

THE REPUBLICAN.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1883.

John Kelly has been re-elected Chairman of the Tammany Hall organization in New York, and reform, with a big R, goes marching on.

Another good democrat gone wrong. Treasurer Polk of Tennessee gets away with \$400,000. A little reform seems to be necessary down in Tennessee.

The appointment bill will be one of the most important to be acted upon this session, and it behooves the members of the Senate and the House to seek the interests of the people in making the appointment upon principle of justice and equity.

The bill introduced by Senator Ross to pension law judges of any court of record who have served as such for twenty consecutive years, and reached the age of seventy, would perhaps be just, but we doubt its expediency says the *North American*. That is to say, the people are adverse to pensioning civil servants. You may know where to set in, but nobody can tell where you will come out.

Says the *Lancaster Examiner*: Mr. Chairman Hensel has succeeded in getting two officials in the House of Representatives—Oblander of the Eighth ward, this city, and Mr. Samuel Shadle, and now he is willing to abolish the rest of the legislative officials. When a man is full, he is very apt to lecture others about overhauling their stomachs. Mr. Hensel is satisfied, and reform is necessary.

There is a good deal of opposition to having the pension lists printed but we know of no reason against it which would not be overbalanced by the assurance it would give against fraudulent pension claims. Every one who honestly receives a pension should be proud of it, as it is a proof of honorable service done for the country. If any one has dishonestly got his name on the list of pensioners it would discover his fraud.

In the hotel of Milwaukee the deplorable loss of life appears to have been chiefly owing to the panic that seized all the occupants of the house, and left a broad stairway wholly unused in a part of the house that was not burning at all. It may be doubted whether any careful precautions in the erection of such buildings can ever guard against the temporary insanity produced by the fire panic.

At the annual meeting of the United States Agricultural Society in Washington last week the officers of the past year were re-elected Hon. John A. King, president, Major Ben Perley Poore, secretary, and William M. French, treasurer, with a vice president from each State. The society adjourned to meet again on the 24th instant, when there will be a gathering of prominent agriculturists at the department of Agriculture.

Congressman Springer of Illinois, proposes to amend the constitution so that the president and the vice-president will hold their offices for six years and be ineligible thereafter, and make the term of congressmen three years instead of two. He would also have the term of the congressmen commence at the first session after their election, instead of the second session, as is now the case. There is merit in William's proposition.

We see no reason, says the *North American*, why Lieutenant Governor Black should not prepare himself to discharge the duties which ex-officio devolve upon him. Everybody will be glad to have him do something for the money he will receive during a four years' term and six months' service. It stands him in hand to make the most of his position, as there is no very good reason to suppose lightning will strike twice in that vicinity.

The anthracite coal trade of eastern Pennsylvania has now reached nearly thirty millions of tons annually, a gain of nearly one third during the past decade, and the prospects ahead are unprecedently bright for a more rapid extension of business, by means of the new lines of railroad, in progress from the Susquehanna river to the principal cities of the great west, which promise to make the western trade in anthracite large and important.

The mercantile failures in the United States for the past year, as reported for the number of January 18, 1883, are 678 in number, as against 589 in 1881; the liabilities were \$101,000,000 as compared with \$81,000,000 in 1881. The failures in Canada were 767, with liabilities of \$8,500,000, as against 695 in 1881, with liabilities of \$5,500,000. Although the figures of last year show an increase, yet the comparison is not unfavorable with 1878, and 1879, when the increased number of traders and volume of business is considered. The failure of 1882 are estimated at one in every 120 persons, while the figures of 1878 showed one in every forty-four persons.

A case came up for trial recently before the Supreme Court, of Ohio, of interest to the travelling public. A person by the name of Walrath occupied a sleeping berth in a train on the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis Railroad. The berth fell and Walrath then sued the company

for the injuries he received. The latter passed its defense upon the plea that it had entered into no contract with the plaintiff, and that he must look to the sleeping car company for redress. The judgment was given against the defendant, however, and the Supreme Court sustained the verdict. Judge Okey, in giving his opinion, said: We have no hesitation in saying that in the absence of notice that the company will not be liable for defective appliances in the sleeping car or negligence in servants of sleeping car company, a passenger may assume that the whole is under the one general management. How far a railway company may, by agreement with a sleeping car company, known to the passenger, exonerate itself from liabilities for such injuries, is a question concerning which we express no opinion.

Last Saturday, says the *Wellsville Gazette*, of last week, Judge Williams filed his opinion concerning the right of beer bottlers to sell their wares without a State license. The defendants rested their case upon an exception in their favor in the license law of 1848. But the Judge holds that provisions subsequently enacted repeal that exception, leaving bottles in the same situation as other vendors of liquor. That is they must have a license before they can legally sell. The verdicts of the jury in the several cases are therefore sustained and judgments rendered. The Commonwealth. This decision effectually settles the law in this country, unless the Supreme Court decide the question otherwise.

Mr. Ingalls has introduced in the Senate a bill to provide for determining the inability of the President to discharge the duties and powers of his office. The bill provides that when two heads of departments state in writing to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court that the President is unable to discharge his duties, the Chief Justice shall proceed to determine the fact which, if it be found to exist, he shall certify to the vice President, who shall then discharge the said duties until the President shall be able to resume their discharge.

Senator Cooper has introduced a bill in the Legislature which will strike people at first as being anomalous but on second thought will probably be considered by many as a good idea. It is to impose a poll tax of \$2.50 upon every voter who doesn't vote. It is the plain duty of every citizen of a Republican government to go to the polls and aid in the selection of officers who are to fill the places of trust, but whether firing people who do not go will have the effect of inducing larger turnouts remains to be seen.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND THE ILLITERATE VOTER.

One of the most important bills now pending before Congress, is the bill introduced by Mr. Sherwin, Republican of Illinois, providing for national aid to the common schools. It will be remembered that this subject received special attention, and was strongly recommended by President Garfield in his first and only annual message to Congress. No measure of more far-reaching importance will engage the attention of the present session. The Republican party has thus far championed the cause of universal education, and to it the country is indebted for every advance made in this direction. It will make a mistake if it does not press this measure forward to its passage. This party relies upon the virtue and intelligence of the voter, to whom it appeals for support. Where there are wanting, it is shown by a reference to the vote in past elections the party lacks support. As shown by the election of 1880, the percentage of illiteracy, according to the last census in the Garfield States was less than 6; in the Hancock States it was 20.

While it is true that sixty-nine per cent of the illiterate voters in the old slave States are Republicans, it is also true that nearly that per cent of the illiterate vote was suppressed throughout organized system of terrorism and fraud in those States. The census puts down Alabama as having 120,858 illiterate voters, while the popular vote of that State in 1880 was but 151,507. In Georgia, the census returns 145,047 illiterate voters, while the popular vote in 1880 was but 155,651. In Mississippi the census shows 111,541 illiterate voters, while her popular vote in 1880 was but 117,078. Louisiana, as shown by the last census, has 102,598 illiterate voters while her popular vote in 1880 was 157,201.

These figures tell the whole story, and show most conclusively that this class of voters in the old slave States allowed the free exercise of the elective franchise, that not only the States mentioned, but several others, would beyond all question return Republican majorities.

The bill now pending affords the Republicans a chance and perhaps the only chance for some years, of affording relief to these illiterate people of the old slave States by placing the means of obtaining an education within their reach. It should be taken as a further, and perhaps the concluding step, in the measures for the permanent reconstruction of those States.

On Christmas night Miss Emma Hamilton, at Newport, Long Island, was rescued from a cold water and chain as a reward for a brave act performed last July in attempting the rescue of William Bebe, a boy of fifteen, who was drowning near the beach. She was late to save his life, but with the assistance of a man with a boat who had just passed her, she succeeded in saving him. The presentation was made at the Sunday school meeting, and was a great surprise to the heroic girl. When two years younger she saved the life of a boy who had gone down for the third time.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 15, 1883.

An old fashioned northern winter is prevailing in Washington. Snow to the depth of ten inches fell here on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. The weather is calm and the sun is shining, and the ground, and the Washingtonians are enjoying a week's run of good sleighing as was never enjoyed by their more remote northern neighbors. On Friday last a

FANTASTIC SLEIGHING CARNIVAL.

was improvised under the supervision of an organized committee of arrangements, and came off on Pennsylvania Avenue at three o'clock in the afternoon. Prizes were offered for the best sleighing exhibitions, consisting of first, second and third grades. It brought out a grotesque array of the most ludicrous turnouts ever conceived and dressed in the most fantastic and grotesque manner. The procession was nearly a mile long, and the spectators on both sides of the avenue, crowded with spectators to witness the novel exhibition, and for the nonce morris and rare sport ruled the road. It is seldom that such an opportunity is offered the people of Washington, and they enjoyed it to the full.

RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION.

A bill of general importance was introduced in the Senate on Saturday last, by Senator Ingalls of Kansas, providing for the appointment of a commission of seven persons taken from civil life to investigate the subject of railroad transportation, its relation to commerce and agriculture generally, how it affects these interests, what the present condition of the industry is, and what reforms are needed to improve it. It is to be hoped this bill will be pushed to its final passage before the session closes.

SOCIAL EVENT OF THE WEEK IS THE MARRIAGE OF MISS VIRGINIA CAMERON.

The second daughter of Senator J. Donald Cameron, of Pennsylvania, and Lieutenant Alexander Rodgers, son of Admiral Rodgers of the United States Navy. The marriage ceremony was celebrated at the beautiful residence of Senator Cameron on Scott Circle in the western portion of this city on Tuesday evening last. The ceremony was attended by a large number of relatives and immediate friends of the two families, by Rev. Dr. Paxton, of New York, formerly of the New York Avenue Church in this city, which the bride is a member. The General and Mrs. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Grant, President Arthur, and the entire Pennsylvania delegation in Congress, Judges of the Supreme Court, and other distinguished persons with their ladies were present.

THE SHIPPING BILL IN THE HOUSE.

The bill for the promotion of commerce and ship-building engaged the attention of the House for Friday afternoon last week, and was originally reported from the Committee on Commerce, provided for a drawback on American-built ships for the foreign carrying trade constructed of American material, to the amount of duty in the aggregate, which would have been payable on imported materials of the class. This provision was intended to foster the building of ships of the largest class of both wood and iron for the foreign carrying-trade at home. A section was added, mainly by democratic free-trade votes, Samuel J. Randall among them, for the limitation of all material entering into the construction of American-built ships for the foreign carrying-trade, and another for free ships, it is allowing the purchase and American industry of foreign built ships without payment of duty. The entire Pennsylvania delegation in the House, with the exception of Randall and Belthover, voted against it.

FREE-TRADE PROPOSITION.

on second reading, the effect of which was to strike down one of the most important of American industries, and especially of Pennsylvania. These provisions however, so directly in conflict with the drawback on American-built ships for the foreign carrying trade, previously adopted, were carried almost entirely by democratic votes. When the bill came up on third reading, loaded with inconsistencies, all three provisions were lost, and the bill went to the Senate floor of the only proposition of material value to American shipping interests. Its consideration served to develop the free-trade proclivities of the Democrats of the House. The position taken by Mr. Randall against Pennsylvania interests in conflict with his colleagues of his own State, is considered a bid for free-trade support of his candidacy for Speaker of the next House. Time will show how much he gains by it.

THE APPROPRIATION BILLS.

are making rapid progress and are further advanced at this stage of the session than they ordinarily are. They will all be passed in good time before the 4th of March, and there will be no occasion for an extra session.

CIVIL SERVICE BILL.

unless he does so to-day, or votes the bill, it will become a law without his signature. Delegates coming here to engineer the appointment of postmasters over the heads of Republican Congressmen are very promptly informed by the department that these appointments are left to the discretion of the members respectively representing the districts.

PERSONAL POINTS.

An Ohio pastor had to announce to his congregation that the marriage ceremony announced for that morning was postponed, as the prospective bridegroom was in jail for larceny.

Ben Perley Poore says that he has found proof in the Congressional Library that Jefferson was not inaugurated with the democratic simplicity that has been supposed, but with pomp and circumstance and display was possible.

Mr. Peckinton is one of the wealthiest of the United States Senators. It would take a least \$100,000 a year, it is said, to maintain his several places of residence—his elegant home in Washington, his great estate in Cincinnati; his cottage at Conway, N. H., and his villa at Mount Desert, Me. John A. Bausch, assistant appraiser of the New York Custom house, who died on January last, was the oldest customs officer in that city. He served continuously from 1841, under the administrations of twelve Presidents of the United States, a period of more than forty-one years. He refused the appointment of appraiser four different times, because he did not want to be annoyed that official patronage would give him a place in the customhouse.

Ex-Governor Stanford has offered to purchase the entire town of Vint, Cal., and sell it back again to the present owners, after making certain improvements. He makes the condition, however, that he be allowed to insert a gold watch and chain as a reward for a brave act performed last July in attempting the rescue of William Bebe, a boy of fifteen, who was drowning near the beach. She was late to save his life, but with the assistance of a man with a boat who had just passed her, she succeeded in saving him. The presentation was made at the Sunday school meeting, and was a great surprise to the heroic girl. When two years younger she saved the life of a boy who had gone down for the third time.

The Hon. Joseph C. O'Reilly, of Washington, N. H., the oldest living Senator of the United States, celebrated the completion of his ninety-second year on Thursday last with a large gathering of relatives and friends. He is in capital health, and his spirits still cover the ground, and the Washingtonians are enjoying a week's run of good sleighing as was never enjoyed by their more remote northern neighbors. On Friday last a

GENERAL GLEANINGS.

Notes of a ten per cent. reduction in wages, to take effect the 15th instant, have been posted at the Fall River, and the Mount Hope iron works in Somerset, Mass. A violent earthquake shock was felt in different parts of northern Ohio between two o'clock in the morning on Saturday. People were aroused from their sleep, and some chimneys toppled over.

Judge Barrett in New York yesterday granted an order dissolving the Commerce Fire Insurance Company and appointing Samuel D. Babcock receiver. The company was organized in 1878. Advice from Wayne county, Ky., that an oil well lately bored at a point thirty miles west of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad, and near the Tennessee line, had been pumped for three days, and yielding from ten to twenty barrels of heavy lubricating oil per day.

The boiler in the box factory of the Pennsylvania Manufacturing Company, at North Manassas, Mich., exploded Thursday. Four men were killed, and as many more seriously injured. One end of the factory was demolished, and the whole building was wrecked. The explosion was in the boiler caused the explosion.

The Committee appointed by the Tennessee Legislature to investigate the office of the State Treasurer yesterday reported a deficit of \$400,000 in the treasury accounts. The report was made to the committee by Mr. William S. Rogers, of Nashville, who was the State Treasurer.

A package was received yesterday at Muncie, Indiana, carried by the United States Express Company, purporting to contain \$200,000. It was opened by the National Bank of Indianapolis to the Citizens National Bank of Muncie. When opened it revealed five one dollar bills and a lot of rags to make bulk. The package had come direct from Indianapolis without traceable explanation is given.

Mr. D. C. Bradley, vice President of the Calumet Iron and Steel Company, at Chicago, says that those mills will close on January 15 for a month or six weeks, on account of the low price of iron.

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TERRIBLE CALAMITIES.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Jan. 10.—About 3 o'clock this morning a fire occurred in the Newhall House, which spread with such rapidity that but few of the inmates escaped. It is reported that nearly one hundred lives were lost, fifty bodies, mostly all women, having already been found. A majority were killed by jumping from the upper windows, the fire having cut off all means of escape.

The fire was discovered about four o'clock this morning, and in less than half an hour the building, long designated as a death trap, was enveloped in flames. Scenes of the utmost terror prevailed. The inmates jumped by dozens from the upper stories, covering the stone sidewalks with lifeless bodies. The shrieks of the unfortunate inmates filled the air in a most heartrending manner. The people below were unable to render any aid. A number of terrified guests and employees of the hotel appeared at the windows and sought to perish in the flames.

The employees of the hotel, which accommodated 800 guests, numbering eighty-six, mostly lodged in the sixth story. Exit by way of the roof was cut off by fire and two sets of pipes were cut by fire ladders were used to get to the roof. A very few were saved by jumping on canvas.

The insurance on the hotel was \$125,000. The loss will reach \$500,000. Telegraphic communication will be interrupted for traffic north, as about fifty wires are down. Comparatively few guests in the hotel were injured. The exact loss of life is not determinable, but will reach fifty or sixty, with from twenty to thirty wounded. So far twenty-three bodies are in the morgue, and nine more are being near the ruins. Identification is slow.

The mayor has called a meeting of the chamber of commerce to organize a salvage corps to search the ruins. The secretary of the board of underwriters was asked to make a rate that local agencies might take risks. The building was a four-story structure, and the fire was reported that Minnie Rinks and her troupe, who were at the Newhall House, were among the last to be rescued.

The fire started apparently on the third floor of the doomed building, over the side entrance on Michigan street. The fire was reported that Minnie Rinks and her troupe, who were at the Newhall House, were among the last to be rescued.

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hand. Many of the victims might have been saved if immediate attempts at systematic rescue had been made. The falls of the hotel were a scene of the wildest confusion. Men, women and children rushed up and down in the dense, smothering smoke, avoiding the blinding flames and roaring blast, and in their frantic efforts rushing by the stairways and windows leading to the fire escape. A man stood on the corner of the fifth story, twenty minutes, not daring to leap. Finally he became belest by the smoke and slid off the porch, to the canvas below. The few who held it could not give it the necessary resistance. The body was shattered to a lifeless mass.

There is loud talk of incendiaries, which the chief of fire department denies; also the police, who were first on the ground, no tangible ground can be found, however, for such a belief.

Antislavery says the night watchman on the fire first, but before he could do anything the flames shot up, the elevator burning on every floor. A number of the rescued guests say that the fire started in the basement, and went through the elevator to all parts before the alarm could be given. It is stated on good authority that there was no fire in the rear portion of the building, where there was a wide pair of stairs, by means of which all those quartered in the upper floors could have made their escape. However, the smoke was so dense, and those who were not sufficed by the presence of mind. It is reported that there were 350 guests in the house. If this is true, the horrors that will be revealed by the removal of the debris is dreadful to contemplate.

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 14.—Tie, head clerk at the Newhall House, says that for the foot of the stairs leading from the inside of the hotel, to the barber shop, was a closed used for kindling. This was separated by a wooden partition from the shaft of the elevator. The fire was set in that closet. The flames fed on the wood in the hatchway, wailed by the machinery, and rushed up the shaft, bursting out on the third and fourth stories, where they were first seen from the outside.

Christina Hogan, a servant who was reported missing, is safe. This makes the total of those saved out of 177. Fifty-one bodies have so far been recovered and thirty are still missing. An excavation was made near the west wall to day, where five bodies were found in a heap under the servants' quarters. The bodies were so badly charred that they could be the person suspected of having set the Newhall house on fire. The matter is kept in the utmost secrecy.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 14.—During the performance at a circus yesterday, at Bertsch's Russian Palace, a fire broke out in the building. Before the spectators could possible escape, the entire structure was a mass of flames, and the local authorities, who were in the building, were completely paralyzed. The fire was discovered about four o'clock this morning, and in less than half an hour the building, long designated as a death trap, was enveloped in flames. Scenes of the utmost terror prevailed. The inmates jumped by dozens from the upper stories, covering the stone sidewalks with lifeless bodies. The shrieks of the unfortunate inmates filled the air in a most heartrending manner. The people below were unable to render any aid. A number of terrified guests and employees of the hotel appeared at the windows and sought to perish in the flames.

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COMMON SCHOOL REPORT.

From the report of the State Superintendent of Common Schools of this State we glean the following information, which presents matters in a favorable light: Number of school districts in the State, 2,215 number of school 10,183; number of graded schools 7,812; number of school directors 12,625; number of Superintendents, 192; number of male teachers, 9,051; number of female teachers, 12,778; average salary of male teachers per month, \$35.12; female teachers, \$29.89; average length of school terms, in months, 6.09; number of pupils, 935,443; average number of pupils per teacher, 19.2; cost of tuition, \$140,717.01; cost of building, \$4,808,717.01; cost of building, purchasing and renting, \$1,229,232.03; cost of fuel, contingencies and interest paid, \$29,617.37; increase in value of school property, \$1,637,239. In Philadelphia, at the close of the school year, there were 102,185 pupils in the schools, and the average during the year was 61,804. For teachers, salaries amounted to \$1,038,390. There was expended for houses the sum of \$89,876.50, and for books, stationery, fuel and contingencies, \$270,381.64. The valuation for school property is placed at \$5,500,000 in Philadelphia.

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Judge Dreher made a decree at March Chancery yesterday in the equity suit between Asa Packer's estate and the late firm of Noble, Hammett & Co., in favor of the Packer estate. The suit was commenced by Asa Packer in 1877, and grew out of the building of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. It involved a very large amount of money.

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