

The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1886.

The Week.

THE attempted mediation of the Governors in the Missouri-Pacific strike seems to have as yet led to no result. At all events the strikers have not, up to this date, taken their advice to accept Vice-President Hoxie's offer to let bygones be bygones, and take back into the service of the company all strikers who have not been guilty of doing damage to property. At this moment things in Texas are in a worse condition than ever, since the strikers, as the strain on their resources increases, are evidently more and more disposed to resort to violence. A masked mob has overpowered the guards and "killed" the engines at Denison, and at Omaha a freight train which escaped from the station was pursued and brought back by force. To this complexion it was pretty sure to come at last. The position taken by the Knights is, in fact, one which cannot be maintained in any community without violence. No man not a Knight can be won over to it by argument simply. The right of another man to stay in your employment on his own terms, or, in other words, the right of trades unions to billet laborers on any one they select for as long as they please, which is now the central doctrine of the labor gospel, is one which civilized communities will no more accept peaceably than they will accept the Koran and the Mormon Bible. It is aggravated, too, by the right, which the Knights also claim, of obstructing highways and damaging property in one part of the country in order to aid them in having their way in the settlement of disputes in another.

If the railroad corporations—whose defects, as owners of property, we see as clearly as any one—think they can escape this trouble by surrender now, they are greatly mistaken. We have seen enough to know that the Knights are in the hands of men who do not know what moderation is, and who are utterly indifferent to the general welfare, and probably hardly understand it, and who will be emboldened by every success to make new and more intolerable demands. The railroads might just as well push this question to a settlement this year as any other. What is needed most of all just now is a thorough comprehension by the American people of the nature and extent of the danger with which the labor question, in the form in which the Knights are presenting it, is threatening their civilization. They did not revolt against George III. for quartering soldiers on them in time of peace, in order to allow Mr. Powderly to quarter vast bodies of Knights on them, on terms fixed by him and for indefinite periods. An employer who gets a Knight on his hands, literally does not know from day to day how long he will have to keep him, or what he will have to pay him, or whether he will not eat him out of house and home, and break his furniture before he leaves.

The reply of Mr. H. M. Hoxie to Mr. T. V. Powderly's request for a conference to arrange terms of adjustment with the Knights of Labor on the Missouri-Pacific Railroad clarifies the situation in the Southwest in a remarkable manner. The central fact that a strike was ordered on the Missouri-Pacific because something had happened on another road not controlled by the Missouri-Pacific, and that all the misdemeanors and brigandage that have followed have had no cause in any difference or disagreement between the employing company and its employees, but have their origin in something as foreign to the parties as the changes of the moon, is stated so methodically and convincingly that Mr. Powderly in his rejoinder has no answer to make to it. He retreats under cover of some general observations regarding the goodness of his intentions, but does not deny Mr. Hoxie's statement that the strike is really a boycott, and that it is only a repetition, on a more extensive scale, of the attempted boycott of the Wabash Road at the time when that property was taken charge of by the United States Court.

The whole trouble in the Southwest may be traced to the boycott of the Mallory Steamship Company in the city of Galveston. The Mallory Company had a difficulty with its employees. The Knights of Labor, in order to force the company to reemploy some discharged workmen—the rate of wages was not the subject of the dispute—issued orders intended to prevent the bringing of any goods to Galveston to be shipped by the steamships of this particular line. It was found to be impossible to discriminate between goods coming to Galveston for one purpose and for another. So the boycott was enlarged to the proportions of a blockade of the city. The sympathy of the public, as is usual in such cases, was extended to "the workingmen," this phrase being ingeniously applied to the minority of workingmen who were organized as boycotters; all other workingmen and women being, for the time, cast out of the reckoning. The Mallory Company made some concessions to the force of circumstances, upon which the Knights were enabled to claim a victory. This was to them a demonstration of supreme power. It turned their heads completely. They fancied that they had only to swing the club of the boycott in order to dominate industry, society, the courts of law, and the Government of the United States. Their range of intelligence was as narrow as their demands were boundless, and both found a notable opportunity for exercise when the man Hall was discharged by the Receivers of the Texas-Pacific Road, for being absent without leave—that is, for staying away three days on a leave of absence for half a day. A demand was made for Hall's reinstatement and it was refused. A strike was ordered, together with a boycott of certain connecting roads to make the strike more effective.

The lengthy reply of the Knights to Governors Marmaduke and Martin and to Mr. Hoxie betrays a dawning sense of the weakness and

indefensibility of their position. They say, in the first place, that the two Governors came in as negotiators voluntarily—they were not asked by the Knights to take a hand in the fight. That is quite true. The chief executives of the two States whose business and industry have been deranged, and who may shortly be compelled to put all the machinery of law in motion to restore the broken communications, did take some pains to avoid this disagreeable duty, and they are now virtually accused of meddling with what did not concern them. This is a refreshing glimpse of the ideas that are uppermost in Assembly No. 101. Then we are told that the Governors are all wrong in saying Mr. Hoxie has lived up to the "agreement" of March, 1885, because there was no such agreement. What is called an agreement was simply a lot of pledges and promises made by Mr. Hoxie and posted up in public places. It signifies nothing that Mr. Hoxie kept his pledges, if there was no agreement on their part to do anything in consequence. Here is another glimpse at the future prosperity and well-being of a country dominated by a class whose whimsies are to be substituted in the place of acts of the Legislature and the decrees of courts. Finally, we are told that even if Mr. Hoxie's pledges and promises had amounted to an agreement, there was a dark design underneath it to destroy the Knights of Labor organization, and that Mr. Hoxie has been laboring insidiously to bring about the present strike, so that he might stop the operation of his own road and embarrass the business of three States, and thus excite public opinion against the Knights. This is such a manifest falsehood that no person endowed with common sense will waste breath in discussing it. The simple truth perceived through the whole mass of dark-lantern sophistry is that Assembly No. 101 of the Knights of Labor have, without cause or provocation, but in the exercise of an unbridled ambition, and with the intent to show their power, boycotted three States, and that now, being alarmed by evidences that they have aroused against themselves a public opinion hitherto favorable to them, they are inventing excuses for their conduct. It remains to be seen whether the people of those States are as much attached to their form of government as American citizens are commonly supposed to be, or whether they are disposed to try a new experiment, the attractive outlines of which are sketched in the reply of the Knights to Governors Marmaduke and Martin.

The United States Senate indulges Mr. Blair's love of notoriety too much. Last month it passed a bill providing for Federal aid to Southern education because his feelings would be hurt if the measure should be defeated in the upper branch, and the lower branch could be trusted to smother it. On Thursday it passed a bill, introduced by the same Senator, establishing a commission to report on the evils of the liquor traffic, and appropriating \$10,000 for the Commission's expenses;

the measure, according to an intelligent correspondent, being "allowed to pass the Senate with the knowledge that it never will be heard of in the House." Yet, with such encouragement to what may be called the profession, there are people who wonder that the number of "cranks" in this country appears to be on the increase.

Mr. Morrison introduced in the House on Tuesday a resolution which it is to be hoped that the Committee on Rules will speedily report back and the body adopt. It is in these words:

"Resolved, That it shall be in order, when any general bill or proposition to increase the rates or amounts of pensions, or to grant pensions to persons not previously entitled thereto by law, is under consideration, to amend the same so as to provide by taxation or otherwise for the payment thereof; but no such amendment shall be in order unless the net revenue provided for shall be thereby set apart for the sole purpose of paying such increased pensions."

With such a rule the demagogical member who proposed an amendment extending the limit of the arrears act, which involves the payment of two or three hundred millions of dollars, would have to accept the amendment of a level-headed member providing new methods of taxation to raise the money required. A worse blow could not be struck at the pension demagogues. It would be well, however, to broaden the scope of the resolution so that it will apply to all sorts of raids upon the public Treasury. Whenever anybody proposes to spend \$50,000,000 on a ship-railway scheme, \$77,000,000 on education in the States, or a hundred or two millions on some other job, let the rules provide that it shall be in order to amend by inserting in the bill a clause imposing the taxes required to provide the money. Blair bills, Eads ship-railway schemes, and the whole brood of gigantic raids upon the Treasury would speedily wilt away under the flood of light which would thus be turned upon their real meaning to the taxpayers.

Mr. Hemphill, of South Carolina, made a very strong speech on the silver question on Saturday. His statement of the effect of a fluctuating currency upon the interests of the cotton States and the cotton planters was extremely perspicuous and profoundly true. He showed how entirely at the mercy of the broker and the speculator the planter must be when he has no means of protecting himself against variations in the value of the two kinds of money in which the value of his product must be computed if silver becomes the monetary standard in this country. Four-fifths of the cotton crop is sold to foreign countries at gold prices. If it is bought at silver prices in this country, the buyer must protect himself against fluctuations in the value of silver, and all the errors in his computations will be in his own favor. The growers of cotton, tobacco, wheat, or any exportable article will be absolutely powerless to protect themselves against these exactions, which are, in fact, inherent in any traffic carried on with two measures of value. Mr. Hemphill also gave his opinion of the kind of service rendered to the laboring man by those who seek to pay his wages in "cheap dollars." The mystery of mysteries is that

any laboring man should be such a fool as to admit that an eighty-cent dollar is good enough for him. Roast turkey and cranberry sauce for the capitalist, bran and potatoes for the laboring man, would be just as wise and quite as worthy of acceptance and adoption by the wage-workers of the country as the current saying, "Gold for the rich and silver for the poor."

In connection with the recent changes in the Civil-Service Commission at Washington, mention should be made of the appointment of Mr. W. L. Trenholm to the important position of Comptroller of the Currency. Mr. Trenholm was called to the Civil-Service Commission because the public service required a man of high principles and superior culture, representing the best type of Southern society, to fill one of the three places on the Board. He would undoubtedly have remained there, had not the resignation of Comptroller Cannon made a vacancy requiring, in addition to the foregoing qualities, a special acquaintance with financial studies, and a reputation as a sound thinker co-extensive with the section to which Mr. Trenholm belongs. A better selection could not have been made. Mr. Trenholm enters upon the discharge of his new duties at a time when the national banking system is approaching a crisis. The bond security of its circulating notes is being slowly but surely cut away, and the questions relating to its future existence, if it is to continue at all, are among the most perplexing that the Government will have to deal with. It is fortunate that the position of Comptroller of the Currency at such a time is filled by a man like Mr. Trenholm, who has the ear of that portion of the country most hostile to the national banks, and which would, perhaps, be glad to see the old State-bank system of the *ante-bellum* period revived.

The Hartford *Courant* is a Republican organ which is never disposed to take an unduly sanguine view of any Democratic action. When, therefore, it commends an appointment by the President to a responsible position, its words should command attention. The *Courant* says, regarding the disposition of sundry Republican organs to condemn the selection of Mr. Oberly, of Illinois, as a member of the Civil-Service Commission, on the ground that he has been in the past an active Democratic politician, that the same criticism was made when he was appointed Superintendent of Indian Education nine months ago, but that "in simple justice it must be said that he has demonstrated that his critics of last year were not well informed." The *Courant* goes even further, and volunteers this warm tribute to Mr. Oberly:

"His general management of the important work intrusted to him has been satisfactory. He has made an intelligent and efficient Superintendent, according to the testimony of those best informed on the subject. He has endeavored to correct evils which unquestionably existed, and, unless favorably misrepresented, he has made no effort to use the office for partisan or personal advantages. It is said to be because the President is pleased with the manner in which he has performed the duties of an important subordinate position that he has made him a Civil-Service Commissioner. Now that he has received the

appointment it will be fair and just to defer condemnation until it is merited. He has ability enough to make a first-rate Commissioner, and possibly may be disposed to make a good record. Certainly there can be no gain in treating him unjustly simply because he is a Democrat and has been an active politician."

The example set by the law-abiding citizens of Portland, Oregon, on Wednesday week, ought to make a salutary impression upon the country. Fifteen hundred men, moved by a sense of their responsibility for republican government, met in pursuance of public notice, and resolved that they would dedicate their fortunes, and if necessary their lives, to the defence of law and order and the principles of common humanity. They then appointed a committee of fifteen to take immediate steps, in conjunction with the proper authorities, to put the community in a posture of effectual defence against the threatened attack of outlaws upon the Chinese. The hoodlums had assembled in mass meeting in an adjoining room for the purpose of overawing the friends of law and order, but the strength of the latter was so overwhelming and its spirit so determined that they contented themselves with boycotting the Portland *Oregonian* newspaper, whose resolute and persistent defence of the principles of American institutions, of liberty regulated by law, and of a common humanity, has been largely instrumental in keeping the sacred fires of public spirit alive in Portland. The example of the *Oregonian* is in fine contrast to that of certain newspapers which, a few days ago, were encouraging a mob to seize and overturn coal carts and grocery wagons to make barricades against the running of street cars in New York.

The Californians are beginning dimly to perceive that there are two sides to the Chinese question in its commercial, if not in what they stigmatize as its "sentimental," bearings. In Stockton the mob have been trying to get everybody to sign a petition for the abrogation of the treaty with China, and an attempt was made at one of their recent meetings to pass a vote of censure upon Mayor Welsh for having refused the use of his name. The *Independent*, a strongly anti-Chinese paper, is forced to denounce this movement as being "impudent as well as absurd." It appears that three-fourths of Stockton's flour is shipped to China, and would be without a market if the treaty with that nation were to be abrogated. "One of the counts in the indictment against the Chinese," says the *Independent*, "is that they do not spend money enough with white producers and manufacturers, yet here was a proposition to bring discredit upon one of white labor's best employers, because he would not sign a demand to stop the one important source of American money in return from China. Neither of Mr. Welsh's mills employs Chinese, but both are large employers of white labor, which is treated considerably and well paid." We must warn the Stockton *Independent* that it has an account to settle with the San Francisco *Post*. The latter newspaper, a fortnight ago, was insisting upon a break-off of all commercial relations with the Chinese, on the ground that "we are apparently doing a losing business with these people." Far be it from a "doctrinaire" jour-

nal published in New York to decide when two such eminent anti-Chinese doctors differ so radically in their diagnosis and prescription.

The bill passed with such commendable promptness by both branches of the Legislature on Thursday, authorizing the sale of all street-railway franchises at auction hereafter, is an immense gain for reform. The Governor has signed it, and it goes into effect as a law immediately. All bargains between railway companies and the Aldermen which are unfulfilled, are thus declared "off." Not one of the franchises granted as a result of such bargains is worth a penny to anybody. The Aldermen henceforth will be able to command very small prices for their votes, since, even after their consent to a railway is given, the franchise must be sold at public auction. Governor Hill, in approving the Cantor bill, points out certain defects in it which must be remedied by supplemental legislation, as no time could be lost in the passage of the present bill if the game of the Aldermen with regard to other franchises was to be blocked. He draws attention to a curious piece of optimism on the part of Governor Cleveland, who thought it unnecessary to make the sale of franchises by auction compulsory instead of optional, on the ground that if the local authorities were determined "to cheat and defraud their constituents by refusing to put up a valuable franchise at auction, they must under this bill [the General Surface Street Railway Act] do it in the broad light of day, and with a brazenness and boldness that would find a way to evade the most carefully framed law." This is, however, exactly what the Aldermen did. They sold the franchise at 9 o'clock A. M. in the summer season, and with a publicity and éclat which showed they did not care what any one thought of the transaction.

Senator Daly's bill reducing the number of Aldermen to fifteen and requiring their election on a general ticket, the candidate receiving the highest vote to be President of the Board, is a good measure, and ought to be promptly passed by the Legislature. The arguments in its favor are obvious. The strongest one is that the proposed change would break up the constantly growing practice of nominating liquor-dealers for Aldermen. No party would venture to put a liquor-dealer on a ticket which was to be submitted to the whole city for election. There has been a great outburst of indignation over the Jaehne case, but there is no reason for surprise. With few exceptions there is not a member of the present Board who is at all fitted by character or experience for his position. It is entirely within the bounds of moderation to go further, and say that fully two-thirds of the present members are by character and experience totally unfitted for any position of trust. No reputable business man would have one of them in the smallest place of trust or responsibility in his establishment. Seven of them are liquor-dealers, and nearly all of them are companions of liquor-dealers and regular frequenters of gambling saloons. When Jaehne was wanted the other night, he

was sought and found in a liquor store, as were three ex-Aldermen interviewed in the morning papers.

Mexico seems about to consider the question of Federal aid to education. The initiative has been given by the action of the Legislature of the State of Chiapas, asking the National Congress to pass a bill establishing in the various States schools for the education of the Indians. The idea has been caught up enthusiastically by a section of the press (especially the provincial press), is reported to be "favorably entertained" by the Government, and promises to be discussed among the important questions in the next session of Congress. The advocates of the plan are not slow to point to the precedent now set by the United States, and, indeed, are able to press the familiar arguments with a force altogether greater than that of our Senatorial debaters; for, with an equal poverty on the part of the States, the burden of illiteracy is far heavier, the part of the population for which help is invoked being at least three-fifths of the whole. The obvious objection of unconstitutionality will probably prove but a slight obstacle to the scheme, though a more serious difficulty would seem to threaten it in the bankrupt condition of the Federal Treasury. In these days of paternalism in government, however, it does not seem to require the existence of a tempting surplus to suggest an appeal to national aid.

The project of an international exposition in Mexico in 1892, submitted to the Government by the Associated Press of the City of Mexico, is the latest theme for newspaper comment. It is received with that jaunty self-confidence so characteristic of a Mexican discussing a grand idea, while the almost insuperable difficulties of detail, being still so remote, are overlooked. One would think that the conspicuous failure of the National Exposition at Orizaba, in 1882, would serve to retard somewhat a more ambitious attempt. It is possible that the underlying motive with the Mexicans is a desire to revenge or recoup themselves for their experience at New Orleans. Some very bitter things have been said by the Mexican press of the misrepresentations which induced their Government to incur so great an outlay to give their country a creditable appearance at an exposition which turned out to be little better than a provincial affair.

The news from England goes to show that the importance of Chamberlain's reported desertion of Gladstone has probably been greatly exaggerated. Chamberlain has not been gaining ground in public estimation during the last two years. On the contrary, he has been losing it. His economical plans during his last term of office led the business men to distrust his judgment and suspect him of demagoguery. His attitude toward Mr. Gladstone more recently has led the Radicals to question his sincerity and disinterestedness. The chances are, therefore, that if he should abandon Gladstone at this crisis, he would simply take one more step toward his own political ruin. Moreover, however much the Whigs or timid Radicals may outwardly wriggle

over Gladstone's Irish plans, the economic agencies, which are very powerful just now, are working in their favor. The owners of rented land both in Ireland and England—particularly the latter—and their creditors, are a very influential body, and this proposal to expropriate them is probably the last chance they will ever have of getting rid of worthless estates. They will therefore, however much they talk against Gladstone's schemes in public, probably secretly support them, and push them through the House of Lords, where the landed interest is all-powerful. They will be made all the more eager by the growing recognition of the fact, to which we have frequently called attention in these columns during the past six or seven years, and which English economists at last begin to see, that a large proportion of Irish land, like the land in New England and most of the Eastern States, will no longer yield rent. That is to say, it will support the man who tills it, but nobody else, neither a wage-paying farmer nor a gentleman landlord. The probabilities are, indeed, that, owing to American competition, a very large part of the island is now in this condition.

The protracted debates to which the various measures instituted by the Prussian Government for the further Germanization of Posen, West Prussia, and Upper Silesia have given rise in the German Reichstag and the Prussian Diet, render it clear that the task of the Government will be an exceedingly arduous one. Bismarck's historical dissertations on the subject—and he has indulged in these with his wonted unbridled frankness and rude unconcern—and the additional testimony of the Ministers Puttkamer and Gossler, not only show that the Poles in those provinces have hitherto triumphantly withstood the denationalizing pressure exercised against them by the governmental machine and the surrounding German populations, but that their methods and means of resistance are of a nature to baffle the most strenuous efforts. The intrinsic justice of their cause, the profound influence of religion, the untiring propaganda of their clergy, the prestige of nobility, the charm of their language, the patriotic fervor of the Polish women, the cringing subserviency of Germans speculating on Polish patronage and custom—all these and similar subtle agencies combine to create a moral strength of more than merely defensive character. Bismarck and his associates pretend that the violent measures proposed, which the rest of the civilized world deems acts of international barbarism, worthy of Muravieffs and Potapoffs, are only processes of self-defence in the interest of German nationality and Prussian integrity. Russia has effectually applied such measures in Lithuania, Volhynia, and other portions of ancient Poland, but she had the advantage of acting upon mixed populations, of which the Lithuanian and Malo-Russian elements counterbalanced the properly Polish; and then she had also the gallows and Siberia to emphasize her decrees. Bismarck and his successors will have to deal with the purest portion of the Polish nation, and will be hampered by constitutional limitations and widespread sympathies which even German chauvinism will not be able to stifle or ignore.

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, March 17, to TUESDAY, March 23, 1886, inclusive.]

DOMESTIC.

THE Senate on Wednesday passed the new Electoral Count Bill.

In the Senate on Thursday Mr. Van Wyck offered an amendment to the Edmunds resolutions, that all appointments in place of suspended men shall be considered in open session. This was defeated.

In the Senate on Monday afternoon Mr. Logan submitted the following resolution: "That the sessions of the Senate commonly known as executive sessions, so far as they apply to nominations, confirmations, or rejections, shall hereafter be held with open doors, and that a public record of the same shall be kept, the same as of legislative sessions." It was ordered printed.

Three Republican Senators and one Democratic Senator, members of the District Committee, voted on Monday in favor of reporting the nomination of Mr. James C. Matthews (colored), of Albany, to be Recorder of Deeds of the District, and three Democrats and one Republican voted against reporting it. Upon this tie vote an adverse report was ordered. The affirmative votes were those of Ingalls, Pike, and Palmer (Reps.), and Brown (Dem.). The negative votes were those of Blackburn, Vance, and Harris (Dems.), and Riddleberger (Rep.).

Mr. George Hearst has been appointed United States Senator in place of the late Senator Miller by Governor Stoneman, of California. He is a man of wealth, connected with a leading mining firm, and a mining prospector of recognized authority. He was a candidate for Governor before the Convention which nominated Governor Stoneman, and received considerable support for Senator when Mr. Stanford was elected.

Pension Commissioner Black on Thursday submitted to the House Committee the names and numbers in twenty cases which he said had been allowed or rejected under Commissioner Dudley on account of the politics of the claimants. He said he would furnish in addition 300 or 400 affidavits, when the Committee should have examined the list, in support of his allegation that the Pension Office had been conducted as a political machine.

The House Judiciary Committee has finally agreed upon a bill which is designed to correct one of the greatest evils of the present system of legislation. It proposes to relieve Congress of the great burden of private legislation by giving the United States district and circuit courts equal jurisdiction with the Court of Claims, to amounts of \$10,000, in all suits against the Government.

The House Committee on Elections on Friday decided the Hurd-Romeis (Ohio) contested election case in favor of the sitting member, Mr. Romeis. Mr. Hurd thinks the House will give him the seat.

The House Committee on Shipping on Monday, by a vote of 7 to 6, instructed Representative Dunn to report favorably his Free Ship Bill, with an added section authorizing the entry free of duty of materials used in the construction of ships. All the Republican members voted against the bill, and all the Democrats except one in favor of it.

Something of a sensation was produced in the House of Representatives on Monday, when the Chaplain devoted his opening prayer to an invocation to God to rid the land of gamblers, whether in cards, dice, chips, stocks, wheat, bucket-shops, or boards of trade, and to lead the people to know that money-making other than by the sweat of the face was contrary to His laws. On motion of Mr. Butterworth (Rep., O.), the prayer was ordered to be inserted in the *Record*.

The prospects of the Tariff Bill in the House are not encouraging. It is now proposed by Mr. Morrison and his associates to put wool on the free list, strike off the specific parts of the duties on woollen goods which the manufacturers could spare if there were no duty on wool, and strike out the sections putting all ores on the free list, and reducing the duties on metal goods, glass, and pottery. This proposition contemplates an abandonment of Ohio, and an effort to conciliate Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and secure the votes of Democratic members from those States.

Both houses of Congress have passed a bill giving the widow of General Hancock a pension of \$2,000. It met with considerable opposition in the House, on the ground that General Hancock had long had a liberal salary, and that such pensions were an inducement to extravagant living.

The President has talked freely with Congressmen as to the Blair Educational Bill, and has impressed some of them with the belief that he does not think the measure constitutional.

The Secretary of the Treasury on Monday issued a call for \$10,000,000 3 per cent. bonds of the issue of 1882.

There is a rumor that Mr. Trenholm, as Comptroller of the Currency, will interfere with the operations of the Louisiana Lottery Company, so far as they have been conducted through the national banks.

General Schofield will be General Hancock's successor in command of the Division of the Atlantic.

The petition or bill of complaint in the suit brought by the United States Government to annul and vacate the Bell telephone patents was filed in the United States Circuit Court at Columbus, O., on Tuesday, by the District Attorney. It is a large pamphlet, showing that the ground-work of the action is the fraud alleged to have been practised by Alexander Graham Bell in obtaining his patents by the connivance of persons holding official position in the United States Patent Office, and by misrepresentations made in his behalf.

Governor Murray, of Utah, has resigned. The Gentile press are indignant that this action should have been requested.

The Receiver of the Texas and Pacific Railroad agreed on Thursday with the Knights of Labor to submit their dispute to arbitration.

On Friday Vice-President Hoxie, of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad, replied to Mr. Powderly, of the Knights of Labor, that he would not meet him and a committee to arrange the questions about the strike, because of the frequent annoyances the company had experienced at the hands of the trade organizations in the last eight months. This lessened the chances of a settlement, but Governor Marmaduke of Missouri and Governor Martin of Kansas decided that public interest rendered it necessary for them to endeavor to act as mediators in the strike. They prepared a proposition which was accepted by the strikers, and left on Friday night for St. Louis to lay it before the railroad officials. The men agreed to return to work on the terms of agreement in force at the time, they struck, simply making a request that the question of increasing wages of bridge and trackmen be taken into account. The matter of Hall's reinstatement on the Texas and Pacific was not mentioned. Vice-President Hoxie said that the agreement entered into with the men on March 15, 1885, would be accepted by him, with the following provisions: That all parties who have entered the service of the Missouri-Pacific Railway Company since March 5, 1886, would be retained, and that men of families and who had homes would be given the preference; that no one who had participated in the destruction of the company's property, or who directed such destruction, would be reinstated; and that on account of the strike he should not require as

many men to perform the work as were employed before the strike occurred. These terms the men promptly rejected.

Early on Sunday morning, ten watchmen at the round-house at Denison, Texas, were seized by 150 masked men, who disabled all the engines and did serious damage to other property in the shops. A Missouri-Pacific freight train which was started out of Omaha on Sunday afternoon was pursued by Knights of Labor on an engine and compelled to return. An attempt to start a similar train from St. Louis on Tuesday was defeated, the coupling pins being drawn every time a start was made. A train started from Sedalia, Mo., on Tuesday, was thrown from the track and four men were badly hurt. New developments of the trouble were the strike of all the switchmen at Kansas City, Mo., on Monday, and a general strike of all the coal miners in the fourth district of Pennsylvania.

One of the results of the transcontinental railroad war is the shipment of apples, potatoes, and onions from Chicago to California. Apples are not grown successfully in that State.

At a meeting of presidents of the coal roads in this city on Monday, a harmonious arrangement was made by which prices are increased 25 cents a ton, and the total allotment for the coming year fixed at 33,500,000 tons.

The San Francisco Chinese are taking advantage of the low railroad rates, and are coming East in large numbers.

Anti-Chinese mass-meetings were held throughout California on Saturday night.

Ten negroes were killed and three fatally injured by an armed band of fifty white men at the Court-house in Carrollton, Miss., on Wednesday. Several weeks ago a young lawyer of Carroll County had been slightly wounded by three negroes. The case was on trial when the white men rode up and killed the negroes.

The Massachusetts House on Wednesday defeated the biennial-election resolution by a vote of 112 to 86, not the necessary two-thirds.

The "no-tobacco" rule went into effect at the Concord, Mass., Reformatory on Monday. The 600 prisoners accept the situation philosophically.

The Connecticut Legislative Committee on Woman Suffrage voted on Wednesday 7 to 1 in favor of a bill allowing women to vote in school-district meetings without any property qualification.

Governor Hill, of New York, has appointed five ladies notaries public.

Alderman Henry W. Jaehue, of this city, was arrested on Thursday charged with bribery in connection with the Broadway Railroad franchise. He has confessed, it is alleged, that he received \$20,000 for voting in favor of the Broadway franchise.

Hamilton Cole, Referee in the action brought by George C. Hoyt, the assignee for the benefit of the creditors of Ferdinand Ward, against William S. Warner, filed his report with the Clerk of the Supreme Court on Wednesday morning. It finds that the payment of all money made by Ward upon the so-called contract business was fraudulent and void as against the defendant, Julien T. Davies, as receiver, and that Warner must pay over to Davies, as receiver, all moneys received by him from Ward over and above the amount paid by him to Ward. This sum the Referee finds to be \$1,255,361 34, which, with interest thereon from May 6, 1884, \$140,391 20, makes the total amount to be recovered \$1,395,752 54.

The Rev. Thomas Parry, of the Jefferson Park (Chicago) Presbyterian Church, delivered a sermon Sunday night in the line of thought of the "two Sams." He applauded the vigorous style of the evangelists Jones and Small, and said he felt the beneficial effects of their work in his own church.