

The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1888.

The Week.

THE amendment proposed by the Senate Finance Committee to the Morrison surplus resolution deprives that measure of its power for producing mischief. The amendment fixes a maximum of \$130,000,000 and a minimum of \$110,000,000 for the Treasury reserve, and authorizes the Secretary to suspend the operation of the act in cases of emergency. If the resolution passes in this shape, it will be merely the expression of "a pious opinion" on the part of Congress that the surplus should not under ordinary circumstances exceed \$130,000,000 nor fall below \$110,000,000. There is no objection to the resolution as thus amended. The objection to it as passed by the House lay in its mandatory and inflexible cast, no discretion being allowed to the head of the Treasury Department to vary it according to circumstances. In a similar exigency in the year 1837 President Van Buren was obliged to call Congress in extra session to repeal a resolution providing for a distribution of the surplus. A bill had been passed in 1836 providing that all the money in the Treasury exceeding a certain fixed sum should be "deposited" with the several States in fixed instalments. The first instalment was paid in January, 1837, the second in April, the third in June, when suddenly the panic of 1837 set in, and the Treasury was left without means to pay the current expenses of the Government. The fourth instalment, which was due in October, was never paid. On the contrary, Congress was hastily reassembled in order to repeal the surplus resolution, and was reduced to the mortifying expedient of borrowing money in time of peace to meet its ordinary expenses. Nor did the borrowing cease for five years afterwards.

The Morrison resolution in its financial aspects differs in nowise from the resolution of 1836. The one provided for the distribution of the surplus among the States. The other provides for its distribution among the bondholders. As regards the situation of the Treasury and its ability to cope with an emergency the two run to the same end. But there was much more plausibility to support the resolution of 1836 than there is in the present instance, because in the former case the Government was out of debt, and was overflowing with money, and it might be reasonably concluded that no circumstances of a commercial character would occur which would produce a deficit in place of a surplus for a Government which had no interest to pay, and no war or other extraordinary expenditure in prospect. The result gave new force and meaning to the adage that in the business world it is the unexpected that happens. Nothing could have been more unexpected than the panic of 1837. To those who look back at it of course it seems the most natural thing in the world. But if it had seemed so to those who were looking forward, and who were in the midst of the apparent bound-

ing prosperity of the time, it would never have taken place, because they would have avoided the follies which produced it. Quite certain is it that if the Treasury had kept the \$37,000,000 which it distributed to the States in 1837, it would have ridden the storm in security. National bankruptcy, signalized by an issue of Treasury notes which were not redeemed until 1842, was the climax of the surplus resolution passed in the last year of Jackson's Administration.

Gen. Logan showed little wisdom in taking his stand against an investigation of the charges that Senator Payne's election was procured through bribery, but his Republican assailants made a great mistake in charging him with cowardice and a desire to cover up his action so far as possible. The Illinois Senator's convictions are often wrong, but he always has at least the courage to assert them, and he was quite justified in his indignation against the Republican politicians and editors in Ohio who accused him of having been bought to oppose an investigation. The real significance of these personal attacks upon Logan and the equally personal attacks in his reply last week is the evidence which they furnish of the growing dissensions among the Republican leaders. The various factions in the party are so intent upon "killing off" everybody capable of being a Presidential candidate who does not belong to their side that, at the present rate, the work of beating whoever may get the nomination in 1888 will be largely accomplished without the necessity of any help from the Democrats.

The following tale, supposed to have a bearing upon Senator Beck's bill prohibiting members of Congress from appearing as counsel in behalf of railroad corporations before the Supreme Court of the United States, is communicated to us in confidence. We communicate it to the public in the same spirit. The receiver of a once bankrupt but now reorganized and highly successful Western railroad, soon after entering upon his trust, found himself in disagreement with another connecting and powerful railroad corporation in respect to the interpretation of certain contracts. As the parties were unable to agree, the matter, which was one of great importance to the stock and bondholders of the bankrupt road, was taken by the receiver into court for adjudication. The tactics of the opposition from the first were evidently not so much to depend on the merits of the case as to procrastinate, on the theory that the receivership could not last indefinitely, and that the receiver, sooner or later, would consent to compromise or yield in order to settle and terminate his trust. The case, although the proceedings were uniformly in favor of the receiver, was accordingly delayed and appealed, until it reached the United States Supreme Court, where, after the further and usual long delay, the time came for its hearing, and where, under ordinary circumstances, it might be expected that the litigation would terminate. When the docket was called, how-

ever, a Senator of the United States who was not previously known to the receiver to have any connection with the case, arose and said to the Court that he expected to appear for the defendants, but that his pressing Senatorial duties had interfered with his preparations therefor, and, further, that his absence at that particular time would greatly delay important legislative business. Under the circumstances, therefore, he asked the indulgence of the Court, and that it would consent to a postponement of the hearing. This modest request—with one judge on the bench who undoubtedly owed his nomination to the Senator, and with two others whose confirmation the Senator had favored—the court joyfully and immediately granted. The result was just what the defence anticipated, and which the Senator, beyond doubt, was hired to effect. The receiver, feeling unwilling to submit to a further and indefinite delay, promptly settled with his adversaries by giving up what he felt that, both in law and equity, he was entitled to have; while the Senator pocketed a rich fee for about five minutes' court service, which none other than himself could possibly have rendered. The receiver, in telling the story, added that all the consolation he got from his friends to whom he stated his grievances was, that he ought to have known enough to have anticipated his adversaries in retaining the Senator, or to have headed him off with a larger fee.

Now that Congress has sent to the President the Oleomargarine Bill, we beg leave to suggest to Senator Warner Miller another subject on which he may expend some of his surplus stock of statesmanship. We refer to picnic ice cream. The press keeps recording every week the fatal effects of this food substance; how it distributes cramps and nausea not only among whole families, but among whole church congregations and Sunday-schools, and threatens not only to make the name ice cream odious, but to put a stop to the holding of picnics. A moment's thought will convince any one how serious a blow to the industries of the country such a result would be. As the consumption of ice cream decreases, not only will the demand for cream (mayhap milk) grow less, but in the train of this will come a falling off in the sale of ice, salt, patent freezers, and the whole list of flavoring extracts. Butter is a simple commodity compared with ice cream, and if a tax on oleomargarine was worthy of many weeks' consideration by Congress in behalf of butter, a tax on picnic ice cream ought to be considered in a special session in behalf of the innocuous article. Herein lies the Herkimer County Senator's opportunity. Let him introduce a bill putting a liberal tax on all ice cream made for picnic purposes, with a special clause defining a picnic so clearly that there will be no danger that any judge of the Donohue temperament will grant an injunction. The passage of such a bill would give a fitting rounding up to Mr. Miller's public career. Then, when his loving admirers want to erect a monument to his fame, the

design will occur instantly to the artist employed. It will only be necessary to place a life-sized figure of the Senator on the roof of a wood-pulp mill, with one foot in a butter tub and the other resting carelessly on an ice-cream freezer, and holding in one hand the manuscript of his address advising young men to stand by their party. The whole world will at once recognize the statue without any inscription.

The summary of the changes in post-offices during the last fiscal year shows the great progress that has been made in overthrowing the "clean sweep" tradition. The Democratic Administration has been in power for sixteen months, and yet more than half the post-offices in the country are still filled by the old Republican incumbents. The total number of appointments made during the twelve months ending with June 30 was 22,747, of which 3,482 were made upon the establishment of new offices, 587 to fill vacancies caused by death, and 9,112 upon resignations and the expiration of commissions, leaving 9,566 cases in which the change was due to removal or suspension of the old incumbent. Comparing these figures with the corresponding totals under a Republican Administration, it appears that the changes correspond very nearly in most particulars, allowing for the increase in the number of offices, appointments upon resignations and expirations of commissions aggregating 7,346 in the year ending June 30, 1882, against 9,112 for the year ending June 30, 1886; the deaths, 461 in 1881-82, against 587 in 1885-86; appointments on the establishment of new offices, 3,166 in 1881-82, against 3,482 in 1885-86. Removals and suspensions aggregated 1,021 in 1881-82, and 9,566 in 1885-86; and this very moderate increase is the only thing that swells the total number of appointments from the 12,343 under a Republican Postmaster-General in 1881-82 to a few thousand above what might have been expected with a Republican Postmaster-General in 1885-86. The showing is exceedingly creditable to the Administration.

The Internal Revenue Bureau makes an excellent showing for the first fiscal year under a Democratic Administration. There has been an increase of about \$4,500,000 in the amount of revenue collected, and a decrease of \$155,000 in the cost of collecting it. Commissioner Miller has conducted the bureau upon strictly business principles, retaining old and experienced employees, and resisting the most determined efforts of the spoils-seekers to convert his department into a mere political machine; so that this record is peculiarly significant.

The immigration during the fiscal year ending with June shows a slight falling off from the record for the previous year, the aggregate at six ports which always receive about 95 per cent. of the whole number being 328,917 souls, against 349,030 in 1884-85. This is not much more than a third of the total in 1881-82, when no less than 788,992 immigrants arrived in the United States, but it is almost people enough to make a State with a population equal to that of New Hampshire or Vermont. There has been a falling off of about one-third in immigration

from Germany during the last year, as compared with the previous one, which unhappily has not been accompanied by a similar decrease in the less desirable classes of new comers from Bohemia, Hungary, Poland, and Italy; the latter nation, indeed, having largely increased its contribution, from 13,587 to 21,503.

The formal call for the "National Anti-Saloon Republican Conference" at Chicago on September 16 has appeared, and a most amusing document it is. It begins with the statement that the promoters of this movement think that "the party should not be asked to commit itself nationally to or against any specific law," but should announce as its settled policy that it will everywhere strive to reduce the business of dram-selling, and the evils resulting from it, as much as possible. It proceeds to affirm that "whatever is done must be done honestly, and with such emphasis that the men engaged in the liquor business will recognize the party as their enemy and leave its ranks," since nothing short of this would satisfy the temperance men; but declares that "that line of policy need not, and, if properly managed, will not, alienate the mass of drinking men." In other words, the scheme is so to "manage" things as to fool the Republicans who believe in prohibition, without "alienating" the other sort. The necessity of doing something is emphasized by this frank confession as to the desperate condition of the party:

"The very existence of the party is at stake. That it is now losing at both ends of the line and gaining nowhere is admitted by all, and it needs no argument to show that the current must, in some way, be changed, or a long series of disasters, if not ultimate ruin, are inevitable."

The determination of the Central Labor Union to promote both the cause of labor and temperance by refraining from Ehret's beer, because he was "mainly instrumental in bringing about the conviction and harsh sentences of the Theiss boycotters," is, as it stands, as silly as most of the other performances of these labor unions. If it provided for abstinence from all beer, one might welcome it, however unpleasant it might be for brewers, but the boycotting of Ehret's beer will probably simply lead to increased consumption of other beer; for it is a melancholy fact that boycotters seldom get together to talk over the "tyranny of capital" without imbibing large quantities of some stimulant. The Third Avenue strikers used to deliberate with a jug of beer, called "the growler," on the table, and the more of it they drank the more eager they were for the forfeiture of the charter of that road. We are greatly afraid that most of the elaborate arguments showing the abstract injustice of boycotting Ehret, which are addressed to the boycotters, are as much thrown away as if they were produced in a kindergarten. The mass of the boycotters appear to be big children, rather than adult members of a free State. They want to annoy and injure Ehret, and care as little what Lieber, or Bentham, or John Stuart Mill would say to their doings as a parcel of bad boys engaged in stoning a cat.

The strike against a Tenth Avenue ribbon manufacturer because he will not allow his

weavers to send out and get a pint of beer apiece in the middle of the afternoon is, so far as we know, the first organized movement of the sort, but it is quite in harmony with the revolt against discipline which characterizes so many strikes. It casts a little fresh light upon the difficulties of any coöperative enterprise among such men, since their first principle would be that anybody should be at liberty to leave his work and go out for a drink whenever he felt like it.

The July number of the *Nineteenth Century* contains an interesting article entitled "What the Working Classes Read." Among other things the writer says that "the working classes concern themselves little about any newspaper save those issued on the Sabbath," and he points out the low tone of the matter furnished by these weekly Sunday papers, declaring that "there is nothing in it to elevate, to ennoble, to inspire with a desire for truth and right living." He proceeds as follows:

"The working classes, in point of fact, are written down to. This is the mistake frequently made by educated men who take up subjects and deal with them for the uneducated. It will, of course, be urged that the Sunday newspaper is a business concern, and that the journalist produces what he finds is read. The excuse is unworthy and unwarranted. The working classes have made no demand for the ephemeral matter placed before them on Sunday mornings."

The excuse of the men who make Sunday newspapers of a poor grade in England is the same which is put forward by the men who make low-toned newspapers every day of the week in this country—that a newspaper "is a business concern," and that "the journalist produces what he finds is read." But in neither country has any evidence ever been presented to establish the claim that the readers want the sort of matter which is thrust upon them. The *Nineteenth Century* writer believes that the excuse is as unwarranted as it is unworthy; which, of course, is only his opinion; but nobody can dispute his statement that "the working classes have made no demand for" such matter as is furnished them. The statement would hold equally true regarding this country. No proof has ever been furnished that the people "demand" the scandalous, salacious, and indecent matter which most newspapers have been publishing in such profusion since the two-cent revolution of three years ago.

The *Independent* discourages the movement of progressive Georgians to develop their school system without Federal aid by such remarks as this: "The Savannah News is on the right track in spurring up the State to do more; but it will not succeed this year nor next, nor for ten or twenty years to come, in persuading the State to provide actually for six months of schooling, to say nothing of building school-houses, of which it has had the most beggarly supply." Fortunately the *Independent* is now the only Northern journal of any consequence which supports the "bill to promote mendicancy," and its endorsement of the Blair scheme does not count for much with intelligent Southerners against the almost unanimous conclusion of the press that national appropriations would be harmful

and must not be made. If the *Independent* were to examine into the facts, it would learn that of all Southern States Georgia has the least claim upon Federal bounty. It has almost three times as much wealth as Arkansas, and yet it does not raise as much money for schools. This is chiefly because Georgians have accepted the assurance of such people as the editor of the *Independent* that the nation would foot the bills for educating their children. On the other hand, the motto of Arkansas has been, in the words of the State School Superintendent, "We must be willing to help ourselves, be self-sustaining and independent"; and in this spirit the people have gone on until, as Gov. Hughes said in a recent speech, "the five-mills district-school tax is voted annually by the people in nearly all the school districts in the State," and the schools are in a most encouraging condition. All that is needed to give Georgia an equally good educational system is a readiness on the part of the people to tax themselves in the same way as the Arkansas people do, and that will come as soon as they make up their minds that the rest of the country is not going to give them the needed money. Fortunately there is growing evidence that the majority of them have already reached this conclusion, and, despite the *Independent's* incredulity, we have perfect faith that in much less than "ten or twenty years" such papers as the *Savannah News* will have succeeded in securing six months of schooling in good school-houses.

It is rather curious to find, on looking through the various obituary notices of the late Mr. Hubert O. Thompson, that no matter how eulogistic they may be, not one of them ever speaks of his devotion to the public interests or the interests of the city, while much is made of his devotion to the County Democracy and to his "friends." The same thing was observable in the notices of the late John Kelly. In fact, it has ceased in this city to be the custom to expect from a political "chieftain" any special care for the health, cleanliness, good order, or light taxation of the municipality. It is never this which makes a man great in local politics. It is his success as a manager of factions, which would be a good thing if it were used for good ends; but it seldom is. The sign of success is never the improvement of the city government, but the wresting of salaried offices, either by intrigue, escalade, or ambuscade, or barricade, from rival politicians. One of the good signs of the times is to be found in the admission that Mr. Thompson lost his "prestige" when he got neither the Collectorship of the Port from the President nor anything else from Mayor Grace. There was nothing against him, it was said, but they "could not afford" to give him anything. This means simply that the standard of fitness has been so raised by public opinion that a man must be something more than a "chieftain" to get a fat office.

The verdict of the jury in the Crawford-Dilke case confirms the finding of the court in the former trial. It is now adjudged that Mrs. Crawford's story was true, and by consequence that Sir Charles Dilke has added the crime of perjury to the other offences with which he was

charged. Worse than that, the perjury was not to shield the reputation of a woman, but to blacken it more deeply. The reopening of the case has been a great public and private calamity—a public calamity because the new revelations reach the proportions of an assault upon the common faith in education and good breeding as props to virtue; a private calamity because both the inculpated parties now stand in a worse light than before, and a number of persons not previously inculpated are now put in the pillory for life. Public sympathy, though seldom accorded in proper measure to the innocent sufferers from such scandals, must be extended to Mr. Crawford, and still more to Mr. Eustace Smith, the father of one unhappy woman and the husband of another. The only persons who have come well out of the Dilke scandal are the counsel who advised him after the first trial to let bad enough alone. They were much censured at the time, and he was much ridiculed for listening to them.

It is not often that anything so amusing in the way of a correspondence appears in print as a letter of Mr. Hubert de Castella to Mr. J. A. Froude, the historian, which we find in the *Sydney (Australia) Morning Herald*. It appears that when Mr. Froude was in Australia Mr. Hubert de Castella entertained him at dinner, and Mr. Froude was delighted with his host, and serves him up as "a most amusing companion" in his last volume, 'Oceana.' In this, Mr. de Castella figures as having served in the French Army, and also as a French detective employed in the Praslin murder case; as having fought behind the barricades in February, 1848, then serving on the police, and as having again fought on the side of the insurgents in June, 1848, and finally, as having married "a Sydney lady, moderately rich, who would have been much richer if she had pleased her friends better in the choice of a husband." Mr. de Castella now says that the only grain of truth in all this is that he did witness the Revolution of 1848, being at the time an art student in Paris, and did join a French cavalry regiment, but all the rest has been "built up" by Mr. Froude's imagination out of anecdotes told in an after-dinner chat. This would be a serious charge to bring against any man, but brought against an historian it is terrible. How can we trust among "the archives" a man who cannot be trusted to listen to a host's reminiscences at a dinner-table?

The exposure of John Bright's tergiversation is melancholy reading, coming so soon after the exposure of similar though far bolder and more unblushing tergiversation on the part of Mr. Chamberlain. It now seems that Mr. Bright in 1866, in the full maturity of his powers and of his fame as a statesman—he was then over fifty, and two years later took a seat in the Cabinet—went to Dublin, and there made a speech to the Irish in which he stated the case for home rule as strongly as it has ever been stated. Since then every reason he gave in its favor has been strengthened by events. Every year has added to their force. Nevertheless it was, of course, open to Mr. Bright to change his mind in the inter-

val, to say that he was persuaded he had made a mistake. But think of his turning on Mr. Gladstone and holding him up as a madman, or worse, and treating his plan of home rule as a scheme for the dismemberment of the empire, and abusing the Irish as unfit for self-government. It is not wonderful that in some of the Liberal clubs his picture has been turned with its face to the wall, as that of a "lost leader."

The difficulties of forming a Tory Cabinet continue, as was anticipated, to increase, as the task comes nearer. It is now acknowledged that no Liberal Unionist will take a place in it, not even Goschen, who within a year expressed his dread of "giving a blank check to Lord Salisbury." Nor can any pledge be extracted from them not to oppose Lord Salisbury on questions of domestic or foreign policy other than the Irish. One of the curious, and for Mr. Gladstone, justificatory, incidents of the crisis, is the expectation, which is said to be current both among the Unionists and the Tories, that they have got rid of the Irish question and can turn their attention to something else. This determination on the part of Englishmen not to be bothered with the Irish question whenever it can possibly be avoided, furnishes the Home-Rulers with one of their strongest arguments.

The *London Economist* supplies late information regarding the wheat harvest of India for the current year, from which it appears that the out-turn of British India and the Native States together is about 7,750,000 tons against 8,400,000 tons the previous year. According to the best calculations available, there is a profit of about 1s. 9½d. per quarter to the Indian grower when wheat brings 32s. in the London market, as it did when the last year's crop was marketed. But the price has now fallen to 31s. The margin of profit on exportation is thus narrowed to 9½d. per quarter, or little more than one penny per bushel, if the estimates of cost of production are correct. But these estimates are not to be depended upon altogether, since the Indian ryot does his own work mainly, and seldom hires labor even at the low price prevailing there. The extension of the railway system is nevertheless causing a steady increase in the number of acres under wheat cultivation, despite the falling prices.

Panama Canal shares declined 33 points, *i. e.*, from 428 to 395, on the Paris Bourse during the week ending July 15. Suez Canal shares fell from 2,030 to 2,000 in sympathy, showing something like a panic among the *petites gens*, who mainly hold both kinds of securities. If the bears could borrow Panama shares for "short" sales, the fall would undoubtedly be much greater. The bonds, of which there are three classes, fell heavily also. M. de Lesseps has called in 75,000,000 francs as an assessment on the share capital, which is expected to last until some kind of new loan can be raised. Meanwhile, the excitement among the investors has communicated itself to the political world, the dimensions of the failure, if it should turn out to be such, being without assignable limits.

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, July 21, to TUESDAY, July 27, 1886, inclusive.]

DOMESTIC.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND visited Albany on Thursday to take part in the exercises of the last day of the bi-centennial celebration. He was enthusiastically received.

The President on Saturday transmitted to the Senate a report from Secretary Bayard, made in compliance with the Senate resolution respecting the seizure of American fishing vessels in Canada. It sets forth the legal proceedings begun, and says: "Concurrent with these events correspondence has begun and is still proceeding between this Department and the British Minister at this capital, and also between the Minister of the United States in London and the Foreign Office of her Britannic Majesty's Government, to obtain suitable recognition and enforcement of our rights under treaty and international law, and the laws and commercial usages of both countries which are brought in question by the action of the Canadian authorities in making seizures and detentions of American fishing vessels herein referred to and described. Pending this correspondence, which, it is believed, must soon terminate in an amicable settlement mutually just and honorable, and therefore satisfactory to both countries and their inhabitants, the undersigned is unable to recommend the President to communicate its contents in its present incomplete status, believing that to do so would not be compatible with the public interests as connected with the transactions referred to."

The brief of Minister Phelps's argument on the fisheries question before the British Foreign Secretary has been submitted to the State Department, and is warmly approved. The United States claims that the seizures of the schooners *David J. Adams* and *Ellis M. Doughty* were not legal acts; and the release of the vessels, or the suspension of proceedings against the vessels' masters or owners, together with the payment of damages, is demanded. The United States will not yield the point that the three-mile limit is a distance of three marine miles from the shore at the point where the vessel may happen to be. The United States insists that the fines imposed in the other cases were excessive and not in accordance with international courtesy. The United States is anxious to secure by diplomacy the final and honorable settlement of the controverted points, but failing in this will not consent to see its citizens outraged and insulted. While the markets and ports of the United States are open as of old to the subjects of England, a settlement of the vexed question of the three-mile limit is first of all to be sought for.

On account of the non-release of an American editor, Mr. Cutting of El Paso, confined at Paso del Norte, Mexico, there is considerable warlike talk in Texas. Secretary Bayard has made an imperative demand for the immediate release of Mr. Cutting, which has not been complied with. Cutting was arrested because he alluded to Emilio Medina, a Mexican-Spaniard, as a "fraud and a dead beat," and heaped other abuse upon him through his own Spanish paper in Paso del Norte, and also in the *Sunday Herald* of El Paso. On his arrest he was not even offered the privilege of bail.

The House of Representatives on Wednesday passed the concurrent resolution for adjournment on July 28, by 145 to 36.

On Friday the House concurred in all the Senate amendments to the Oleomargarine Bill, thus avoiding the necessity for a conference. The bill went to the President, who on Monday referred it to the Attorney-General. It is supposed that the question of its constitutionality will be decided by him.

The House on Saturday passed the bill for increasing the navy.

The Senate on Thursday finally disposed of the Naval Appropriation Bill, and then proceeded with the Payne debate, deciding on Friday, by a vote of 17 to 44, not to investigate Senator Payne's election. All the affirmative votes were Republican.

The clause of the Sundry Civil Bill referring to silver certificates as finally passed by the Senate on Saturday reads as follows: "And the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and required to issue silver certificates in denominations of one, two, and five dollars; and the silver certificates herein authorized shall be receivable, redeemable, and payable in like manner and for like purposes as is provided for silver certificates by the Act of February 28, 1878, entitled 'An Act to authorize the coinage of the standard silver dollar, and to restore its legal-tender character; Provided, that said denominations of \$1, \$2, and \$5, may be issued in lieu of silver certificates of larger denominations in the Treasury, and to that extent said certificates of larger denominations shall be cancelled and destroyed.' The bill appropriates an aggregate of \$24,418,375, or an increase of \$3,106,850 over the amount appropriated by the bill as it came from the House. The items added by the Senate are \$717,545 for public buildings, \$516,750 for lighthouses, \$106,652 for the Coast Survey, and \$1,765,902 on account of miscellaneous items.

The Senate Committee on Finance agreed by a majority vote on Tuesday to report the Morrison surplus resolution with an amendment. The text of the resolution remains as it came from the House, but the following proviso is attached: "That no call shall be made under the provisions of this resolution until a sum equal to the call is in the Treasury over and above the reserve herein mentioned; and provided further, that the Secretary of the Treasury in his discretion may have in the Treasury over and above the foregoing sum a working balance not exceeding \$20,000,000; and in the case of any extraordinary emergency, and when, because thereof, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Treasury, the public interest shall require it, he may by written order suspend the further call for the payment of such indebtedness for such period of time as shall be necessary to maintain the public credit unimpaired."

Gen. Wells, Collector of Customs at Burlington, Vt., suspended, has resigned, and Col. B. B. Smalley, who many months ago was appointed Collector to take the place of Wells, and who is the incumbent of the office, but who has not been confirmed, has been again nominated Collector to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Gen. Wells. Of the confirmation of Col. Smalley under this new appointment there can be no doubt. This was one of the conspicuous cases in which Senator Edmunds took a special personal interest.

Post-office inspectors have discovered that Col. Bolton, Superintendent of second-class matter at the Chicago Post office and the Chief-Weigher Stuart, have defrauded the Government out of several thousand dollars. Both were arrested. These men would report one weight of newspapers and collect from the newspapers for a much larger weight.

The Postmaster-General has caused to be prepared a statement of the operation of the railway mail service for the last fiscal year. In this service there was a reformed system established by George Bangs, one of its first superintendents, which, in its essential features, has been continued to this day. The system does not apply to admission to the service, which has generally been almost entirely political, but after a clerk is admitted he is classed as a probationer, and is required to maintain a certain standard of excellence to retain his place. The total number of clerks in the railway mail service at the beginning of the present fiscal year was 4,563. The total number of appointments by increase during the year was 176. The va-

cancies by resignation were 437. There were 459 removals, of which 227 were for partisanship manifested by the clerks appointed under the Republican Administration, and 232 for other causes. Of the clerks appointed under this Administration only one has been removed for partisanship.

The recent vigorous orders of the Civil-Service Commission have the full approval of the President. He is determined that the law shall be executed in letter and spirit, has been thoroughly advised as to every movement of the Commission, and has approved it. The Civil-Service Commissioners are considering the propriety of taking charge of the examinations for promotions in the departments. This fact gives the clerks who have long been in the service some concern.

The internal-revenue collections for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1886, were \$116,902,845; for the previous fiscal year \$112,421,121, an increase of \$4,481,724. The Commissioner thinks there will be a further increase for the coming year.

The Vermont Democrats on Thursday nominated S. B. Shurtleff of Montpelier, for Governor. The platform warmly approves the Administration.

The great rolling-mill strike, involving 1,500 men in the five largest establishments of Philadelphia, has been settled by arbitration in favor of the employees.

William Hunter, Second Assistant Secretary of State, the oldest official in continuous service of the United States, died on Thursday in Washington of a complication of diseases incident to old age. He was born in Newport, R. I., in 1805, and entered the State Department as a clerk in 1829. He was appointed chief clerk under the Administration of Fillmore, and Assistant Secretary ad interim under the two Democratic Administrations of Pierce and Buchanan, and was regularly commissioned Assistant Secretary when Andrew Johnson was President. There was probably no man of his day whose knowledge of the diplomatic moves of the Government was so thorough as that of William Hunter. There is little in the secret history of the affairs of state of the United States with which he was not familiar. His most celebrated work was the letter which he wrote to the Austrian Government in the Koszta case, which was signed by Daniel Webster while sick in bed. In politics Mr. Hunter was always a staunch Democrat. After the breaking out of the war Assistant-Secretary Treshold, who was a North Carolinian, resigned and went South, and Mr. Hunter was given the place until a permanent Secretary could be appointed. As a reward for his services in this position, at the conclusion of the war the office of Second Assistant Secretary was specially provided, and in 1866 Mr. Hunter was commissioned as such, and retained the position until his death. During a short interval of four days between the relinquishing of the Secretaryship of State by Everett and the appointment of Marcy, Mr. Hunter was the acting Secretary of State.

Charles F. Conant, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury under Secretary Bristow from 1874 to 1877, died at Cambridge, Mass., on Monday, at the age of fifty-one.

Hubert O. Thompson, ex-Commissioner of Public Works, was found dead in his bed at the Worth House, in this city, at 9:35 o'clock on Monday morning. He died of cerebral apoplexy. His age was thirty-seven years. Mr. Thompson was the leader of the County Democracy in this city, a firm believer in "practical politics," and one of their most skillful manipulators. His education was acquired in the public schools, being finished at the Free Academy, now the College of the City of New York. After ten years passed in Wall Street, in brokerage and railroad business, he was appointed chief clerk in the Water Purveyor's office, and soon afterward Deputy