

The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1886.

The Week:

MR. BOYLE and three other Democratic members of the Pan-Electric Investigating Committee have presented a long and labored report, which seeks to "whitewash" the officials implicated in the scandal, and a resolution declaring that "a full, fair, and exhaustive investigation has failed to adduce any evidence which tends to show that Attorney-General Garland, Solicitor-General Goode, Secretary Lamar, Indian Commissioner Atkins, Railroad Commissioner Johnston, or Senator Harris—they being the officers named in the Pan-Electric publications of the newspaper press, which gave rise to this investigation—did any act, official or otherwise, connected with the matter investigated, which was dishonest, dishonorable, or censurable." Such an issue of the investigation has been expected by the public all along, and the report will change nobody's opinion. Indeed, the whole investigation has not affected the public judgment of the matter, because it has not shaken the main facts upon which that judgment was based. These facts are that Mr. Garland and his official associates went into the Pan-Electric speculation years ago under suspicious circumstances, and that Mr. Garland retained his stock after becoming Attorney-General and when the value of his investment was to be affected by the action of his department. No amount of special pleading will ever convince the public that this was a proper thing to do. At the very best it was a refusal to "avoid the appearance of evil," which is an obligation of almost as binding character as the obligation not to do evil. The whole scandal has been due to the Attorney-General's lack of delicacy of feeling. Mr. Garland has paid a heavy penalty for his blunder. When he went into the Cabinet he enjoyed universal regard, and the public looked with favor upon his well-known ambition to occupy a seat upon the Supreme Bench at no distant time. To-day he is greatly discredited, and now that the investigation of his conduct is concluded, he ought to relieve the President of the undoubted embarrassment caused by his presence in the Cabinet.

Senator Edmunds has brought in a bill for the reform of the civil service, which gives the President the appointment of all the minor officials without the advice or consent of the Senate, but makes them irremovable during their term without a trial on charges before a United States judge. One does not need to know much about the United States civil service to know what the result would be; one only needs to know a little of human nature. No man of capacity or business experience would take charge of an office containing a large number of subordinates if he could not get rid of any of them without a formal trial in a law court. Four-fifths at least of the things which make a clerk incompetent are small things, any one of

which would seem ridiculous on paper, and absurd to lay before a United States judge. It is the repetition of them which mostly decides that a man is not worth his salary. Nothing in the whole art of administration, whether civil or military, is so well settled as that there can be no proper responsibility in the chief if he have no discretion in the selection of his subordinates. Some capable men might be found ready to take charge of offices under Mr. Edmunds's bill, but if they did so, they would probably at once go to work to break it down. They would let inefficiency and disorder have full swing, and refuse to go into court with trumpury stories about A's coming late, and B's drinking, and C's being unmannerly, and D's spelling badly and blotting his books, until the public offices became public nuisances and the law was repealed.

President Cleveland's policy in regard to civil-service reform has always had two weak points. The first is his appointing to several important places—the New York Custom-house is one of them—persons who were notoriously either not in sympathy with the reform or openly hostile to it. The second is his failure thus far to punish a single official for displaying his dislike of or contempt for the rules by disregarding or evading them. The notion that such a reform as this can be carried out by agents who hate it is of course a chimera. A good illustration of all this has just been afforded by the working of the new rule adopted by the Civil-Service Commission at Washington, which provides that the examining boards at various points shall elect their chairmen and secretaries every year, these officers having hitherto been appointed by the Commission, as in fact they ought to be, for they are nothing more than the agents of the Commission. However, if the Government officers at various points were, as they ought to be, men chosen because they believed in the reform, and were ready to carry it out cheerfully, the change might not in practice do any harm. But see how it works in New York. The Chairman and Secretary of the Examining Board at the Custom-house, Messrs. Comstock and Babcock, have filled these positions for years. They thoroughly understand the new system and thoroughly believe in it, and have had more experience of its working than perhaps anybody in the country. Moreover, they are the only friends of the reform in a Board of eight members. Under the new order, which seems to have been a concoction of Mr. Oberly's, these two gentlemen have been turned out, and there have been elected in their places two open enemies of the reform, who can and doubtless will, in a thousand ways, hinder its execution, either by evading it or making it ridiculous. These suspicions may prove unfounded, but we hold that there should be nothing in the character or antecedents of the men filling high places in any of the great Government offices, to give rise to them.

The appointment of Gov. Hugh S. Thompson of South Carolina as Assistant Secretary of

the Treasury, to succeed Mr. W. E. Smith, who resigns to accept the solicitorship of a Western railway, is one of the very best which Mr. Cleveland has made since he became President. Gov. Thompson has been prominent in the affairs of his State for the past ten years, during the first six as Superintendent of Education, and during the last four as Governor. In the former capacity he built up the public-school system amid great difficulties and obstacles, earning the hearty confidence of both races by his impartial oversight; and in the higher office he has justified the faith which the colored Republicans reposed in him. Gov. Thompson is a sincere believer in civil-service reform, and it was largely his influence which led the South Carolina Legislature in 1880 to adopt a resolution urging Congress to "take such measures as may be expedient for the reformation of the civil service, so that the tenure of office under the General Government may no longer be dependent upon party success or subject to levy by means of forced pecuniary contributions to any political party, and so that capacity and character shall be the test of fitness for office and the sole but certain guarantee of its tenure"; and which led the Legislature four years later, after Mr. Cleveland's election to the Presidency, to "reiterate and reaffirm the principles and policy of the said resolution," by adopting a further resolution declaring that "this General Assembly adheres to the same and tenders to the Administration of the President elect the approval and support of the people of this State in carrying out the provisions of the law in regard to civil-service reform."

The reported consideration by the President of the expediency of abolishing the age limit of forty-five for admission to the civil service does not raise any very serious question. It may be said in general terms that those who favored the present limit did so in the expectation of drawing into the service men who meant to make it a career, or at all events stay in it a considerable period. They thought, and not unnaturally, that a man who sought for a subordinate place in the public service after forty-five, would be apt to be a man who had failed badly in something else, or whose powers of work were waning, and who would consequently probably have to leave it very soon. But we doubt very much whether the abrogation of the rule would have much practical effect. It would pacify a few elderly and discontented "workers" in various parts of the country, who think all the places are reserved for young college graduates, but it would not admit many, if any, to the service who were not capable, for a while at least, of rendering good service. If a man over forty-five can pass the examination, there seems to be no good reason why he should not go on the eligible list. If the appointing officer thinks him too old for the work, he need not take him, and if he takes him, and he becomes too old, he can be got rid of in the usual pitiless fashion.

The President's vetoes of private pension bills are calling out a mass of testimony as to the fraudulent character of many of the claims which are advanced. The editor of the Portland *Oregonian*, who served in the ranks of the Union army, declares that he knows of his own knowledge, that "since the passage of the Arrears of Pension Act about every shirk and utterly worthless veteran of his brigade has been a successful applicant for a pension." In one case a wagoner, who lost his leg by tumbling off his team while helplessly drunk, got a pension on the plea that he had lost it in action with the enemy. In another case a man swore to having received injuries in a battle at which he was not present; and described his regiment as supporting a battery, when it was in a thick wood, distant half a mile from any artillery. In several instances within the editor's knowledge, men who escaped from service by shooting off their fingers have received arrears of pensions as if for honorable wounds. He describes one case where within two years a New England merchant, worth at least \$50,000, who never was in action, and who resigned after less than three months' service, has mortified his decent comrades by trying to get a pension on the plea that he could trace his present condition of imperfect health to a catarrh he suffered from while in service. It is not a pleasant reflection, but it is unfortunately the fact, that there was a considerable percentage of shirks in the Union army, who are as conscienceless in pressing fraudulent claims now as they were in avoiding active service during the war, and it was time that the attention of the country should be sharply called to the gross abuses which have been growing up under the pension system.

President Cleveland sent a very depressing letter of regret to the Tammany braves assembled for their Fourth of July celebration. Great preparations had been made for having a true Jeffersonian reunion. None but iron-clad Democrats of the approved old-fashioned type had been selected to make addresses, and the hated Mugwump doctrine of civil-service reform was to be given such a drubbing as it had not received in many a day. Into this choice assemblage the President dropped his letter, containing the following passage:

"I should be very glad to join those who on that occasion will renew their pledges of devotion to the principles for which the fathers of the republic fought. *These principles had no relation to personal advantage or ambitious schemes, but were adopted and cherished because their enforcement promised prosperity and greatness to a free and victorious people.*"

The sentence which we have put in italics was a plain announcement that the man whose nomination Tammany had tried in vain to prevent, and whose election Tammany had tried in vain by wholesale treachery to defeat, was the same man still, and just as deserving of Tammany hatred as he had ever been. More than this, it was a fresh notification to the Wigwam, crammed with perspiring and hungry Jeffersonians, that there would be no "clean sweep." What cheer was there after that in Senator Vance's blatant denunciation of civil-service reform, and Mr. Randall's praise of the "grand old society"? Neither of those men had any offices to distribute, and both of them had been

defeated in Congress in their efforts to break down the Civil-Service Law.

All the Fourth of July oratory appears to have been pretty barren of ideas. Mr. Bowen's annual display at Woodstock was much less entertaining than usual, none of the speakers appearing to have anything to say. At a soldiers' reunion in Chicago, Senator Logan made a very melancholy pension bid for votes, at the close of which he said: "The evidence of decay is upon us to-day. If I have shown weakness in your presence to-day, I hope that in the light of our past struggles you will forgive me." The speech was the usual bloody review of the war which Logan always makes, and which he has put into type of several kinds in his great history. It is high time that signs of "decay" appeared upon it, for it has become very wearisome to the public, and we should think that the soldiers would by this time be tired of it.

It is very hard for the average Republican organ to give up the idea that there is something still to be made out of the sectional issue. Referring to the statement that the Alabama Republicans have decided not to put any ticket in the field this year, on the ground that it would be of no use, a Blaine organ in Connecticut says: "These things should not be so, and they will not continue after the Republican party is restored to power." And yet "these things" came to be "so" while the Republican party was in power. In deciding to nominate no ticket at the first State election under a Democratic President, the Alabama Republicans only follow the same course they pursued at the last State election under a Republican President in August, 1884, when they made no opposition whatever to the Democratic nominees, upon precisely the same ground as that on which they base their present policy. It was the same way in the last State elections held under a Republican President in South Carolina and Georgia. If the Republican party in the South had fallen into decay under a Democratic administration, there might be something plausible about the claim that things would be different under a Republican President; but considering that a whole line of Republican Presidents could not do anything to arrest the process of deterioration, the idea that "restoring" the Republican party to power will cure the trouble is rather too absurd for the year 1886.

None of the Republican platforms thus far adopted, in Maine, Vermont, and Pennsylvania, appear to have hit upon an issue which can serve as a rallying cry for the party. They all studiously avoid any mention whatever of the most pressing question of the day—silver coinage. Has the party no convictions upon this? They are all very bitter in their denunciation of the Morrison Tariff Bill, but as that measure has failed in a Democratic House, it is difficult to see how party capital can be made from it. The Maine platform was very ferocious on the fishery question, but that, too, has been settled, and in such a way as to do credit to the Cleveland Administration. A significant plank in the Vermont platform was a commendation to "Republicans everywhere of

the policy of dropping past dissensions, of welcoming all who will return to the party allegiance"; but this found no echo in the Pennsylvania declarations. It is likely to be looked upon coldly as an Edmunds contribution, more or less tainted with Mugwumpism; yet it is the only utterance thus far made which has in it any important bearing upon the prospects of the party in future national contests. The Republicans failed in the last campaign because they did not have a majority of the votes cast, and they will continue to fail for the same reason unless they take some steps towards securing recruits. Making faces at the Mugwumps, and nominating candidates whom they will not support, are not steps of this kind.

Next to its absurdity, the most noticeable thing about the Pennsylvania Republican platform is the feebleness of its denunciation of the Cleveland Administration. "We bring an indictment," it says, "against the present Democratic National Administration for its inconsistency, indifference, and inefficiency, which has been alike inconsistent in the methods employed to promote promised reform, indifferent to our industrial and commercial interests, and inefficient through lack of experience and ability to meet any of the grave questions of the day." Not a single specification is advanced to support the indictment—no allusion even to Higgins. There is nowhere in the platform any of that good round denunciation which ought by this time to appear in Republican platform literature if there is going to be any real "war" in this fall's campaigns. The pension vetoes, which we inferred from the comments of some of the party's organs were to be utilized as bait for the soldier vote, are not mentioned at all; and even the Pan-Electric scandal passes unnoticed.

Mr. G. F. Hoar made a terrible attack on the President on Wednesday week, apropos of secret sessions of the Senate, which he strenuously defends. His thesis is that nobody wants open executive sessions but the newspapers, and he denies that the newspapers in any sense represent public opinion; this, he says, is revealed, in the old seventeenth-century fashion, by petitions and elections. So he will not agree, we presume, to have open sessions until the people have voted for it at elections; but how it will be got before the people he does not point out. He said one of those delightfully absurd and startling things for which he is famous, when he averred that the Senate never stood higher in the estimation of the people than it does now. After all these gymnastics came the attack on the President. He denied his title to his office, which he declared properly belonged to the "idolized" Blaine, and then made the usual accusation of breaking his pledges and having used the appointing power to an unexampled degree for partisan purposes. Time must hang heavily on any one's hands who argues with Mr. Hoar, because he can, owing to his habit of inventing his premises, never be refuted. No matter what you say, he stops you with a "fact." So that all that can be done with him is to expose him occasionally and then let him run.

In his diatribe Senator Hoar referred to the removal by the Post-office Department during the first twelve months of the present Administration of 8,635 fourth-class postmasters—which, it may be remarked, is only about one in six of the whole number—and said: "The President knows that under the law the term of every postmaster in the country would expire during his Administration." The whole number of post-offices in the United States when the present Administration came in was 51,277, of which 2,346 belonged to the first, second, and third classes and were filled by Presidential appointment. The remaining 48,931 were fourth-class offices. The Revised Statutes provide (section 3830) that "Postmasters of the fourth-class shall be appointed and may be removed by the Postmaster-General." *The United States Official Postal Guide* declares (section 750) that "Postmasters at fourth-class offices are appointed by the Postmaster-General, and their term of tenure has no specified limit." In other words, Mr. Hoar stated that the term of all the 51,277 postmasters in the country would expire during Mr. Cleveland's Administration, while the fact is that the term of 48,931 of them "has no specified limit," and will not expire during the present administration or at any fixed time. This is a fair sample of the relation between fact and fiction throughout the whole of Mr. Hoar's speech.

Mr. J. W. Alsop of the Connecticut Senate, for several years Chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the Legislature, and an earnest advocate of the Connecticut law which requires imitation butter to be sold simply on its merits, declares himself and the committee of which he has been chairman decidedly opposed to prohibitive legislation or taxation of imitation butter, as unjust to the manufacturer and to the consumer, and adds that one of the strong reasons for the enactment of the present law was the practice of farmers to mix oleomargarine with their own dairy butter. The Dairy Commissioner of Connecticut, according to the *Middletown Constitution*, reports that the chief trouble "is with an article which purports to be the first quality of dairy butter, and is sold at a fancy price." He "doubts whether Connecticut dairies at this season, when grass is plenty, are doing much in the bogus line, though he has reason for suspecting that they have done their share hitherto, and will need watching next fall."

It is melancholy but true that Lord Salisbury's word on a matter of fact does not carry the same weight in politics that it once did, and that consequently his denials addressed to Mr. Parnell and Mr. Gladstone in his letter on Tuesday week do not count for much. When he was Foreign Secretary under Lord Beaconsfield in 1877, he entered into a secret agreement with Count Shuvaloff, the Russian Ambassador, and embodied it in a memorandum by which he bound England to make a number of important concessions to Russia at the Berlin Conference, which was shortly to meet. When the Conference did meet, he and his chief went through the form of resisting stout-

ly in public what they had already surrendered in private, of course for the purpose of humbugging their own people. A copying clerk in the Foreign Office got hold of the memorandum, and published it in the *Globe*, and it, of course, made a profound sensation. But Lord Salisbury, on being taxed with it in the House of Lords, flatly denied its existence. He was, of course, soon after exposed, but he bore it bravely, and now charges opponents with "baseless fabrication" as cheerily as if it had never happened. A public man, however, does not get over this sort of thing easily, as our own Blaine knows to his cost. Neither Lord Salisbury's affirmations nor his denials now settle anything finally in the public mind.

His denials now relate to an interview between Parnell and Lord Carnarvon. Parnell asserts that Carnarvon asked for it—he being at the time Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland—and talked "autonomy" with him, and gave him to understand that the Conservative party might, if properly supported, give the Irish even autonomy enough to enable them to "revive their industry" by protective duties. The corroboration of this is that Lord Carnarvon acknowledges there was an interview, that Parnell soon after made a speech in which he did propose protective duties, and that the Irish supported the Conservatives at the elections, which they would hardly have done, angry as they were with the Liberals, had they believed that, as Lord Salisbury now says, they had nothing to expect from the Conservatives but the suppression of the National League and twenty years of "resolute government." Lord Carnarvon, on the other hand, alleges that the interview was of Parnell's seeking, which is unlikely, considering Parnell's distrustful and disdainful ways with Englishmen, and that all the talk of autonomy was on Parnell's side, which seems a little ridiculous, as there was no occasion to get Parnell into a private room in order to hear him talk autonomy. Lord Salisbury acknowledges also that Lord Carnarvon told him of the projected interview two days before it took place, and that he gave him an account of it afterwards. But these admissions have only been made under a fire of taunting questions from Mr. Gladstone, and the general impression made by the whole affair is undoubtedly unfavorable to the Tories. There are probably few people who really doubt that if Mr. Gladstone be now defeated, the Tories will themselves before long grant home rule to the Irish in somewhat the same shape, just as, after driving Earl Russell from office in 1866 for trying to extend the suffrage, they extended it themselves as soon as they got into power in 1867. By that time the English public will have got used to the idea, and the dreadful predictions which the Tory orators are now making about the excesses in which the Irish will indulge if they ever get a Parliament, will have lost their force through familiarity.

The tide continues to run against Mr. Gladstone. He is losing seats, or retaining them by diminished majorities in the boroughs. He may still be saved by the counties, but there is

no chance of his doing more than holding his own. This will be a great feat, to be sure, considering how his colleagues have deserted him, but it will be simply a personal triumph. It will not make home rule possible. On this result nobody can possibly be congratulated. It is not likely to furnish materials for either a Tory Ministry or a Unionist Ministry, or even a coalition Ministry. The Opposition united will probably at best have a bare majority, and the Irish question will stare them in the face, calling for solution as imperiously as ever. Moreover, Parnell will still have to be reckoned with, and he will certainly meet his enemies with as indomitable will and as high courage as ever. He will force them either to treat with him or to resort to desperate measures, which will make their talk of imperial unity more plainly absurd than it is now.

In commenting, at the time, on the new electoral law adopted by the Belgian Chamber last August, we expressed the opinion that it was an ingenious piece of partisanship, well calculated to make the recovery of the anti-clerical phalanx in that body from its late reverses a task of almost insurmountable difficulty. "The Liberals of Brussels," we remarked, "who suffered so unexpected a defeat in June, 1884, but counted on a *revanche* in the next elections, will find it now very difficult to reverse the last electoral verdict. Another stronghold of the Liberals, Ghent, where the anti-Clerical victory in 1884 was achieved only by a very light majority, is in danger of being lost in 1886, with the possible disastrous result of securing the Government party a two-thirds majority in the Chamber." The elections of last month have completely justified these predictions. The Liberals were beaten in Brussels, Charleroi, Verriers, and other towns, which were formerly chief seats of their strength, and were totally routed in Ghent, in consequence of which their minority in the Chamber has been reduced from fifty-two members to forty, and the clerical majority has risen from eighty-six to ninety-eight, or more than two-thirds of the whole number. The late socialistic disorders in the mining districts of the kingdom, which frightened the mass of the manufacturers into supporting the powers that be, while the extreme radical wing of the Opposition, to the very eve of the election, coquetted with the Socialists, contributed strongly to the excessive triumph of the Government party. Another element of defeat for the Liberals lay in their stanch fidelity to free-trade principles, while their clerical adversaries were free-traders in Brussels and Antwerp, and protectionists in the manufacturing towns. Fortunately for the beaten party, the two-thirds majority of the clericals in both houses of the Legislature can only pave the way for a revision of the Constitution, but not effect it; for a revision can be carried only by a two-thirds vote in both houses of the Legislature succeeding the one which moves the amendments. It is also probable that the Conservative Government will find its victory embarrassingly sweeping. The excesses of its supporters may speedily lead to a new and thorough revulsion of public sentiment such as Belgium has so often witnessed.

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, June 30, to TUESDAY, July 6, 1886, inclusive.]

DOMESTIC.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND on Thursday signed the Fitz John Porter Bill.

Congress is making more rapid progress than had been anticipated with its work, and, unless there shall be long political debates, it may be possible to adjourn by the 20th.

In the House of Representatives on Wednesday Mr. Boyle (Dem., Penn.), from the Pan-Electric Committee, submitted a report signed by four members of the Committee upon the subject of its investigation. It is accompanied by the following resolution: "Resolved, That a full, fair, and exhaustive investigation has failed to adduce any evidence which tends to show that Attorney-General Garland, Solicitor-General Goode, Secretary Lamar, Indian-Commissioner Atkins, Railroad-Commissioner Johnston, or Senator Harris (they being the officers named in the Pan-Electric publications of the newspaper press which gave rise to this investigation) did any act, official or otherwise, connected with the matter investigated which was dishonest, dishonorable, or censurable." The report was in line with the resolution. It was referred to the House calendar. The Republican members of the Committee submitted a minority report in exactly the opposite sense.

The House on Thursday refused to pass over the President's veto the bill to quiet the titles of settlers on the Des Moines River lands by 161 to 91, not the necessary two-thirds.

The House Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday ordered an adverse report to be made on the Randall Tariff Bill.

In the Senate on Thursday Mr. Riddleberger (Read., Va.) introduced a preamble and a bill for the reduction by 25 per cent. of the salaries of Cabinet officers, Senators, and Members; and addressed the Senate in its advocacy. He said that if they were to begin reductions of \$1,200 clerks and to conclude with reductions of per diem labor, it seemed to him that they should go back and begin at the head. He also referred to the contracted currency as a disadvantage to labor and an advantage to capital. The bill was referred to the Committee on Finance.

In the Senate on Friday, during the consideration of the Legislative Appropriation Bill, an amendment for an additional clerk for the Civil-Service Commission was opposed by Mr. Vance (Dem., N. C.), who remarked that, if the Commission was unable to do any more business, it would be so much the better. Mr. Saulsbury (Dem., Del.) looked upon the Civil-Service Commission from beginning to end as a useless piece of machinery; if he had his way he would repeal the law. Mr. Voorhees (Dem., Ind.) said that he had never been for the law, sleeping or waking; but, while it was a law, he would treat it fairly and give it a fair chance. If there was any good in it he hoped the good would come out. The fact would be made manifest in good time and the people would pass upon it. The amendment was adopted by 34 to 11.

The Naval Appropriation Bill, as reported in the Senate on Saturday, appropriates \$12,883,234, a net reduction of \$46,800 as compared with the House bill.

The new resolution of instructions to boards of examiners for the classified customs and postal service, which was adopted by the Civil-Service Commissioners, to go into effect on Thursday or as soon thereafter as practicable, is already causing commotion, which will undoubtedly increase. The resolution directs that every customs district board and post-office board shall nominate to the Commission on the first Thursday in July in each year "one of its members for appointment as Chairman, and one of its members for appointment as Secretary of the Board." The result of this vote is to be reported without delay to the Commission, and the persons so nominated are imme-

diately to enter upon the discharge of their duties, "unless the Commission shall make other appointments than those advised by the Board." One of the first results was the reorganization of the New York Custom-house Board. Both the Chairman and Secretary of the Board were Republicans and civil-service reformers. On Thursday both were displaced and Democrats elected in their places. It was reported about the Custom-house on Friday that the change was brought about in a way to justify the fears of those who look upon it as a deliberate attempt to convert the Civil-Service Board into a political machine. According to statements which appear well founded, Mr. Lyman, the only Republican member of the Civil-Service Commission at Washington, left that city for official business in the West only about a week ago, and was to return the last of this week, yet the change in the manner of designating the officers of local boards was rushed through in his absence. The responsibility for this action is laid at the door of Commissioner J. H. Oberly, who has been an active partisan politician, and used to be the Chairman of the Illinois State Democratic Committee.

Mr. Veazey, late Postmaster at Baltimore, publishes a letter in reply to Civil-Service Commissioner Lyman's recent report on his administration. He says when he entered the Post-office all of the 260 employees but six were Republicans. "My purpose," he says, "was to apply the civil-service rules to those inside of the service as well as those outside, and, as far as possible, without violating the law or sacrificing the business interests of the community, to displace all non-civil-service Republicans with civil-service Democrats. The men composing the force at that time were, as a rule, faithful and efficient members of the Republican political organization, and this is the only uniform rule which can be declared with reference to them; they differed in everything except in politics. Some of them were excellent clerks, and some were admirable carriers, while others were utterly unfit for any position whatever.

I take pride and pleasure in advising your honorable Board that it is quite true that all the new appointees were appointed because they were Democrats, and I am glad to have been able to accomplish such gratifying results without affecting the efficiency of the postal service. I am sure that my course in this respect has met the approval not only of Democrats, but also of fair-minded Republicans, and I shall not concern myself as to the views of Mugwumps. I do not hesitate to acknowledge 'that I appointed Democrats because they were Democrats,' but not for that reason alone; I never appointed an incompetent or unreliable Democrat in preference to a reliable and competent Republican, and how shall Mr. Lyman say that I was guilty of discriminating when I appointed thoroughly 'honest and efficient' men?"

The Republican members of the Ohio delegation in Congress have all joined in a petition to the Senate Committee to reconsider their decision not to investigate Mr. Payne's election; and Senator Sherman has added to their request his endorsement, with the statement that he is perfectly willing to have it known what he has to say on the subject. Messrs. Butterworth and Little have also addressed a personal letter to Chairman Hoar, saying they have new and important evidence to lay before the Committee.

The Pennsylvania Republicans on Wednesday carried out the programme of the Boss Quay Machine and nominated Gen. James A. Beaver for Governor by acclamation; William T. Davies of Bradford County for Lieutenant-Governor; T. J. Stewart of Montgomery County for Secretary of Internal Affairs; A. Wilson Norris of Philadelphia for Auditor-General; and F. A. Osborne of Luzerne County for Congressman-at-Large. The platform favors the Inter-State Commerce Bill, demands the passage of a law prohibiting the importation of foreign pauper labor, calls for the pro-

tection of farm products against fraudulent imitations, and "the enactment of proper laws affording facilities for conference and arbitration based upon the principle that all men are free and equal, and directly recognizing the equality of all the interests involved—the workers, the employers, and the people at large"; arraigns the Democrats; praises the high tariff; and asks the Legislature to submit a prohibition amendment to the people.

The Arkansas Democrats on Wednesday nominated S. P. Hughes for Governor, E. P. Moore for Secretary of State, W. E. Woodruff for State Treasurer, and Daniel W. Jones for Attorney-General. The platform favors a tariff for revenue only, and unlimited coinage of silver.

The Democrats and Greenbackers in Iowa have fused, the Democrats nominating the Secretary of State, Auditor, Attorney-General, and Clerk of the Supreme Court, and the Greenbackers the Treasurer.

The Massachusetts Legislature on Wednesday passed a bill appropriating \$20,000 for entertaining President Cleveland in case he should visit the State this summer. It has adjourned its session.

Ex-President Hayes, in an address at Toledo, O., attacked President Cleveland's vetoes of fraudulent pension bills, saying that the President's action was "contrary to every tradition of the country, and one which would meet with no approval from the patriotic and the just."

Judge Barrett of this city, on Friday, sentenced the Theiss boycotters to terms of imprisonment ranging from one year and six months to three years and eight months. In pronouncing sentence Judge Barrett said: "You have violated public right and opinion. Your offence is not short of blackmail. The distribution of circulars by you in places of business is conspiracy, and punishable as such. Your conduct, if unpunished, would lead to savagery. You may have been misled by bad advice, but your counsel should have rebuked you. You did not use the money for your own advantage and this palliates your offence. I shall not impose the extreme penalty of the law."

At a meeting of the directors of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company on Wednesday a letter from Cornelius Vanderbilt to President Depew was read, in which Mr. Vanderbilt said: "I have had plans prepared for a building 80 feet front by 40 feet in depth, to be used for the benefit of railroad men in the service of the companies centring at the Grand Central Depot. It will be a substantial structure, with bath-rooms, gymnasium, and bowling alleys in the basement; reading-rooms, library, room for games, and offices on the first floor; a large hall for general meetings and rooms for classes on the second floor; and rooms for janitor's family and sleeping-rooms for men coming in late or detained in the city over night in the upper story. I wish you to lay before the Board of Directors this proposition: If the company will set apart the land at the corner of Madison Avenue and Forty-fifth Street (40 feet on the street by 80 feet on the avenue) for the use and purposes for which such a building would be erected, I will bear all the expense of construction and of fitting and furnishing it ready for use." The directors authorized President Depew to accept Mr. Vanderbilt's offer and thank him.

Prof. Timothy Dwight was on Thursday inaugurated as President of Yale College. In his inaugural address he pledged himself to carry on the present policy of Yale College, looking to its development towards a great University, preserving what is best in its traditions. He spoke strongly in favor of the ancient classics.

William Walter Phelps has been reelected a member of the Yale College Corporation.

The Harvard Freshmen crew won the boat race at New London on Thursday by three lengths; Columbia second; Yale out of the