

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, November 30, to TUESDAY, December 3, 1887, inclusive.]

DOMESTIC.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND's message, read to Congress Tuesday, is the shortest delivered for years, and is devoted entirely to a consideration of the tariff, urging strongly the reduction of the surplus by the reduction of the tariff rather than by the repeal of internal-revenue taxes.

The President sent to the Senate, Tuesday, the nominations of Secretary Lamar to be Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, of William F. Vilas to be Secretary of the Interior, and of Don M. Dickinson of Michigan to be Postmaster-General.

The caucus of the Democratic members of the House of Representatives Saturday night, December 3, nominated John G. Carlisle for Speaker, Gen. J. B. Clarke of Missouri for Clerk, J. P. Leedom of Ohio for Sergeant-at-Arms, and A. B. Hurt of Mississippi for Doorkeeper. There were five candidates for Doorkeeper, and during the nominating speeches Congressman Breckenridge of Arkansas and Blount of Missouri came to blows that drew blood on both sides.

The Democratic Senators were in caucus Saturday, but after a session lasting about three hours they went home, leaving as before the situation regarding the seating of Messrs. Turpie of Indiana and Faulkner of West Virginia.

Congress organized on Monday, December 5. There was no deadlock in the Senate as had been expected, the Republicans not objecting to the admission of the two new Senators above named. Mr. Hoar urged that the case of Faulkner, in which there are two sets of credentials, be referred to a committee.

The Supreme Court at Washington has decided the Kansas prohibition cases, sustaining the right of a State, under its "police power," to suppress the manufacture of liquor and the liquor traffic within its limits, without making any compensation to the distiller or liquor-dealer for the value of the property destroyed by such State action.

The Supreme Court has sustained the position of the Virginia officials who were imprisoned by the United States Circuit Court for disobedience to a restraining order which forbade them to bring suits for the collection of taxes, in cases where tenders have been made by tax-receivable coupons cut from the State bonds. The Court orders the release of the officers, and declares that a State, as a political sovereignty, cannot be sued or coerced in the Federal courts.

A question was recently raised at the Treasury Department in regard to the liability to seizure of drawings and paintings executed abroad by members of the "Art Classes for Art Study at Home," and sent to the instructor in this country for criticism. The Department has decided that such articles, if imported by mail, will be liable to seizure, but not otherwise. The Department has sustained the appeal of the Judges of the Appellate Court, First District of Illinois, from the decision of the Collector of Customs at Chicago, assessing duty on certain books imported for the library of said court and claimed to be exempt from duty.

The annual report of Postmaster-General Vilas says it may be fairly affirmed that from the beginning of the current fiscal year the postal service has again become substantially self-sustaining, and the prediction may be ventured that if the revenues be not further crippled and only a similar ratio of increasing expenditure be held, the next fiscal year will yield a surplus, which should, under the same conditions, annually increase. "The time is not far distant when the rate of charges upon letters can be properly lowered

to one cent an ounce, and some reduction be permitted in the postage upon merchandise and other matter."

The Commissioner of Agriculture, in his annual report, recommends substantially the abolition of the seed division of the Department, and the transfer of its duties to the State and Territorial experiment stations.

The Pacific Railway Commission has filed two reports, a majority report, signed by Commissioners Anderson and Littler, recommending an extension of the Government's second mortgage on the property, but upon conditions that will insure payment in full; and a minority report, by Commissioner Pattison, recommending the payment of a lump sum representing the present value of the Government's claim.

The increase in the public debt in November was \$1,490,350.99.

The Republican National Committee will meet at Washington on December 8, to fix the place of the next National Convention. Eight cities, at least, want the Convention and will have lobbies on hand to urge their claims.

The deadlock in the Council of the Indian Territory was broken Wednesday. The Nationalists stole a march on the Downing party and captured the organization of the Senate. Lacey Hawkins, a full-blooded Cherokee, was elected President of the Senate, and the clerks and other officers were also selected from the Nationalist party.

The Republicans of Boston have nominated T. N. Hart for Mayor, and N. J. Bradlee, the citizens' candidate, has withdrawn. The Democrats have renominated Mayor O'Brien.

Gov. Beaver of Pennsylvania has appointed a commission to make inquiry and report on the subject of industrial education in the State. President Fetterolf of Girard College is a member of the Commission.

The New York Chamber of Commerce on December 1 adopted resolutions favoring "any arrangement for enlarged commercial relations between Canada and the United States which shall seem to the two contracting parties fair and just, and which may contribute to the settlement" of the fisheries question, and suggesting arbitration for any irreconcilable differences that may arise.

The New York Local Committee on Harvard Examinations for Women have decided that it is now desirable and necessary to have a scholarship fund to help deserving women through college. They ask contributions towards a fund of \$3,000, which will furnish \$150 a year for that purpose.

The jury which has been trying John Most in the Court of General Sessions for using incendiary language at a meeting in Kramer's Hall on the night of November 12, returned a verdict of guilty Tuesday night. They had been absent over four hours, and the verdict was the result of many ballots, on the first of which there was a majority for acquittal. Most's counsel declared that the conviction was brought about by the introduction in evidence of the prisoner's book on explosives, and he asked for a day to argue a motion for a new trial. This will be heard on Thursday.

The members of the Belleville Avenue Congregational Church in Newark have voted, 139 to 84, that the Rev. Hugh O. Pen-tecost should remain in charge of the church. A resolution was passed that the action of the church did not mean that the congregation approved the views of the pastor upon land taxation or the hanging of the Anarchists, but only that they agreed with him in his religious belief.

The Socialistic element in the Knights of Labor at Chicago have revolted from Powderly again and have reissued the usual batch of charges.

A decision in favor of Massachusetts in the suit of the Commonwealth vs. Western Union Telegraph Company, to recover \$10,000 taxes imposed in 1886, has been rendered at Boston. The Western Union Company appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States. It is fighting the tax collector in other States, and the final decision of this case will be awaited with interest.

The Strobridge Lithographing Company's building in Cincinnati was burned down on Thursday; loss \$250,000 or upwards. This was the largest theatrical printing-house in the country, and many travelling theatrical companies have lost their colored bills for the season.

The situation of the burning Calumet and Hecla mines is growing very serious. Carbonic-acid gas and steam are now being sent down two shafts of the Calumet and two shafts of the Hecla mines. There is talk of flooding the mine with water, but this will not be done until all other measures fail.

Jacob Sharp was released from custody December 1, on \$40,000 bail bonds, and went to his home. He appeared in court, but seemed very feeble.

The Harvard Freshmen have declined the challenge of the Yale Freshmen for a boat-race next summer.

The portrait of George Bancroft presented by himself to Cornell University was unveiled December 1. The lecture-room of Prof. Moses Coit Tyler, where the exercises took place, was filled with Faculty and undergraduates, with a considerable delegation from the Sage College for Women. On a table to the right of the platform stood the twelve volumes of Mr. Bancroft's history, and on the left on a large easel was the historian's portrait. Prof. Tyler and President White spoke.

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Parker of London met the Beecher Memorial Fund Committee December 1, and explained that the trouble with regard to his payment for the delivery of the Beecher eulogy arose from a misapprehension on his part, he having supposed that the arrangements for his proposed visit in June held good for his actual visit in October. The Committee expressed themselves as perfectly satisfied, and adopted a resolution exonerating Dr. Parker from all blame, returning him thanks for the eulogy, and declaring that he had conducted himself as an honorable gentleman and a Christian teacher.

The official majority against prohibition in Atlanta, Ga., is 1,128.

The Syracuse *Daily Courier* and the *Daily Standard* have raised the price of their papers from two to three cents a copy.

Brig.-Gen. William Hemsley Emory, who retired from active military service in 1876, died in Washington December 1. He performed distinguished service during the war, was twice thanked on the field at Hanover Court-house, and had charge of the defences of New Orleans in 1863.

Algernon S. Sullivan, a prominent New York lawyer, died Sunday night, aged sixty. He was the son of an Indiana judge, and came to New York in 1859. He had been Assistant District Attorney and public prosecutor, a prominent member of many clubs, and was known as a Democratic campaign speaker.

John C. Work, one of the old merchants of New York, died Tuesday afternoon, in the eightieth year of his age.

FOREIGN.

President Grévy of France declined to resign December 1, as he had announced, but did resign the next day, and on Saturday, after two days of excitement, in which an outbreak of the mob was feared at any moment, Sadi-Carnot was elected his successor. The Republicans held a caucus at Versailles

that morning, at which Ferry led. The fear of a Parisian riot if he was elected is said to have driven the other factions to unite upon Sadi-Carnot. The balloting for the election of a President began at 2:15 P. M. At 4:15 P. M. the ballot closed, and on motion of President Le Royer the Congress adjourned until 4:45. The result of the first ballot was: M. Sadi-Carnot, 303; M. Ferry, 212; Gen. Saussier, 148; M. de Freycinet, 76; Gen. Appert, 73; M. Brisson, 26; M. Floquet, 5; other candidates, 7. Total vote, 849. Before the second ballot was taken, the members of the Left groups held a meeting. M. Ferry announced his resolution to withdraw in favor of M. Sadi-Carnot, and M. de Freycinet tendered a similar notification. The final ballot stood: M. Sadi-Carnot, 616; Gen. Saussier, 186; M. Ferry, 11; M. de Freycinet, 5; Gen. Appert, 5, and M. Pyot, 1.

The text of M. Grévy's message of resignation, read December 2, is as follows: "So long as I had only to contend with the difficulties that have accumulated in my path, the attacks of the press, the abstention of the men whom the public voice called to my side, and the increasing impossibility to form a Ministry, I struggled on and remained where duty bade me. But at the moment when public opinion, better informed, marked a change which gave me hope of forming a government, the Senate and Chamber of Deputies voted a double resolution which, under the form of an adjournment to a fixed hour to await the President's promised message, is tantamount to summoning the President to resign. It would be my duty and right to resist, but under the circumstances in which we are placed, a conflict between the Executive and Parliament might entail consequences which restrain me. Wisdom and patriotism command me to yield." The Deputies received the message with profound silence.

Since the army surgeons brought to notice the frequency of diphtheria in the French Army, particularly among cavalry regiments, Dr. Longuet has studied the subject, and in a paper read before the Academy of Medicine he has arrived at the following conclusion as to the etiology of the disease: "It is incontestable that not only in the French Army, but in the German Army, the cavalry, though less numerous than the infantry, furnishes three times more cases of diphtheria. It is equally certain that at Paris, for example, the most active foci of this cruel malady are, on the one hand, the largest of the cavalry barracks, and, on the other, a hospital situated near one of the largest stables."

Lord Lyons, British Minister at Washington from 1858 to 1865, and at Paris from 1867 till he was made an earl a few weeks ago, died December 5, aged seventy. His official career extended over fifty years. He succeeded in 1858 to the title of his father, the first Lord Lyons, who commanded the British fleet in the Black Sea in 1855-56.

Despite the order to the press of Russia not to attack Germany, the newspapers continue to print hostile criticisms on the disclosures made regarding the interview between the Czar and Prince Bismarck. They say that if Bismarck is correct in stating that Russian officials misled the Czar, all such officials should be dismissed; and on the other hand, if the statement is untrue or is not proved, the German Ambassador ought immediately to receive his passport.

An official bulletin issued December 1 says: "The local affection in the Crown Prince's throat does not appear to be extending. There is no difficulty of respiration or in swallowing, and the general functions of the body continue perfect." There is small hope, however, of the Crown Prince's recovery, and Queen Victoria will visit San Remo in January for a prolonged stay.

All the members of the Austrian Reichsrath who are school-teachers have been ordered

to give up their school duties for the whole period for which they have been elected to the Reichsrath, on the ground that education and politics should be kept separate.

In the Hungarian Unterhaus November 30, Deputy Polonyi asked as to the truth of the report that valuable pictures by Raphael, Dürer, Rembrandt, and others were missing from the Esterházy Gallery, and that antiquities from the National Museum had been replaced with worthless imitations. The report was found to be untrue.

The Unionist banquet at Dublin, Ireland, on the evening of December 1, was a brilliant affair. The leading merchants and professional men and a number of Catholic Unionists were present. The balconies were crowded with ladies. The toast to the Queen was received with enthusiasm, everybody rising and joining in the singing of the national anthem and "God Bless the Prince of Wales." Mr. Kenny, an eminent Catholic barrister, denounced home rule. Mr. Goschen and Lord Hartington devoted most of their speeches to denying statements of the *Freeman's Journal*.

William O'Brien in a letter smuggled from Tullamore Jail to a friend in Dublin, says: "Mr. Balfour's statement that I pleaded weak action of the heart and delicate condition of the lungs as an excuse for not being forced to wear criminal clothes, is a cruel falsehood. If Mr. Balfour is acting on the belief that the state of my health renders the application of brute force dangerous, the course he has pursued could not be recommended on the score of humanity. For six days after committal I was subjected to constant threats of force and put on bread-and-water diet. Since securing new clothes I have been unable to change them night or day, for fear of their being stolen."

Mr. Sexton was unanimously elected, December 2, Lord Mayor of Dublin to succeed Mr. Sullivan. In a speech thanking the corporation for the honor conferred upon him, he said that every day developed new attacks upon the lives and liberties of the Irish people. The Lord Mayor ought to be the unflinching organ of prevalent public opinion.

Mr. Sheehy, member of Parliament, has been arrested, and is now in the Sligo prison. He will be brought before the court at French Park, County Roscommon, for examination on the 15th. The second trial of Lord-Mayor Sullivan, for printing in his paper reports of suppressed branches of the National League, took place December 2, and resulted in a conviction. He was sentenced to two months' imprisonment, but without labor. Timothy Harrington, member of Parliament for the Harbor Division of Dublin, was arrested December 2 in London. He is a brother of Mr. Edward Harrington, member of Parliament, who was arrested at Tralee, County Kerry, December 1. The Harrington brothers are both charged with publishing reports of meetings of suppressed branches of the League in their paper at Tralee, and they will be tried in that town. Mr. Sullivan will be treated in prison as a first-class misdemeanant. He has announced that he will not appeal from the decision of the court, but "will suffer his punishment proudly, as he would if it were ten times greater."

The Most Rev. Daniel McGettigan, D. D., Roman Catholic Archbishop of the Diocese of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland, died December 3.

The London *Times* has set spies on Parnell and found him living in Kent under the name of Preston. "A leading Nationalist" says that Mr. Parnell is in a delicate state of health, extremely thin and pale. He had a perfect right to seek repose while Parliament was not sitting. He adds that spies will be set upon the private movements of *Times* writers in retaliation. The spying by the

Times is condemned by the London press with much unanimity.

Goldwin Smith writes to the London *Times* defending his own consistency on the home-rule question. He says that since he wrote years ago he has seen the Irish in America "trooping blindly to the polls behind a demagogue or priest forming the rank and file of an army of corruption, filling American cities with misgovernment, disorder, and jobbery, swelling the statistics of crime, and reenacting in the Mollie Maguire conspiracies the murderous agrarianism of their own land; trampling on and butchering the unoffending negro, and hunting down the helpless Chinese." He does not think the peculiarities of the race indelible, but strong, and says every statesman should note them. To hand over Ireland to the politicians of New York or Chicago or their mates in the House of Commons, would be the greatest folly and most heinous crime ever deliberately committed by public men.

Mr. Bradlaugh says that if the Government will grant a committee, with power to call for persons, books, and papers, whereon he may sit and examine witnesses, he will undertake to trace several checks paid by leading Tories to get up meetings of the unemployed, preceding the riotous meeting of 1885, including one of Salisbury's, and that Peters received the money. This Peters is a notorious agitator, repudiated by all respectable workmen.

Dean Scott, the great English Greek scholar, and joint author with Dean Liddell of the Greek Lexicon used in colleges, died December 3.

The London *Chronicle* gives a strange account of a trial in Tolax, a village in Malaga, Spain, of some religious fanatics for strange practices. They originally went naked, like Adam and Eve before the fall, but the authorities interposed. Since then they have inflicted wounds upon themselves in imitation of the crucifixion, and burned all their goods, believing a higher power would provide food. A strange part of the affair is that when put on trial they were hypnotized in court by medical specialists—like Irving in "The Bells"—and proved good subjects. It is even alleged that on being ordered to perspire, they broke out in a profuse perspiration. Others were pricked with pins, but gave no sign of pain.

The fastest voyage on record between England and Australia has just been accomplished by the huge steamer *Ormuz* of the Orient Line. She left Suez on the 27th of October, and arrived at King George's Sound eighteen days later, November 14, and landed the mails and passengers in the unprecedented time of twenty-four days from London.

The proposition for a subsidy to an American line of steamers between the United States and the ports of the Argentine Republic, which was so long under consideration by certain Americans, having been accepted by a British line, the flag of the Argentine Republic is to be carried on these ships, and they are to be required to carry eight naval cadets of the republic on every trip.

The Collector of Customs at Amherstburg, Canada, has seized the steam-tug *Bob Anderson*, belonging to Mr. Demars of Detroit, for towing vessels into Canadian ports and not reporting them inward or outward. The vessel has been released on the payment of a deposit of \$400, pending the decision of the Department.

The King of Corea will immediately despatch ministers to England, France, Germany, Russia, and America. The consent of China to this arrangement was given with the greatest reluctance. It is believed that Russian agents instigated the King's action. An American man-of-war has already conveyed a minister to Nagasaki.

A CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMATION OF THE HOUSE.

On the 18th of June, 1886, the Judiciary Committee of the Senate unanimously reported, and the Senate unanimously passed, the amendment to the Constitution which was intended to substitute the 30th of April for the 4th of March. The purpose of the amendment was two-fold: First, that the inauguration of the President should take place at a more propitious season of the year, at a time more conducive to public comfort, convenience, and health; second, to do away with that great bane of our national legislation—the short session of Congress. Great credit belongs to Mr. George F. Hoar, who had charge of the amendment, for the fidelity, ability, and good sense with which he brought it before the Senate and procured its passage. When the amendment went to the House, it was referred, properly, to the Judiciary Committee, with whom it remained, illustrating how completely the public will can be thwarted by the inaction of a committee of Congress. It is true that the Committee intended to report it with an amendment, and it is true that a family bereavement added to the delay; but the fact nevertheless remains that so important a measure as a constitutional amendment, which had passed the other branch of the Legislature with unanimity, and received in an unusual degree the commendation of the public press and of many constitutional students, was defeated by the torpidity of a single committee.

That committee undoubtedly intended to report the amendment, but in the turmoil of the short session it was no easy thing to do. Other committees claimed their share of the closing hours; appropriation bills must be passed; a hundred members shrieked to the Speaker at the same moment, and so the last day of the short session of Congress rolled away with the constitutional amendment still in the hands of the Judiciary Committee. At last, at the hour of noon on the 4th of March, the Speaker's gavel fell, and the House of Representatives of the Forty-ninth Congress fell into its biennial chaos: the Speaker ceased to be Speaker, the members ceased to be members, the term of office of everybody save the Clerk and a few custodians ceased, and the country was left practically without the popular branch of its national Legislature.

While this was the condition of affairs in the House, everything remained serene and undisturbed in the Senate. The President pro tem. continued to occupy the chair: the committees remained existent, and, indeed, organized; the secretaries and officers continued at work; the unfinished diplomatic business and the unconsidered nominations of the President were taken up and disposed of as if the 4th of March were an ordinary day in the calendar. The only disturbance perceptible was that a few Senators retired from office and a few new ones were introduced and sworn in, and a trifling rearrangement in the detail or personnel of the committees took place. There was no lobbying, no caucusing, no prolonged election for Speaker, no trading of votes for Clerk, or

Doorkeeper, or Sergeant-at-Arms—in a word, the legislative functions of the Senate were as complete and perfect and in as good working-order an hour after noon on the 4th of March as an hour before.

On the first Monday of December, in each alternate year, everything has to begin again in the House of Representatives; the entire body has to present credentials; an absolutely entire organization has to be effected; a long interval has to elapse for a new Speaker to select new committees; the thousands of private bills and petitions which consumed hours of time and thousands in money at the last Congress, all have become waste paper—blank paper so far as the business of the House is involved; and they have to be again introduced, again referred, again printed, and again die unacted upon and undisposed of.

The waste of time and money has been enormous; but, worse than this, the waste in getting this cumbrous machine of nearly 400 members into working order consumes so much time that the long session is practically little better than the short one. A host of demoralizing influences also affect the organization. Sometimes there have been dangerous deadlocks, when it seemed almost impossible for the House to organize, as when, in the Thirty-fourth Congress, Mr. Banks was elected; but not until 133 ballots had been taken. The bad element which manages and accomplishes in caucus always effects something, and sometimes rules absolutely. Mr. Robeson in the caucus and Mr. Keifer in the Speaker's chair were not literally sunshine and shadow, but were the products of an imperfect system that requires caucuses, and stores patronage, and breeds manipulators. The Speaker of the House of Representatives has become in many ways the most powerful officer of our constitutional system. There is no other who can do so much to mould or retard or obstruct legislation as he. He appoints the committees, and the committees have power to bring one measure forward and keep another back, and to shape and change and "smother" any. To compel a committee to report, or to censure it for not reporting, or to instruct it to report in a particular way, is no longer dreamt of in Congress.

It follows, of course, that an officer who has the absolute power of appointment, who can make each committee what he pleases, and whose appointments are subject to no censorship and require no approval, must have an immense influence with his committees, and with those outside forces which seek to procure or prevent legislation. The rulings, also, of the Speaker are, in minor matters, practically irreversible, and with such a power before him, and with such gifts in his hand, no one can deny a rapidly growing danger in this House of Congress. The constitutional veto power of the President is paltry beside the undefined power which a determined and unscrupulous Speaker can wield. Finally, there are other officers to be elected besides the Speaker, officers whose salaries are not great, but whose patronage is; and there are, as in other caucuses, votes to be traded and candidates to be pushed and favors to be given and repaid. The whole

thing is demoralizing, and no single benefit results from such a system.

Moreover, it involves at present, though not necessarily, another evil. The House of Representatives is elected thirteen months before it assembles to organize. What is worse is, that half of its business existence—the second session of Congress—does not begin until after a new House of Representatives has been elected. That evil the country has several times contemplated, and always with a desire, more or less expressed, that it should be done away with. A notorious illustration of what may happen, and what, indeed, always does happen, although in a less degree and in a less notorious way, was the once renowned "salary-grab session," when the retiring members voted to increase their salaries retroactively just before Congress expired, and men who had been defeated at the preceding November election, and knew that they were doomed to retire from public life, carried back with them this extra pay as so much plunder. While such causes continue to exist, it is inevitable that such effects must follow.

A remedy for this seems close at hand, and nearly a century of experience has demonstrated its feasibility and proved that it does not contain one objectionable element. We refer, of course, to the American Senate. No one has ever noted or perceived a single ill effect proceeding from the continuous organization of the Senate. When the political majority in the Senate changes, some Senator gets up and moves to proceed to the election of a President pro tem., and the change takes place quietly and easily, and without the slightest jar. A notable instance was when the Senate elected Mr. Bayard President pro tem. one day and Mr. David Davis President pro tem. the next. The enormous power of dictating who shall compose the committees is not vested in any one man, but is managed easily by a committee with few changes, and those always subject to censure and disapproval of the Senate. The committees remain organized, and changes are made gradually as new members come in, and the work of the Senate goes on constantly. A consequence of such a system is that the ablest men naturally come to the front. It is inevitable there that the important committees will be composed of the men best fitted to be on them, and that the very strong men of the majority will be chairmen. The diplomatic business of the Senate is great, and so is that relating to appointments, and there is no "previous question," debate being unrestrained; yet the Senate is always in advance of the House in legislative work, and does that work more promptly and more thoroughly. Why, then, should a system which has been proved to be bad be retained at one end of the Capitol, when at the other end of the same building can be found a system which ninety-eight years of experience show to be almost faultless?

The dissolution of the House of Representatives was, of course, suggested by the dissolution of Parliament. At the time when the Constitution was framed, the traditions of the Long Parliament lingered in the public mind, and a morbid fear of Federal usurpa-