

The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1886.

The Week.

THE reported decision of the Cabinet, to answer the Bland resolution of inquiry about the Administration's silver policy by having Secretary Manning send to the House copies of his own report and the President's message, with the silver passages in each marked, is a dignified and ample response to Mr. Bland's unnecessary questions. The attitude of the Administration on the silver question is clearly enough defined already. What is not clear is the attitude of Congress, and especially of the Republican members who are supposed to have honest convictions upon the subject. For the childish purpose of annoying the President, they allowed the Bland resolution to pass by a large majority, thus giving the silver advocates the advantage of winning the first move in the contest, and the still greater advantage of seeming to have a large majority on their side. If the Republicans in both branches of Congress continue their present policy of doing only those things which are likely to embarrass and annoy the Administration, no matter if the public interests suffer thereby, they will have a protest from the country presently which will set them to thinking. It is of a great deal more importance at present to stop the coinage of silver than it is to split the Democratic party, and the sooner the Republican statesmen comprehend this fact, the better will it be for them.

In the Senate on Monday Mr. Eustis, of Louisiana, offered a resolution directing the Finance Committee to inquire concerning the treatment of silver at the New Orleans Sub-Treasury. Mr. Eustis said that the cashier of a national bank at New Orleans had written him stating that shipments of silver dollars had been made by banks in the interior to their correspondents in New Orleans, but the Sub-Treasurer at New Orleans had refused to receive the silver dollars on deposit, and that that refusal had been approved by the Treasurer of the United States. He had received information from another cashier of a bank giving the startling information that country merchants were refusing to receive silver dollars except at a discount. Mr. Chace, of Rhode Island, made the innocent inquiry whether country merchants were refusing to take silver dollars for debts or were refusing to sell goods for them. Mr. Eustis was unable to answer that query, but he understood that they were discriminating against silver dollars, refusing to take them except at a discount. Evidently something must be done to put a stop to this sort of thing. Since silver dollars are legal tender, and since the Government virtually redeems in gold at the custom-houses, we can see no reason why the country merchant should discriminate against them except that it costs him something to get them transported to New Orleans, New York, and other places where he has to pay his debts. A law of Congress compelling the express companies to carry them for nothing

would apparently be the right sort of a measure for the crisis. It would be clearly unjust to compel the country merchant in the interior of Texas to take silver at par, and then pay \$5 to \$8 on every \$1,000 to get them carted to the city merchant. Express companies are "organizations of wealth" which ought to be dealt with in a summary manner. The Sub-Treasurer in New Orleans, we venture to say, will be able to clear his skirts completely when the charges against him are investigated, but we have our doubts about the express companies.

The recent resolution of the Senate, that the Secretary of the Treasury should furnish it information concerning the origin, amount, and disposition of what is known as the "Conscience Fund," has had the effect of enlightening the country as well as the representatives of the country concerning a very dark and mysterious matter. It is fair to assume that Mr. Ingalls, who introduced the resolution, entertained the common notion that the aggregate amount of those remittances of which we see mention nearly every day in the newspapers, as "contributions to the 'Conscience Fund,'" must be at this time very great, and that these, being kept distinct from the beginning, could be made available in time of need for appropriations for Government purposes. It is quite likely that many have considered that this "fund" was not accounted for, that it was subject to little or no supervision, and that it consequently furnished much of the money with which corruption was practised during election times. We now know that it is not a "fund" at all, but simply a part of the money in the general Treasury, coming under the head of "miscellaneous receipts," just as do consular fees and the proceeds of sales of public lands. Under this head the Secretary of the Treasury has not failed annually to report the amount of money received from "persons unknown." These receipts amount to nearly a quarter of a million of dollars, and date back to 1827, though doubtless the greater portion has accrued since the war. Mingled with the receipts from other sources, these have of course been year after year appropriated by Congress for one purpose and another, and now the learned upper branch desires to be informed what has become of "the fund." The resolution is a striking commentary on Mr. Woodrow Wilson's remark, in his "Congressional Government," that our financial policy has not been to equalize receipts and expenditures, to subordinate everything to economical administration, but to make trades prosperous, and to hold the resources of the Government as incidental to the industrial investments of private citizens.

Senator Hoar's bill providing that Congress shall meet in 1887 and every other "odd" year on the first Monday in October, and in 1888 and every other "even" year on the second Monday in November, has been reported favorably from the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and ought to pass. The Constitution provides that "the Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such

meeting shall be on the first Monday of December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day." After trying various other dates for the opening of the session, the first Monday in December was settled upon early in the history of the Government, and has been maintained ever since. At that time it was perhaps as good a date as could be selected, since it left three good months for the short session in the days when a Congressman went to the capital to stay until adjournment, and when Christmas was much like any other day in the almanac. But now the general observance of the holiday season, combined with modern facilities for travel, renders the early part of every session practically worthless, and the real work of the winter hardly begins before members return from the Christmas recess toward the middle of January—less than two months before the expiration of Congress in the short sessions. A bringing forward of the time of meeting to early October in the odd years, and to early November in the even years, will save even more time than the additional weeks represent, since members will go to Washington with the expectation of really attacking business before the holidays. The later date selected for the years of Congressional elections relieves the scheme from the objection of interfering with the time allotted to political canvasses, and there seems to be no valid ground for opposition to the change.

The Senate on Friday passed the bill for the admission of the southern half of Dakota as a State. The division corresponded almost exactly with party lines, all the negative votes being cast by Democrats and all the affirmative but that of Mr. Voorhees by Republicans. Partisanship of course ought not to enter into the decision of such a question, but it always does. Sometimes, however, it operates to the public advantage, as promises to be the case in the present instance. The Democratic House will refuse to ratify the action of the Republican Senate upon partisan grounds, but the result will be most fortunate upon public grounds. The movement for the division of the present Territory and the admission of the lower half as a State is the most anomalous and unjustifiable performance ever known in the history of the formation of States. In all previous cases a majority of the people of a Territory have declared by popular vote in favor of the erection of the Territory into a State. In this instance a scheme is pressed for the division of a Territory and the admission of half of it without the submission to the people of the fundamental question, whether they favor a division. The ambitious office-seekers of southern Dakota who are pushing this project, claim that a majority of the people in the Territory endorse their plan, but they have always opposed anything looking toward a positive expression of the popular will in the only way recognized under our system of government, by a vote of all the people. All other considerations aside, the pending measure ought to be defeated because there is no evidence that a majority of the Dakota people favor it; and until such evidence

is presented by a clear expression of opinion at the polls, it would be a violation of the principles of popular government for Congress to assume to interpret their will.

The *Times* of Thursday gives only one reason, besides its own assertions, for thinking the intervention of the Government necessary between the Pan-Electricians and the Bell Telephone Company, but unhappily this takes the form of a precedent which the *Times* itself apparently did not understand. Its contention is that, if you wish to have a patent cancelled for fraud, the Government must bring the suit. "Private parties," it goes on to say,

"however, may test the validity of a patent by compelling the patentee to bring a suit for infringement. But the failure of this remedy not only against powerful monopolies like the Bell Telephone Company, but against petty swindlers brazenly claiming patents they never got or owned, is demonstrated every day in forced compromises, in the abandonment of lawful rights because their defence and establishment would be extravagantly costly, and in the payment of blackmail under the name of 'royalties.'"

It then cites as an illustration of the superior effectiveness of the Government's remedy the Colgate case, in which the Attorney-General in 1867 brought, at the instance of the Western Union Telegraph Company, a suit against Colgate, as the assignee of one Simpson, to determine the validity of a patent for a gutta-percha insulator. The writer in the *Times* gives the history of the case, and then, with a fatuity which is happily rare, describes it as having ended, not in cancellation, but in—a compromise. The following passage deserves a place in *Puck*:

"Mr. Colgate, it appears, shrank from such a searching scrutiny of the validity of his patent, and speedily ended the proceedings by a compromise—just as the Bell Telephone Company compromised its suit with the Western Union Telegraph Company when it took on a too threatening look."

In other words, the proceedings terminated just as the suits brought by private parties are apt to terminate. We have ourselves no doubt whatever that the Pan-Electricians are now in pursuit of exactly what Colgate got. Consequently we are still left without reasons for believing Mr. Lamar's action wise and necessary, but are as open to conviction as ever. We think, however, the Pan-Electricians ought to get their case stated by a more powerful and mature hand than the writer in the *Times*.

A case is under argument in New Orleans at this moment which throws some light on the Pan-Electric movement. The Bell Telephone Company is there asking for an injunction to restrain the National Telephone Company from using its telephones. The defendants claim, in answer, that the Court should not entertain the application pending the attack of the Government on the validity of the Bell patent. We shall probably now see this plea put in all over the country, and, if it is found effective, the Bell Telephone Company would for two or three years be a prey to all comers, its stock lowered, and that of hundreds of rival claimants correspondingly raised. We do not mean to say that this is a reason why the Government should not interfere, but it is a reason why the necessity of its interference should be clear beyond question.

The most striking and encouraging fact in our politics to-day is the hearty support given

President Cleveland in his reform policy by the South, as manifested by the utterances of the leading Democratic newspapers in that part of the country. With scarcely an exception the representative journals, like the *Charleston News and Courier* in South Carolina, the *Savannah News* in Georgia, the *Jacksonville Times-Union* in Florida, and the *New Orleans Picayune* in Louisiana, heartily sustain the President and vigorously condemn his assailants. The *Times-Union's* remark that "the efforts of the demagogues and dishonest partisans to hinder and embarrass him in his work will prove as abortive as their efforts to defeat his election," and the *Picayune's* declaration that "the Democratic leaders who oppose President Cleveland are guilty of party treason," are only samples of the current tone of discussion in such papers. It becomes plainer every day that the South believes in civil-service reform; and as the South, by the uniform testimony of Republican organs, controls the Democratic party, the discovery is of the highest significance.

Another thing which becomes plainer every day is that the only hope of blocking the great pension jobs, which claim agents and political demagogues are trying their best to push through Congress, depends upon the opposition of Southern Representatives and Senators. It is discouraging to find how many Northern Republican newspapers, which understand perfectly well the injustice and wrong of such vast schemes as the proposition to repeal the limitation as to the time of filing applications under the arrears act, are encouraging Congress to pass bills which will take hundreds of millions out of the Treasury. With such encouragement, doubtless many Republicans who have previously opposed such schemes will follow the example of Senator Sherman, who has eaten his own words of two years ago and come out in favor of the arrears job, which he once truthfully declared had "no equity in it." Some Northern Democrats think that they can capture the "soldier vote" in their districts by championing these projects, and their votes, combined with those of most of the Republicans in the House, will come near to making a majority. The sole chance of defeating the jobbers is through a combination of the Southern Democrats with those Northern members of both parties who are above demagogism in this matter.

The recklessness of partisanship is strikingly illustrated in the flagrant misrepresentation of the President's course regarding the removals of officials, made by the *Philadelphia Press* in a leading editorial upon this subject. "*Thousands of men*," it declares, "have been turned peremptorily out of office in the middle of their terms." The *Congressional Record* of December 18 contained a complete list of the appointments made by the President, with information in each case as to whether the appointee was to fill a vacancy caused by death or resignation, or to succeed an official who had been suspended. From this statement it appeared that the President had removed in all only six hundred and forty-three officials, divided among the departments as follows: State, 80; Treasury, 160; Post-office, 266; Interior, 76; Department of Justice, 61. As there are about 4,000

offices filled by Presidential appointment, it follows that the first Democratic executive in a quarter of a century had removed, during three-quarters of a year, less than one in six of the Republicans whom he found in office. However, it is perhaps no wonder that a Republican organ which remembers that Mr. Blaine removed an even larger proportion of the Republican officials under his special oversight in the consular service, during the brief period that he enjoyed full swing under President Garfield, should suppose that Mr. Cleveland must have turned out men by the "thousands."

It is always interesting to trace the development of a national habit. Among the "literary remains" of the Rev. Homer Wilbur, pastor of the First Church in Jaalam, which were collected in the "Biglow Papers" a score of years ago, is a reference to what that worthy divine styled "one of the most inexcusable weaknesses of Americans"—their habit of signing their names to what are called credentials. The Rev. Mr. Wilbur thus recorded an illustration of this weakness which had fallen under his personal observation:

"But for my interposition a person who shall be nameless would have taken from this town a recommendation for an office of trust subscribed by the selectmen and all the voters of both parties, ascribing to him as many good qualities as if it had been his tombstone. The excuse was that it would be well for the town to be rid of him, as it would ere long be obliged to maintain him."

In process of time, as the recent "Bernard Conroy, Esq." incident in Indianapolis shows, the recommendation business has been carried a stage further. The Selectmen of Jaalam tried to get their man appointed to keep him out of the poorhouse, while the Governor and other leading Democrats of Indiana recommended that Conroy be given an office apparently because they thought that was the only way of keeping him out of the penitentiary, where he had been sent more than once as a private citizen. Unfortunately for Postmaster-General Vilas, no public-spirited citizen like the Jaalam pastor interposed and saved him from the necessity of revoking an appointment which never ought to have been made. Doubtless he and all the other members of the Administration, from the President down, are quite ready heartily to endorse the Rev. Mr. Wilbur's conclusion: "When I see a certificate of character with everybody's name attached to it, I regard it as a letter of introduction from the Devil."

The white Democratic taxpayers of Vicksburg are urging the passage by the Mississippi Legislature of a law overthrowing the present system of electing the city government by popular vote, and substituting the appointment by the Governor of a Mayor and Aldermen, because non-tax-paying Republican negroes are in the majority. Republican organs in Boston are profoundly shocked at such evidence of distrust of the people. And yet the Vicksburg plan is only an extension of the same principle which the Boston Republicans persuaded the Massachusetts Legislature to adopt last year, when they secured the passage of a law taking the appointment of Police Commissioners from the (Democratic) Mayor of the city and giving it to the (Republican) Governor of the State. The theory of home rule was definitively abandoned when the Massachusetts Republicans declared

that a Mayor chosen by popular vote could not be trusted to appoint the men who supervise the police force. It is only a step further to the position of the Mississippi Democrats that the system of securing a mayor and aldermen by popular vote ought to be abolished, and that the appointment of these officials ought to be vested in the Governor. Indeed, we should not be surprised any day to hear that such a change was advocated by those "respectable" but indolent citizens of Boston who decided a year ago that it was not worth while to work hard and elect a good Mayor, who could be trusted to appoint good Police Commissioners, when it would be so much easier to throw off the burden upon the Legislature and Governor.

There is an unpleasant suggestion of "hippodroming" in the course of the chess contest between Messrs. Steinitz and Zukertort. That the fortunes of the match should vary is not surprising; what is strange is that so many games should be lost and won by mistakes which, we are assured, would be unaccountable in the case of players of only moderate skill. These successive quite inexplicable mistakes, occurring as they do always just at the proper time to increase uncertainty as to the result, distinctly favor the betting "talent," and thereby are doubly unfortunate, to say the least. We would do no injustice to the players, who, for anything we know, may be the honestest men in the world, but it is a fact that the open history of the present match already excites suspicion of "professionalism," especially in view of such objectionable features as the very large stakes at risk and the undignified device of carting the game about the country. A great match rightly conducted would probably bring about a chess revival, of which there were indeed many signs at the beginning of this one, but already they have in great measure disappeared.

Society at Seattle, Washington Territory, is at last thoroughly convulsed by the attempt of its lawless element to expel the Chinese laborers. The civil authorities and the law-abiding classes have been driven to the extremity of firing on the mob and killing or severely wounding half-a-dozen of them. This, it is said, has produced a bitter feeling. We presume that it was not intended to soften previous asperities. The shooting did not begin soon enough. The proper time was months ago, when the first assault on the Chinese occurred. The only danger now is that some compromise will be effected with the rioters, which shall leave them all the substantial fruits of victory, and serve to convince them that they were right from the beginning, and that the law of the land is whatever an impromptu mass meeting of native hoodlums and unnaturalized foreigners choose to make it.

The London riot was the appropriate sequel to the demands of Mr. Chaplin and other Tory squires for what they are pleased to call "fair trade." This is the name under which "protection to native industry" masquerades in Great Britain. It teaches the destructive doctrine that Government can and ought to keep people employed at good wages. In the late electoral campaign Lord Salisbury lent his countenance and support to this theory,

in a guarded manner, but with sufficient distinctness to be understood, in a speech to the electors of Southwark. The hint which he threw out was taken by the workmen in earnest, and they accordingly waited upon him a few days ago and asked him to bring forward a measure to provide employment for them. Of course he could not answer their request in a satisfactory way, but was compelled to put them off with generalities and personal sympathy. All the materials for a "demonstration" were at hand, and it wanted only a leader to put the mass of suffering and discontent in motion. The leadership belonged naturally to the small knot of Socialists in London, because they know exactly what they want, while the others do not. The Socialists want immediate pillage and division of property. The British workmen want no such thing. They want honest work by which they can earn a living. There has never been any bond of sympathy between the so-called "International" society of the Continent and the laboring classes of England.

There was nothing more characteristic of the British mob, if this demonstration may be called such, than its voluntary dispersion after it had accomplished what it came together for—that is, after it had shown its numbers, held its meeting, and passed its resolutions. The breaking of windows and gutting of shops along the road was evidently the work of "professionals," who always attach themselves to any disorderly movement, and take advantage of the crowd and of the preoccupation of the police to fill themselves with liquor and to seize any portable property that comes in their way. If this had been a French instead of an English mob—if Paris, instead of London, had been the scene of disturbance—the streets would to-day be filled with barricades, the city would be in a state of siege, and the permanence of the Government, and even its form, would be endangered.

Mr. Gladstone is acknowledged even by his enemies to have been, under all the circumstances, remarkably successful in the composition of his new Cabinet. Mr. Chamberlain wished, report says, to be Chancellor of the Exchequer, but this would have alarmed as well as amazed "the City," where his schemes of taxation, as propounded during the last seven months, have been received with jeers and denunciation. He has therefore consented to take the Presidency of the Local Government Board, held in the last Cabinet by Sir Charles Dilke, while Mr. Mundella, a most estimable Birmingham manufacturer, who has given great attention to educational questions, becomes President of the Board of Trade—being another new recruit from the same quarter for the governing class. Lord Derby, now an acknowledged political failure, who made a dreadful mess of the Colonial Office in the last Ministry, is dropped out, apparently, altogether. Earl Granville, who was almost equally unlucky in foreign affairs, so much so that the prospect of his return to the same office is said to have made the Queen cry—deep interest in foreign politics being one of the traditions she has inherited from Prince Albert—takes the Colonies. He is a man of such genial manners, and has filled so many offices re-

spectably, and has such a strong hold on the moderate wing of the Liberals, that, although he is over seventy, it was probably found impossible to shelve him entirely. Sir William Harcourt, who was Home Secretary under the last Gladstone Administration, now becomes Chancellor of the Exchequer. The ambition of his life has been to be Lord Chancellor, but he has of late years been so little of a lawyer that all prospect of seeing it gratified has probably passed away. Sir Henry James, who was Mr. Gladstone's last Attorney-General, would, in the ordinary course of promotion, have obtained the Lord Chancellorship, but he forfeited his claim by abandoning Gladstone and voting with the Tories in the recent amendment to the address. This has sent Sir Farrer Herschell, the late Solicitor-General, up one step, and has brought in Mr. Charles Russell as Attorney-General. Mr. Russell is a Catholic Irishman, the nephew of the President of Maynooth College, and, although not a Parnellite, a warm sympathizer with the Parnellites on the land question. He has been for some years the leader of the Common Law Bar in London. His appointment is a distinct recognition, as it would be called here, of the Irish element in the House of Commons.

Probably the most difficult place of all to fill was the Irish Secretaryship. Considering the fate which has overtaken the last three Secretaries—Mr. Forster ruined politically, Lord Frederick Cavendish murdered, and Mr. Trevelyan undoubtedly discredited—any Englishman in public life, however able or brave, might well shrink from taking the place. But if any Englishman can succeed in it, Mr. John Morley will. He has already, both as a journalist and member of Parliament, achieved distinct success in politics. He is a grave and weighty speaker, and, though not a sentimental man, has what we may call a philosophic sympathy with people of a different type of mind and character from the English, to the want of which the English failure in the government of Ireland has been largely due. He is favorable to home rule in some shape, and is ready to listen to what the Home-Rulers say, and consider it, and is not likely, when he gets to Dublin, to put on the "English gentleman" air which the Irish find so exasperating. On the whole, in fact, the new Cabinet is a considerable advance on its predecessor, as far as the Irish question is concerned especially.

The confidence of M. de Lesseps that the Panama Canal will be open for business within two or three years is simply wonderful. There is something almost sublime about the veteran engineer's anxiety to remove the business world's doubt regarding the completion of the work, "so that at the time of its inauguration shipowners and merchants may be ready to utilize it," and his consequent invitation to the leading commercial organizations to send delegates to accompany him on his tour of inspection. The New York Chamber of Commerce has done well to accept the invitation. There is probably no place in the world where people are so incredulous about the Frenchman's great scheme as in this city, but the public is interested in the project, and would be glad to know how it strikes a hard-headed American business man,

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

(WEDNESDAY, February 3, to TUESDAY, February 9,
1886, inclusive.)

DOMESTIC.

THE Riddleberger and Pugh resolutions in regard to the relations of the Senate and President were tabled on Wednesday by a practically unanimous vote.

In the Senate in open session on Monday Mr. Sherman made a speech in which he held that any and all information on the files of any department belongs to the Senate. When the Senate met in executive session, the discussion broke out afresh, and was made lively when Secretary Manning's reply to the Morrill resolution was received. The resolution called for information regarding the removal of Internal Revenue Collector McCormick, of West Virginia, and the reply of Mr. Manning is reported to have followed closely the tenor of Attorney-General Garland's refusal to furnish the papers in the Duskin case.

On Friday the Senate passed the bill for the admission of South Dakota as a State, Mr. Voorhees being the only Democrat who voted for it. The northern part is to be organized into a separate Territory named Lincoln.

Mr. Ingalls introduced in the Senate on Monday afternoon a resolution, which was adopted, directing the Finance Committee to inquire whether the statute cannot be amended so as to require the issue of \$1 and \$2 notes. In support of this resolution he said that he understood that these notes had been retired for the purpose of forcing silver into circulation; that no attempt had been made to force gold into circulation by the withdrawal of the \$50 notes; that the people own the money in the Treasury, and want currency based upon gold and silver in circulation, and do not desire to carry coin in their pockets.

Senator Cameron (Rep., Pa.) introduced a bill on Monday to promote the foreign trade of the United States and encourage the increase of the American merchant marine. American vessels are divided into sections according to speed and measurement, and for each nautical mile run between a United States port and any foreign port, including outward and inward passage, they are to receive from the Secretary of the Treasury compensation ranging from 4 cents to 5 3-10 cents for each 100 tons United States gross register measurement. In part consideration for this, every vessel shall carry without further charges whatever mail matter is delivered to it, under regulations prescribed by the Postmaster-General, for the ports at which it expects to call. The compensation is to continue until 1905, and is then to be reduced 10 per cent. per annum of the rates given. All payments are to cease in 1915.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs has reported that it is not advisable that a commission to consider the fisheries should be appointed. The Democrats of the Committee are said to have agreed with the Republicans upon this subject.

Mr. Hoar, from the Committee on Privileges and Elections, reported favorably to the Senate a bill fixing the time for the meeting of Congress in 1887 and every second year thereafter on the first Monday in October, and in 1886 and every second year thereafter on the second Monday in November.

In the House of Representatives on Wednesday the silver men showed their hands, the Coinage Committee having decided to try to get the subject in its own hands by reporting a resolution relating to the manner in which silver is treated at the New York Clearing-house. The resolution is the one calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury for information of various kinds. Mr. Hewitt moved to recommit the resolution, with instructions to report it back with the omission of the clause which calls upon the Administration to define its policy with respect to silver. Upon this a roll call was ordered, and it was defeated by 58

yeas to 168 nays. This is, however, not a test vote on the silver question. The original resolution, with two slight amendments, was then adopted by a *viva-voce* vote. The amendment modifies the strictures upon the Administration contained in the original resolution. The resolution was based upon the speech of George S. Coc, at the Bankers' Conference, relative to the policy of the Treasury in regard to silver. Mr. Morrison then reported from the Ways and Means Committee a resolution calling for information as to the total amount applied to the sinking fund between June 30, 1884, and July 1, 1885. This was adopted. The answer to these two resolutions will furnish the text for a debate on the silver question in the House.

The House on Thursday passed the Dingley Shipping Bill providing for the removal of certain fees, charges, and burdens on American vessels engaged in the inland and coastwise trade.

It is estimated that the total requirements for pensions in the next fiscal year will be \$80,000,000.

The Civil-Service Commissioners on Wednesday held an informal conference with the House Committee on Reform of the Civil Service. In reply to questions as to whether it would be practicable to classify Government employees by work rather than by salaries, the Commissioners said that while it was practicable, classification by salaries seemed to them a better plan. They favored the appointment of a commission to rearrange the classification and salaries of department employees, and cited instances where the same work was paid for at different rates in different departments. The Commissioners said they thought it would require an amendment to the Civil-Service Law to allow the Commission in making appointments to take into consideration the number of employees already in office from various States. They did not consider such an amendment wise, however, as it would tend to render the whole civil-service system unpopular with the North and West, because under it the South would get nearly all the offices and thus open up a sectional question. Under the law the South was now getting its share of the offices, and would in time have its due proportion of them.

The Commissioner of the General Land Office has discovered that the Indian title to about 10,000,000 acres of land in North Dakota has not been extinguished, despite Secretary Teller's order in October, 1884, opening these lands, and their subsequent settlement by inhabitants of what may comprise fourteen or fifteen counties, most of which are organized. They contain 20,000 people, included in the Devil's Lake section, the Turtle Mountain district, and the Mouse River section. Commissioner Sparks says that in view of the presumption that the question will be submitted to Congress, he has decided to suspend all surveying contracts in the district in question indefinitely.

The suit which Secretary Lamar recommended the Department of Justice to bring to test the validity of the patent held by the Bell Telephone Company has been ordered by Solicitor-General John Goode. The lawyers who will assist the Solicitor-General are A. G. Thurman, the firm of Hunton & Chandler, of Washington, Mr. Grosvenor P. Lowrey, of New York, and C. S. Whitman, a patent lawyer. The firm of Hunton & Chandler is composed of Mr. Eppa Hunton, a former member of Congress from the Virginia district, and of Mr. "Jeff" Chandler, formerly of St. Louis. The Attorney-General will have nothing to do with the suit.

The following statement regarding the telephone controversy has been obtained as the result of a diligent search by an unprejudiced investigator: "At the time when Mr. Garland acquired his interest in the Pan-Electric Company all the stockholders, himself included, were not worth \$10,000 together, and they are no richer to-day. The stock was never worth anything. He gave so little attention to it that

he does not know even where his certificate is at the present moment. He would cheerfully give it to anybody who thought it worth taking. Certainly at the time when he acquired it nobody could have conceived that he (Garland) would ever be Attorney-General of the United States. Before Mr. Garland went home on his vacation last year he was approached by parties seeking to have a suit instituted in the name of the United States to set aside the Bell patent on the ground of fraud in its procurement. He replied that he could have nothing to do with such a suit, because he might be charged with an interest in its determination. He dismissed the subject from his mind, and was as much surprised as anybody in the United States when he learned that such a suit had been authorized by the Solicitor-General. If it is asked why Mr. Garland does not now divest himself of his interest in the Pan-Electric Company, the answer will be that in the present temper of his assailants, the most of whom are misled by one-sided statements and imperfect knowledge, such action on his part would be construed as an acknowledgment that he had done wrong, and in that frame of mind the public would never learn that he had been innocent from the beginning and all the way through. It is understood that Mr. Garland told the President long ago that if this adventitious circumstance were an embarrassment to him, the Attorney-General's resignation would be placed in his hands without a moment's hesitation. It is believed, however, that the President will not sacrifice an innocent man to misguided clamor in any case, but will trust to the slow development of facts for the vindication of his Cabinet."

Mr. William Dorsheimer, United States District Attorney for the Southern District of New York, has placed his resignation in the hands of President Cleveland. It will take effect as soon as his successor is named. It was Mr. Dorsheimer's intention, formed some time ago, to resign as soon as he was confirmed by the Senate. He found that his editorial duties on the *Star* seriously interfered with his official work, and it became a question which position he should vacate. He decided to retain his editorship.

A report is current in Kansas that the Knights of Labor are boycotting the State militia throughout the State. Several firms have been warned against employing militiamen.

The strikers in the coke regions of Pennsylvania caused serious trouble on Monday by attacking non-union workers.

Four hundred Chinamen were driven from their homes in Seattle, Wash. Ty., on Sunday by a mob, and the passage money for 100 of them paid on a steamer for San Francisco. No physical violence was done to them. The Chinese were prevented from sailing on Sunday night by a writ of habeas corpus. On Monday they were taken into court and informed individually by the judge that they could go to San Francisco or stay, as they wished. If they took the latter course they would be protected to the full extent of the law. About 195 in all took passage on the steamer. The several hundred remaining marched back to Chinatown escorted by the Home Guard. The mob attacked them, and the militia fired, wounding five men. This increased the bitterness between the mob and the order-loving citizens, and a serious outbreak is apprehended. The President has been called on by the Government for Federal troops. On Tuesday the President issued a proclamation ordering all people assembled for unlawful purposes in Washington Territory to disperse before 6 p. m. February 10. If the proclamation is not obeyed, the military will interfere.

Governor Hill on Friday nominated P. Henry Dugro, of New York, as Commissioner of Immigration. He has been a member of the State Legislature and Congress, and is Grand Sachem of Tammany Hall.

George T. Lanigan, a bright journalist, author of the *World* fables, and at one time