

The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1886.

The Week.

THE Washington *Star* makes the suggestion that if the national banks are willing to let their called bonds lie in the Treasury uncanceled and not drawing interest, nobody, not even the most excited Greenbacker, can object to that arrangement or deny them that privilege. Quite true, but meanwhile what is to be done with the money collected at the custom-houses and the tax offices to pay off the bonds? Can this be allowed to accumulate to any extent while the banks are making up their minds what they will do? We must either disburse the money or reduce the taxes. The latter expedient has not been much talked about, and is looked upon with absolute dismay by the high-tariff people. At the rate that money is coming into the Treasury, we shall need a surplus resolution soon of a very different kind from that of the last session—a resolution not for paying out money, but to prevent it from coming in. It is probable that all the outstanding bonds redeemable at call will be paid off before the end of the year 1887. What is to be done with the surplus in the interval until 1891?

Mr. Hewitt talks in a very despondent tone about the prospects for sensible legislation on the tariff. He says in a *Tribune* interview that he does not know whether he will consent to be a candidate for reelection to Congress or not, and then adds this statement of the failure of one of his efforts to secure useful legislation last winter:

"Finding it to be impossible to secure action upon any bill which undertook to regulate duties, I finally prepared a measure dealing simply with the administration of the customs laws. This bill was unanimously approved by the Committee of Ways and Means, but Mr. Morrison, the Chairman, insisted upon attaching it to his bill involving a change of duties, and Mr. Randall did precisely the same thing in his bill. The result was that it never reached the House and never had consideration as a separate measure. I was powerless to secure such action; but I think that the Speaker might, if he had been so disposed, have done much to insure action. He is a man of eminent intelligence and judicial fairness, but he seems averse to taking a positive part in shaping legislation. So far as I am concerned, I had to confess that I lacked the influence and energy necessary to force action upon a measure which all parties agreed ought to have passed."

That is a perfectly true picture of the way in which not only tariff but much other really desirable legislation is defeated at Washington. Still, we trust that Mr. Hewitt will consent to make at least one more trial before he abandons the fight. There are many evidences that the Democratic members of Congress will reassemble in December with more enlightened views upon public questions than they had when they adjourned.

The nomination of a pronounced anti-protectionist for Congressman by the Republicans of the Detroit district is a notable evidence of the growth of sound ideas regarding tariff reform in the West. Four Republican Congressmen from Minnesota took their stand on the right side when the question of

considering the Morrison bill came up in the House at the last session, and it required the exercise of all the power of party discipline to restrain several other Republican members from following the example and voting in accordance with their convictions. That the Minnesota Congressmen correctly represented the sentiments of their constituents, is demonstrated by the fact that either they have been renominated upon their revenue-reform record, or candidates have been nominated in their places who stand upon the same platform. The choice of a Republican of the same school as the candidate in the chief city of Michigan is a proof that the leaven is working in other States.

The protection organs tried for a while to comfort themselves for the independence of the Minnesota Congressmen with the theory that these Representatives misrepresented their constituents; that, as Mr. Blaine put it in his speech, "these exceptional votes were adverse to the wishes of a large majority of those who elected the dissenting members." But it is no longer possible to impose upon anybody with this assumption. The *St. Paul Pioneer-Press*, the leading Republican newspaper of the State, recently published an editorial reviewing the situation in each of the districts, which showed that "it is within the bounds of certainty and truth to affirm as indisputable, not only that a vote for tariff reduction has not tended to the defeat of any man in this State, but that these votes, commended as they were by the Republican voters of the four districts concerned, were the principal foundation of such popular strength as those to whom they were credited possessed among their constituency." Since this article was published the Republican State Convention has been held, and has shown that the *Pioneer-Press* told the exact truth. The Convention, which was the largest ever held in the State, adopted this plain-spoken resolution:

"The producers of the great Northwest demand a lower rate of taxation upon the necessities of life than that of the war period. We favor, therefore, as a just and necessary lightening of their burdens and an aid to their prosperity, an early and judicious revision of the tariff, with a simplification and reduction of customs duties." Nor did it stop here. As a reply to charges like that made by Mr. Blaine, it adopted amid hearty applause the following additional resolution:

"That this Convention approves of the action of the majority of the Minnesota delegation in the House of Representatives of the United States, in voting to consider the bill for the revision of the tariff."

A singular thing has happened in Missouri. The Republicans in Mr. Bland's district have nominated L. F. Parker of Rolla for Congress and adopted an anti-silver platform. They say flatly, "We are opposed to the present further coinage of depreciated silver dollars." Then they express their opinion of Mr. Bland as an individual and a representative in Congress in these words:

"Resolved, That we denounce the Democratic party of this district for continuing in Congress

a man who, while having drawn over \$70,000 from the Treasury, and while pretending to be the friend of the farmer and laboring man, has spent his time in advancing the interests of the bonanza silver kings, to the utter neglect of industries important to this district, and we invite the cooperation of all who have the best interests of the district at heart to aid in his defeat."

Bland's majority two years ago was 2,700. It is hardly to be expected that this will be overcome, but the Republicans of the district have deserved success by the boldness of their attack upon the very citadel of the Bland bill.

It turns out that the fishery treaty telegraphed from Ottawa the other day was a pure fabrication, having been made "out of whole cloth." The inventor of this sensation took the reciprocity treaty of 1854, and added to it what he supposed would be added to a new treaty if one should be made, and then sold it to the newspapers. The truth is, that the fishery dispute is not yet ripe for a treaty. Public opinion is not yet settled as to the points that should be embraced in it. The fishermen have made a great many claims and demands, some of which are supposed to be founded upon law and others upon patriotism and protection to American labor. It would be interesting to know how far these are well founded. It was stated in a telegram from Halifax the other day that the entire crew of one of the American fishing vessels seized for infraction of the law were Nova Scotians, shipped at their own homes and employed simply because they would work for less pay than American fishermen. It is claimed that the fisheries are the nursery of American seamen, and that they train a hardy and adventurous race to defend the flag on the ocean in time of war. But if the fact is that three-fourths of these hardy men are the subjects of her Britannic Majesty, the question may be asked how we are benefited, and how our fighting strength is augmented by the training they get on board our fishing vessels. It is also affirmed that these fish-boat owners who are so zealous for protection to American industry, buy their coal principally at Pictou, and, in fact, purchase all their supplies of every kind in Canadian ports, so far as the Dominion authorities will allow the natives to sell. In short, the insinuation is made in many quarters that the fishermen are "on the make" just like other people; that they buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest, just like ordinary British free-traders.

Among the objectors to any treaty of reciprocity we expect to find Judge Woodbury of Boston, because he was employed by the fishermen to go to Washington for them. We note his opposition only to mark the discovery of a new objection to free trade in anything. Because the Canadians have long and hard winters, says Mr. Woodbury in a *Herald* interview, it would be impossible to trade with them on equal terms, because, you see, they are shut up in their houses seven months in the year with nothing to do. They can put in this spare time making shoes, and thus undersell us in our own market. The insertion of boots and shoes in the free list of the supposed new treaty is, therefore, an insidious

attack upon American industry. "The whole thing is ridiculous," he adds. So it seems to us, for if the Canadians had no summer at all, but were shut up in their houses twelve months in the year, nobody could compete with them in any indoor occupation. The whole world would be flooded with the products of sedentary life, and nobody could earn a living without the highest kind of a tariff and the most rigid custom-house regulations.

The quarterly statement of the Union Pacific Railway for September 15 has a table showing the operation of the Thurman Sinking Fund Act for three-quarters of the present year. In 1884 the company paid \$527,175 for three per cent. bonds upon the requirement of the Government. Two years later the Government called in the bonds, and compelled the company to relinquish this purchase for \$510,000, at a loss of \$17,175. This \$510,000, with an additional sum from the surplus, was invested in 4 per cents to the amount of \$671,000 at 25½ per cent. premium, making the whole amount cost \$842,180, upon which interest to the amount of \$26,840 is received annually. If the same amount were invested in the company's first-mortgage bonds, it would yield \$45,000 interest, and would protect the Government as perfectly, since the Treasury would hold securities paramount to its own lien on the property. It has always been a mystery why the Union Pacific Company was required to buy United States bonds with the sinking-fund money, when a much more advantageous investment to itself could have been made with equal advantage to the Government.

The Charter Oak Life Insurance Company appears to be a remarkable collection of men. They reorganized their company eight years ago, and put its affairs absolutely in charge of the President, Mr. Bartholomew. They required no report from him whatever. A fortnight ago Mr. Bartholomew told the Secretary of the company that he was "short" \$105,000 in the company's cash. The Secretary consulted the attorneys of the company about it, and the attorneys told the Secretary that the directors must be informed of the fact. Before telling the directors, the attorneys and the Secretary allowed the President two days in which to make good the deficiency. On Saturday week the directors held a meeting, and, the President having failed to make up the shortage, and knowing that the Secretary would not keep back the information any longer, made a confession to the directors that he had stolen \$105,000 of the company's funds. The directors were "staggered," and some of them took the bold ground that the President's resignation should be demanded. They concluded, however, to let the matter rest till Monday. When they met on Monday they found two notes, one for \$12,000 and the other for \$10,000, the proceeds of which the President had also stolen. This "staggered" them some more, and they at once sent for Mr. Bartholomew and demanded his resignation. He gave it to them, and then left town for New York, without any effort being made on their part to have him

arrested, and is now in Canada. The directors, on advice of their counsel, have applied to the courts for the appointment of a receiver for the company, but they are still too much "staggered" to make any efforts to have the thieving President arrested.

The Treasurer of the Florida Construction Company is inclined to take what the *Hartford Courant* calls a "philosophical" view of the loss which his company has sustained through the defalcation and flight of the President of the Charter Oak Insurance Company. The total loss, he says, will not exceed \$40,000, and "the valuable services which Mr. Bartholomew rendered to the Florida Company in the past more than balances the present loss. I am willing to set the one off against the other." That is an easy moral view to take of the matter, but it would be an unfortunate thing for business affairs if the view were to become a common one among presidents and other officers of responsibility in insurance and other organizations. If it were to become an understood thing that every such officer who had rendered valuable service in the past, should be permitted to help himself to the company's funds without danger of punishment of any kind, we imagine that the investing public would be very shy of putting its money where he could get at it.

The *Boston Commercial Bulletin* having called the Massachusetts State Board of Arbitration to account for its failure to take action in some of the labor disputes now going on, Mr. Weston Lewis, the Chairman of the Board, has been moved to say that he and his colleagues would be happy to act upon any cases brought before them; but that, not being invested with tyrannical powers, they have no authority to drag the Knights of Labor and their antagonist employers before them and "sit on them" without their consent. Mr. Lewis said "that he had received assurances from many manufacturers that they were in sympathy with the principle of arbitration, and wished the Board success in the field for which it was created, and he had yet to hear from a manufacturer who did not express confidence in arbitration as a means of settling differences between employers and their workmen. On the other hand, the Knights of Labor demanded an arbitration law: "They did not ask for it," said Mr. Lewis; they demanded it. "They have got it. Why have they not availed themselves of it? It is not for me to suggest reasons why they do not, though it is natural that the officers of the organization should be slow to allow any power they possess to pass out of their hands. However, the fact exists that they do not avail themselves of the law which they demanded as a right and a necessity." Mr. Lewis's diagnosis of the malady at Peabody, where a riot took place last week, and a man was shot, is the correct one. If the Peabody tanners had called for an arbitration under the law, the employers would not have dared to refuse it, but what would have become of the Walking Delegate? Who would have cared anything about him? His puffy importance would have evaporated on the threshold of the board-room.

There are two leading foreign Socialists here now, Herr Liebknecht, the German and Mr. Aveling, the Englishman, and they have been talking a good deal, but neither of them gives the least sign of revealing what is really the great secret of Socialism, namely, who is to manage the great Socialistic organization when it is set up—that is, keep the books and accounts, get from every man what he owes, give every man his due, prevent waste, assign work, divide products, and, in fact, as the phrase is, "run the concern." The number of men who can do such little jobs of administration under the present régime as managing a railroad or a great store, or commanding an army division, is very small, and they get enormous salaries. But where are we to find people to take charge of the huge industries which the Socialists have in contemplation? The only good reason we can think of for concealing them is, that if they were known the capitalists would snap them up at any price.

The political campaign in Tennessee is a rather touching episode. The Taylor brothers, one the Republican and the other the Democratic candidate for Governor, are making a joint canvass of the State. "Bob," the Democrat, introduces "Alf," the Republican, as a true knight and a Christian gentleman, for whom he has such personal regard and affection that he would immediately sacrifice life, property, and everything except principle, to promote his interests. "Alf" returns these compliments, and wishes "Bob" every success in this world except political success, and then they fall to the discussion of national and State concerns. It is to be hoped that this ideal state of affairs may continue to the end of the tournament. Indeed, it is something of a pity that they cannot both be elected, like a pair of joint Cæsars in the golden days of Rome. It has been reported that Mr. Blaine would go to Tennessee and make a few speeches for "Alf" before the close of the campaign. If he does so, he must perceive the necessity of leaving the "bloody shirt" in Maine. They have no use for that garment in Tennessee.

The composite character of the population in the newer States of the West is strikingly illustrated by the biographies of the candidates for State offices nominated by the Republicans of Minnesota last week, which may be thus briefly summarized: Governor, native of Pennsylvania, removed to Minnesota in 1861; Lieutenant-Governor, native of Norway, came to America when thirteen years old, and settled in Wisconsin, removed to Minnesota in 1865; Secretary of State, native of Sweden, came to America when nineteen years old, settled in the East, and removed to Minnesota in 1853; Auditor, native of Ohio, removed to Minnesota in 1854; Treasurer, native of Austria, came to this country when twelve years old and settled in Minnesota in 1858; Attorney-General, native of Indiana, settled in Wisconsin in 1873, removed to Minnesota in 1881; judges of Supreme Court, two natives of New York and the third of Canada; Clerk of the Supreme Court, a native of Pennsylvania. The disposition to select young men for office is also shown by this ticket, the oldest candidate be-

ing but fifty-seven years of age, while the youngest is only thirty-five.

The doctrinal quarrel in the Congregational Church, known as the Andover controversy, will soon be brought to short range in the annual meeting of the Commissioners of Foreign Missions in Des Moines, Iowa. The discussion having reached a point where material interests are affected by it, it is felt by the leading spirits and cooler heads among the Congregationalists that a settlement should be speedily had. The missionary work of the Church has been the first interest to feel the malign effect of the controversy. This is natural enough from the nature of the dispute, for the whole trouble has risen over an attempt on the part of certain members of the Congregational clergy to overturn the doctrine, that those who have never known the teachings of Christ are as badly off after death as those who, having known them here, neglected or refused to order their lives in accordance with them. The new doctrine, as we understand it, is to the effect that there is after death a probationary existence during which all who have not in life been made acquainted with Christ's atonement may receive the benefit of it. If this is a correct statement as far as it goes of the new doctrine, it can readily be seen how it might affect the missionary work of the Church. It might be said as an excuse for not contributing to the work of converting the heathen, that it is useless to spend money and labor on a work that can and will be done hereafter. That is, it can be said that when the heathen reach the probationary state, as set up by the new Congregational doctrine, it will be time enough to convert them from the darkness of their ways. Whether this let-alone policy has already taken root, or whether the protracted controversy has diverted attention from missionary work, it is claimed that zeal for missionary labor has grown greatly less, that contributions have fallen off, and that some agreement should be reached as early as possible if the field which the Congregationalists have occupied among foreign missions is to be retained by them.

The first page of our enterprising contemporary the *Sun* on Tuesday was an interesting picture of American society. The first column was devoted to the trial of a minister for immorality, to differences between a man and his wife, to a rape in a vacant lot, and to a suicide. The second was half given to a fire and the death of a blind newsdealer, the other half to politics. The third was given up to foreign news and politics, but half the fourth was taken up with murder in a buggy and the escape of two convicts. The fifth was wholly devoted to a very paying scandal about Lord Lonsdale and Miss Violet Cameron, and a small item about another Lonsdale and twenty-four chorus girls. In the remaining two, we find the disappearance of one Sniffen, a divorce, two pugilistic items, half a column of the horsewhipping of a reporter by a girl, the discovery of her lover in jail by Miss Miller, the arrest of a small swindler, and a few other trifles. As a microcosm the page is not often surpassed, and must interest foreign students of American manners.

A newspaper reporter in Jersey City has been horsewhipped twice within a brief space of time for writing scurrilous matter for his editor to publish. The second whipping was inflicted by a woman in the room of the Board of Public Works, where the reporter was plying his vocation. A number of ardent sympathizers with the woman were present encouraging the assault. They were all of the opinion, apparently, that the editor had no responsibility in the premises, and that he was powerless to prevent the publication of any piece of blackguardism that the reporter might bring to him. Equally it seems to have been agreed among them that if this reporter could be flogged and jeered and humiliated sufficiently to make him desist from his bad ways, the writing of neighborhood gossip in Jersey City would cease, whereas the poor devil would be discharged and another employed in his place with a particular view to his scent for the same kind of tittle-tattle and his skill in "working it up," that is, lacerating the nerves of his victims. Horsewhipping the reporter as a corrective of "journalism" is as illogical as horsewhipping the proof-reader, the type-setter, or the newsboy.

Ever since the *Times* fitted out an expedition for the exploration of Alaska, we felt sure it would cause trouble in journalistic circles. That our fears were well founded is proved by the controversy now raging between it and the *Sun* over the alleged discoveries made by its correspondents. The *Times* announces that, although it has not, as proposed, succeeded in ascending Mount St. Elias, it has discovered one (1) great river, one (1) lake, and three (3) large glaciers; but the river is unfortunately not only shallow, but "loaded with mud," and "its muddy waters discolor all the water of Icy Bay for many miles out to sea." It was not judicious for the leader of the expedition to call a river of this kind "the Jones River," after Mr. George Jones, the editor of the *Times*, for it of course furnished materials for fun to his envious and carping journalistic rivals, who were watching his expedition with greedy and cruel eyes. The *Sun* accordingly makes two propositions, which it defends in its accustomed style: First, that if the expedition has discovered such a river, the name given to it, "the Jones River," owing to the character of its waters, is singularly appropriate; secondly, that there is such a river, but it was discovered twenty years ago by Mr. W. H. Dall and marked in his map. To which the *Times* replies that the mark in Dall's map was that of a "purely hypothetical river"—that is, we suppose, of a river which, it seemed to him, it would have been well to place just about there. It supports this view with the observation that in the columns of the *Sun* "the calculated malice of splenetic age has been succeeded by the extempore lying of bumptious youth"—a state of things which, if accurately described, everybody, in and out of journalistic circles, will deeply deplore. When such differences as this occur on the discovery of the very first river and lake, one asks with a shudder, Where shall we be when the *Times* has filled up its map with other geographical finds?

The Congregation of the Inquisition at Rome has just issued a decree that has created a great sensation in Belgium, forbidding Catholic judges to grant divorces to Catholic suitors. There has been a divorce law in force in Belgium since 1803, and it has been administered under six different Popes without interference. Moreover, Leo XIII. passed three years at Brussels as Papal Nuncio, and witnessed its operation. His allowing the issue of this decree by the Inquisition is, therefore, looked on now as signifying in some degree the triumph of the Jesuit reactionists at the Vatican, and it promises a renewal of the bitter war between the Liberals and the clergy in Belgium. It probably means that the declining health of the Pope creates increased difficulty in resisting what our Presidents know so much about—"pressure." The pressure of the reactionists is constant, while the power of resistance varies greatly in different men and at different periods of life.

The persons whom the decree will most perplex, however, are the Catholic judges. They have sworn already to administer the law, and have been administering it without scruple or hindrance from ecclesiastical authorities. They must administer it still or resign. It will be interesting to see how many will do so; that is, how many will risk eternal damnation in order to keep their places. It seems rather hard on them, too, to be singled out for restrictions which are not imposed on their French, or English, or American brethren. The English or American judges could escape by leaving divorce cases to the Protestant brethren, but in Belgium the judges are all Catholic and generally pious.

The social troubles of Belgium are, however, far more serious than the religious troubles, because they apparently admit of no solution. The Commission of Inquiry appointed by the Government after the late labor riots have finished their investigation, but they have reached no conclusion of much value. The truth is, that a large number of Belgium industries have ceased wholly to be profitable, and the wages against which the workmen struck and began rioting were in many cases all that the enterprises would allow, although no profits whatever were made by the owners. Some of those against which the fury of the laborers was greatest had not paid a dividend for several years. All this simply shows that the trouble in Belgium is one to which there is a constant tendency in every manufacturing country, namely, the increase of laborers beyond the limits of comfortable subsistence at particular points. As long as this limit is some distance off, there are no labor troubles at all. As soon as the mass of population begins to get near it, the "labor question" makes its appearance, and with it the labor doctors and agitators, and the owners of savings begin to "catch it" in all the "halls." Of course masses of ignorant men reach this limit much sooner than intelligent men, but they all reach it sooner or later, if they do not look ahead.

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, September 22, to TUESDAY, September 28, 1886, inclusive.]

DOMESTIC.

THE President will not issue invitations on behalf of this Government to French citizens, asking their attendance at the inaugural ceremonies of the Statue of Liberty to take place in New York in October. The invitations to citizens of France will be extended in the name and by the direction of the American Committee, under whose control the pedestal has been erected and the statue placed in position. These invitations will be presented in France through United States Minister McLane. The President will give the American Committee all the aid possible to make the inauguration impressive and successful, but will keep within the law upon the subject as passed by Congress, which makes no mention of invitations to any one.

There is now little doubt that it is the purpose of Secretary Manning to return soon to Washington, and to attempt, for a time at least, to resume his duties at the Treasury Department. This attempt will be experimental. Some of the Treasury officers are of opinion that Mr. Manning does not expect to remain in office longer than will be necessary to finish the next annual report, while some fix the date of his retirement as early as the week after the fall elections.

The Treasury Department is using every effort to secure a speedy distribution of the new silver certificates, and to that end orders have been issued for the force employed on that work at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to work extra hours at night, until a supply of the small notes is secured sufficient to meet the present heavy demand. The one-dollar certificates will be ready for distribution by the first of October, the twos about three weeks later, and the fives about the middle of November.

Fifteen million dollars of 3 per cent. bonds were called on Monday afternoon, interest to cease on November 1.

Chief-Justice McDonald of Halifax has decided that a commission may examine the crew of the *David J. Adams* in the United States, but the captain must give his testimony before the Admiralty Court in person.

The draft of an elaborate treaty between Great Britain and the United States, which, it was alleged, had been made at the British Foreign Office, and submitted to the Canadian Cabinet, was published in this country on Friday. It provides for a free interchange of fishing privileges within the three-mile limit of Canadian waters and United States waters above thirty-eight degrees latitude. Free navigation of the St. Lawrence and all canals in Canada is to be granted to American vessels in exchange for the free navigation of Lake Michigan. A long list of articles, to be admitted free of duty into either country from the other, is designated. The treaty is for twenty years, terminable after that on one year's notice by either contracting party. It has turned out to be a hoax. Initiatory steps have been taken in Ottawa looking to the prosecution of the parties who invented it. Their offence is indictable.

Commissioner of Pensions Black has filed with the Secretary of the Interior his report of the operations of the Pension Bureau for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1886. From the report it appears that on June 30 last there were 365,783 pensioners on the rolls, composed of 265,854 army invalids, 80,162 army widows, minor children, and dependent relatives, 2,953 navy invalids, 1,877 navy widows, minor children, etc., 1,539 survivors of the war of 1812, showing a loss during the year of 1,406 of this class. There were 13,397 widows of soldiers of the war of 1812, showing a loss during the year in this class of 3,815. The annual average value of each pension was \$122.23, a gain of \$11.88 over the average value of the preceding year. The aggregate annual value

was \$44,708,027.44, being an increase in annual value of \$6,617,041.51. The amount paid for pensions during the year was \$63,797,831.61, the difference in the amount paid and the annual value representing the accrued and the arrearage pensions paid during the year.

The new Public Printer, Mr. Benedict, on Saturday dismissed the entire night force in the press-room, 80 employees in the bindery, and 6 clerks, making about 150 all told. Each employee dropped was informed by circular or letter of the reasons of dismissal in the following language: "On account of the insufficiency of the appropriation to meet the expenses of this office up to December 31 next, upon the scale of expenditure required by the present force, and believing that I can dispense with your services without serious interruption to the necessary work in hand, you are hereby informed that your services will not be required in your present positions after this date. The cashier will pay you any balance due on account of your salary at your convenience." It was complained by those of Democratic sympathies that the discharges affected almost altogether persons of that political faith. Mr. Benedict, the Public Printer, when asked as to this, said he knew nothing whatever of the politics of those discharged, and of course no such question as that was considered in the matter. He said the discharges were made not only because the force was much greater than the needs of the office demanded, but because of the meagre balance of appropriations yet unexpended. Although Mr. Benedict, since his incumbency, has had hundreds of applications for places, he has not yet made a single appointment or promotion.

The Minnesota Republicans on Wednesday nominated Andrew R. McGill for Governor. He is forty-six years of age and has been Insurance Commissioner for a number of terms. A. E. Rice was nominated for Lieutenant-Governor. The platform favors a revision of the tariff so that taxation on the necessities of life may be reduced, and is strong for civil-service reform.

The Prohibition State Committee of New York met at Albany on Friday and nominated ex-Judge William J. Groo of Orange County for Judge of the Court of Appeals, and decided to run candidates for Supervisors in all the towns of the State next spring, and to run full county and city tickets at all spring elections.

The workingmen's political convention in this city on Thursday evening was attended by 409 delegates from trade and labor unions. A motion to nominate Henry George for Mayor was received with great applause, and a ballot to select the candidate resulted in 360 votes for Mr. George, 31 for James J. Coogan, and 18 for W. S. Thorn. An executive committee was appointed to take charge of Mr. George's canvass, and it was decided to hold a ratification meeting in Cooper Union on October 5.

The Chicago (Cook County) Labor Convention on Saturday split into two sections, composed of Socialists and anti-Socialists. Nominations were made by the main body (Socialist) on Monday evening.

The Democratic State Convention of Connecticut met on Tuesday. The platform contained the following endorsement of the President: "In the election of 1884 the people demanded a change of administration and cleaner methods in the various departments of the Government, and President Cleveland is bringing the Executive Department back to constitutional principles, economy, and honest service. We will render to him our united support in carrying out his policy of conducting a pure administration in the offices of public trust, in the economy which he requires, and the principles which he has enunciated as the safeguards of the public welfare." It approves of the National Democratic platform of 1884, including the demand for a revision of the revenue laws. Edward Spicer Cleveland was nominated for Governor on the first ballot. The ticket was then completed.

The New Jersey Democrats on Tuesday nominated Robert S. Green for Governor. President Cleveland's administration was endorsed.

George M. Bartholomew, President of the Charter Oak Life Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn., is a defaulter in the sum of \$127,000. Since the reorganization of the Charter Oak, in April, 1878, Mr. Bartholomew has had sole charge of the affairs of the company, never being obliged to make any report to the Directors. A receiver for the company has been appointed.

Col. Charles Gordon Greene, formerly editor of the *Boston Post*, died in that city on Monday, at the age of eighty-two.

John Esten Cooke, the Virginia author, died suddenly of typhoid fever on Monday at his home, "The Briars," near Boyce, Va. He was born in Winchester in 1830, his father being a lawyer of distinction and his mother one of the Virginia Pendletons. His grandmother was a daughter of Gov. John Esten of Bermuda. Mr. Cooke practised law for about four years, and then abandoned it for literature. He served throughout the war in the Confederate Army, and was on the staff of Gen. J. E. B. Stuart. His experiences have been worked into many of his literary volumes. All of them treat of the history, traditions, and romance of Virginia. His novels are faithful portrayments of old Virginia customs and domestic life. Some of them, like his quaint tale of 'Pohontas,' mingle history and romance. He was a constant contributor to the leading magazines. In the "American Commonwealth Series" he wrote the history of 'Virginia,' which has been adopted in the public schools of that State. Among his works in book form are: 'Leather Stocking and Silk' (1854), 'The Virginia Comedians' (1854), 'The Youth of Jefferson' (1854), 'Henry St. John, Gentleman' (1859), 'A Life of Stonewall Jackson' (1863), 'Wearing of the Gray' (1867), 'Hilt to Hilt' (1869), 'Fairfax' (1869), 'The Heir of Gaymount' (1870), 'A Life of Gen. R. E. Lee' (1871), 'Pretty Mrs. Gaston, and Other Stories' (1874), 'Canolles' (1877), 'Mr. Grantley's Idea' (1879), 'Stories of the Old Dominion' (1879), 'Virginia Bohemians' (1879), and several recent novels.

FOREIGN.

M. Stambuloff, President of the Regency, is negotiating with M. Zankoff, the leader of the Russian party in Bulgaria, with a view to arranging for a cessation of internal strife. M. Zankoff promises to recognize the Regency on condition that some of the foreign portfolios are allotted to the Zankoff party. Semi-official journals in Athens, commenting on the statement that Lord Iddesleigh has been endeavoring to bring about a *rapprochement* between Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey, say that his efforts are too late. The breach between those States, they say, has become so wide that no diplomatic skill can close it.

Gen. Kaulbars, the Russian agent, in thanking M. Zankoff and his friends for their kindly welcome to Sofia, asked them to announce throughout the country that the Czar would give protection to Bulgaria on condition that full confidence be placed in him. The ills of Bulgaria, Gen. Kaulbars said, arose from dissension between the different parties, and it was, therefore, necessary to release the political prisoners, to raise the state of siege, and to allow all parties to vote freely and independently in the Great Sobranie. Gen. Kaulbars intimated that unless Russia's demands were obeyed he would leave Bulgaria, and the occupation of the country would follow. The credentials of Gen. Kaulbars are addressed simply to "Monsieur Natchevitz," as an indication that Russia does not recognize the Bulgarian Government.

It is stated that the Russian ultimatum of which Gen. Kaulbars is the bearer to Sofia demands, besides the raising of the state of siege in Bulgaria and the liberation of political prisoners, the indefinite postponement of