. He tried to persuade the others to accompany him, but they considered themselves safest where they were, and declined. Mike started out and succeeded in reaching the house, having both hands frozen on the way. The storm continued so severe that no attempt could be made to rescue the others at that time. They in the meantime were suffering all the pangs of cold and hunger, and it is quite probable that several of them became delirious, for when found they were lying out of and near the shelter.

About ten o'clock Friday morning a man, passing along the road with an ox team, heard shouts as of one in distrss, and upon making search discovered the little barricade covered with packed snow, and was horrified, upon disturbing several apparent knolls in the vicinity, to find that they contained the dead bodies of men. He found the bodies of Thomas Holden, Stephen O'Neil and John O'Neil, the first two quite dead, and the latter with life almost extinct. Upon searching under the cover he discovered two feet protruding from the snow, and breaking away the crust he found Charles O'Neil, alive, but in a terrible condition. The bodies were at once lugged to his sled and conveyed to Meagher's and thence to Wilmar, John O'Neil dying before he reached this place. The details of the sufferings of Charles O'Neil are horrifying and almost incredible. It seems that he had lain down immediately upon entering the cover, and had while in this position, been fastened down by the terrible weight of the snow which drifted upon him, or rather upon the upper portion of his body. It was so heavy, he said, as to cause him unbearable torture. After he found he was unable to rise, and that the snow was covering his head, he feared suffocation, and to keep that member free he constantly raised and lowered it, and in this manner, while he could not prevent the drift from forming over it, he formed an air chamber which prevented suffocation. In his endeavor to free his head the poor fellow actually tore the hair almost entirely from the scalp. Here he lay, with his feet exposed to the air and frozen stiff and with the cruel frost slowly creeping up his limbs, and unable to move scarce a muscle of his body from Tuesday night until Friday noon. Can a more horrible situation be imagined? The poor fellow's right arm frozen to the elbow, the right leg to the knee and the left leg above the ankle. These members are thus far completely dead, and he has been lying at Wilmar until yesterday, when the first train succeeded in getting through.

Five of the horses were frozen to death, and the others were found five miles away all right.

The Northwest.

CHICAGO, January 23.—The terrible snow storm which commenced here early this morning continued all day and until 10 o'clock to-night with unabated violence. Snow has fallen to a depth of probably ten inches on a level, but a furious northwest wind has drifted it so it is difficult to tell its exact depth. At this hour (1:30 P. M.) snow has about ceased, and the wind is abating in violence. No trains left the city on any of the railroads to-night, and hundreds of business men living in the suburban villages are snow-bound in the city.—Street railroads have run a limited number of cars all day with four horses to each.

Reports from the south and southwest show that the storm has been even more severe in those directions than here, but the storm appears to have extended a comparatively short distance north or northwest.

No trains arrived at or left Springfield since this morning on any road, and snow lies fifteen inches deep.—Jacksonville, Illinois, reports a similar condition of affairs. A train on the Northwestern road is snow-bound and completely buried some miles from Jacksonville. At Peoria the storm raged with terrible fury. Trains on railroads are abandoned. Several trains on the Toledo, Peoria and Wabash road are snow-bound. Fortunately, the cold has not been at all severe, the thermometer here standing at twenty-one degrees above zero all day. The amount of suffering from the storm is not likely to be great.—The storm is still raging here and west to the Mississippi river, but does not extend into Minnesota yet. No trains will leave here for the west to-night, and trains on all roads are considerably delayed.

PEORIA, ILL., January 23.—Snow has been falling steadily since an early hour this morning, with a driving northeast wind. Snow drifted badly to-night, and freight trains have been taken off all roads leading out of this city except the Chicago and Rock Island. The morning train on the Peoria and Rock Island road, which left this city, was compelled to return.

GRAND RAPIDS, January 23.—A driving northwest snow storm began last night in this city, and now seems to be growing more furious, with a prospect of continuing all night. All trains on all roads are several hours late, and on some roads abandoned for the night and canceled for to-morrow, as the snow is drifting before a strong wind. The blockade threatens to be the worst had this winter.

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