

BY TELEGRAPH.

Dr. Talmage has reached home. The Senate has ratified the Somoan treaty. The National debt was decreased over \$12,000,000 in January. The eldest daughter of Secretary Blaine died a few days ago. Secretary Blaine's oldest daughter is lying at the point of death. The Queen has sent a message of condolence to Secretary Tracy. The Blair educational bill will occupy most of the week in the Senate. Kenosha, Wisconsin, had a serious fire Sunday. Loss \$125,000. Insurance \$100,000. Mrs. Lucas, sister of John Bright, and an agitator and speaker in the cause of temperance, is dead. By a boiler explosion at the Edison electric light building, Philadelphia, Tuesday, five men were badly scalded. Two persons were killed in a snow slide near Loganville, a little town high up in the Sierras, on the 16th of January. The Mayor of Montreal, by direction of the City Council, has invited the Pan-American delegates to visit that city. The historical Congregational church at Danvers Center, Mass., was destroyed by fire. Loss, \$35,000; insurance, \$15,000. The wife and daughter of Secretary Tracy and a servant lost their lives in a fire in the Secretary's home Monday morning. An explosion at the Standard oil works at Williamsburg, N. Y., started a fire which destroyed \$16,000 worth of property. A bill has been introduced in the Senate for the erection of a monument to Abraham Lincoln on the Gettysburg battlefield. Chinese newspapers from Hong Kong state that there is a widespread belief that the Korean dynasty is drawing to a close. Mr. Carlisle has issued an address to the country explaining the course of the Democratic party in the late Congressional struggle. Justice Van Brunt, of the New York Supreme Court has granted a stay in the case of Herr Most, and he will be liberated in \$5,000 bail. An ice gorge which threatened great damage to property, was formed in the Missouri River, just above Atchison the other day. A natural gas explosion Monday night at the Duquesne steel works, Pittsburgh, fatally injured two men and badly burned several others. The editor of the Cologne Gazette has been sentenced to one month's imprisonment for publishing calumnies against the Emperor's mother. The suit for libel brought by Mr. Parnell against the London Times has been dropped, the Times agreeing to pay the Irish leader £5,000. The Cunard line, steamer Bothnia was sighted off Sandy Hook Thursday morning. Miss Bissland, the competitor of Nellie Bly in the race around the world, is on board. Senator Frye presented to the Senate a memorial asking material aid for a structure at Philadelphia commemorating the great events of the first century of national life. Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe has much improved in health and strength. She is neither insane nor imbecile, as has been stated, but has reached the stage of second childhood. Reports from the ranges in western Wyoming show that the losses of stock by the recent storm will not be so great as at first reported. The per centage of loss for the winter will not exceed 5 per cent. A delegation of Pennsylvanians appeared before the House War Claims Committee the other day in support of a bill to reimburse their State for \$3,000,000 worth of property destroyed during the war. Fifty laborers in a mine at Palmer, Michigan, have struck for higher wages, and refuse to allow new men to go to work. The sheriff is on the ground, and bloodshed may follow if the new men attempt to work. The losers in the recent \$300,000 fire in Cincinnati are talking of suing the city for negligent work of the fire department. It is claimed that the chief refused to allow the men to enter the building to seek the seat of the fire. Governor Humphrey has appointed William Simms Treasurer of the State of Kansas to succeed J. W. Hamilton, who resigned recently to accept a position on the Santa Fe Railroad. Simms is president of the State Farmers' Alliance. Dr. Bokal, a professor at Klausenberg University, claims to have discovered an absolutely certain antiseptic remedy for hydrophobia, destroying the virus at the seat of the bite. It consists of a solution of carbolic, bromine, sulphuric acid and permanganate of potash with oil of eucalyptus.

AN APPALLING AFFLICTION.

The House of Secretary Tracy Burned and His Wife and Daughter Perish in the Flames. WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The house of Secretary Tracy caught fire at 6:45 this morning and was completely destroyed. The fire was discovered at 6:45 by passers-by, who gave the alarm to the butler. That party claims to have aroused all the inmates, but none of them escaped without injuries and three lives were lost. Mary, the youngest daughter, and a French maid were burned to death and Mrs. Tracy received injuries from smoke and jumping out of a window that were fatal. The Secretary was rescued in an unconscious condition, but it is thought that he will recover. Mrs. Wilmerding, eldest daughter of the Secretary, and little girl Alice escaped by jumping from second story windows. Secretary Tracy's house is a three-story and basement brick, and has recently undergone extensive improvements. Persons passing the house at 7 o'clock this morning saw smoke issuing from the front windows, and at once raised an alarm of fire, and the fire and police departments responded promptly. The premises were almost concealed by the dense smoke, which was thickened by the heavy fog, which was just lifting. It was soon discovered that the house was all ablaze inside and that the main stairway was burnt, thus cutting off communication with the sleeping apartments on the second and third floors. Several streams of water were played on the flames and every effort was made to check the fire and to rescue the occupants. A scene of wildest confusion ensued when it was known that all the members of the family were in the house. The firemen behaved like heroes in the emergency and went through fire and smoke in search for them in the different apartments. Mrs. Wilmerding, the Secretary's daughter and Miss Wilmerding forced their way through the blinding smoke and jumped from a second story window at the front. Ladders were raised for them, but in their excitement they failed to see them. Mrs. Wilmerding sprained her left wrist and was severely bruised. Her daughter was badly injured in the lower limbs, but broke no bones. They both suffered severely from the shock. They were taken at once to the residence of Dr. Baxter, near by, and restoratives applied. Owing to the sad event, the President and Mrs. Harrison have recalled invitations to the state dinner in honor of the Supreme Court on Thursday next. The remains of Mrs. Tracy and Miss Tracy lie to-night in caskets in the center of the East room of the White House beneath crystal chandeliers, whose light less than a week ago shone upon them as they joyfully greeted their numerous friends at the last presidential reception.

ANOTHER CENTENNIAL.

The Supreme Court Celebrates Its One Hundredth Birthday. New York, Feb. 4.—The sad events of the last few days at Washington dimmed considerably the celebration of the centennial of the Federal Judiciary, which was inaugurated this morning. The weather, too, was very unfavorable, a heavy rain falling. The attendance at the exercises in the Metropolitan opera house was the most noted that ever filled the magnificent building. Distributed about the galleries were banners and shields bearing the coats of arms of the various states. The interior of the building was otherwise elaborately decorated. On the right of the stage, in the front row, were seated the members of the United States Supreme Court. Ex-President Grover Cleveland presided. The others seated on the stage included ex-Justice William Strong, Senator Everts, T. J. Semmes of New Orleans, General William T. Sherman, Chauncey M. Depew and David Dudley Field. While the distinguished gathering was leaving the carriages at the door and filling the seats until there was standing room only, a grand symphony orchestra played the "Coronation" march, the overture to "Zampa," and the "American Fantasia." When the last air had been played, ex-President Cleveland stepped forward. He was cheered to the echo, and it was some minutes before he could speak. Bowing his acknowledgements and expressing his appreciation of the generous welcome accorded him, Mr. Cleveland began his address, in which, among other things, he said: "In the work of creating our Nation, the elements of free government were supplied by concessions of the sovereign States, by the surrender of accustomed rights, and by the inspiration of pure and disinterested patriotism. If from these elements there had not been evolved that feature in our federal system, which is our theme to-day, the structure might have been fair to look upon, might have presented a semblance of solidity and strength but it would have been only a resemblance, and the completed edifice would have had within its foundations the infirmity of decay and ruin." Rev. Morgan Dixon then led in prayer. Ex-Judge Arnoux of the New York State Bar Association next delivered a brief address of welcome. The next address was on the "Origin of the Supreme Court of the United States and its Place in the Constitution," by the veteran lawyer, William Allen Sanders.

POLYGAMY A CRIME.

So Says the Supreme Court of the United States. WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 3.—The Supreme Court of the United States today rendered an opinion affirming the constitutionality of the Edmunds-Tucker Idaho test oath which is intended to prevent Mormons from voting. The case came up on an application for a writ of habeas corpus, made by Samuel D. Davis who is in jail in Idaho, having been sentenced for unlawfully taking the prescribed test oath when he was a member of the Mormon church. The court denies the application for a writ of habeas corpus, holding that polygamy is a crime and that the constitutional provision guaranteeing freedom of religion is not intended to prevent the punishment of any person who, in the name of religion, commits a crime in the eyes of the law. The court, in its opinion, says bigamy and polygamy are crimes by the laws of the United States and Idaho. They tend to destroy the purity of the marriage relations, to disturb the peace of families, to degrade women and debase men. Few crimes are more pernicious to the best interests of society, and receive more general and deserved punishment. To call their advocacy a tenet of religion is to offend the common sense of mankind. To extend exemption from punishment for such crimes would be a shock to the moral judgment of the community. It is assumed by the counsel of petitioner that because no mode of worship can be established by law, or religious tenets enforced in this country, therefore, any form of worship may be followed and any tenets, however destructive of society, may be held and advocated, if asserted to be part of the religious doctrines of those advocating and practicing them, but nothing is further from the truth. While legislation for the establishment of religion is forbidden and its free exercise permitted it does not follow that everything which may be so called can be tolerated. Crime is not less excused because sanctioned by any particular sect that may designate it as a religion.

The Defaulting Cashier.

New York, Jan. 31.—The Herald claims to have discovered Silcott, the defaulting cashier of the House of Representatives, in the village of Torrobonne Quebec, on this morning it prints a long interview had with him yesterday. Silcott was found at the house of Louise Thiebault, the woman with whom it is said that Silcott fled from Washington, and he consented to talk to the reporter. "The time will come," said Silcott, "when those who are now the hardest against me will kneel. I was not so much to blame. As to the charge of forgery, that is all bosh. There is scarcely a member of the House to whom I did not advance his pay every month and received notes as receipts. As to the money I am accused of decamping with, I assure you I had very little when I left New York. "There is another matter that I wish to contradict and that is the story that I was a big winner at the races. This is not true, for my losses far exceeded my winnings. "It was to keep up and be a hale fellow well met with the same members of Congress, also, who are now running me down, that I first went to the races. My curse is on the races. I wish to God I had never gone near them. "Miss Thiebault, of whom such hideous falsehoods are told, had nothing to do with my fall. Had I always taken her advice I would be in a different position to-day."

The Stricken Secretary.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 4.—Secretary Tracy continues to improve slowly. Many prominent people called during the morning, and were informed that the secretary is getting along nicely. His son, Frank E. Tracy, arrived this morning on a special train. He is the first member of his family that the secretary has seen since the awful calamity of yesterday. His presence was an unmistakable source of joy and hope to his bereaved parent. The President sent early in the morning to inquire after the secretary and Private Secretary Halford called in person about ten o'clock to consult in regard to the secretary's removal to the White House. The secretary has displayed wonderful recuperative power and at 11 o'clock surprised his physicians by getting out of bed and dressing himself. He showed such strength that he was allowed to descend to the library and remain there a portion of the day. During the morning he was visited by the President and Secretary Noble. This afternoon Secretary Tracy was removed to the White House, his physicians having pronounced him out of danger. Shortly after his arrival he requested to be taken into the East room and shown the caskets containing the remains of his wife and daughter. They were covered with beautiful flowers. Standing at the head, between them both, was a large palm tree, arranged so that the leaves drooped gracefully over the dead. The secretary was much affected by the sight, and sobbed as though his heart would break. The casket containing Mrs. Tracy's body was opened and he was allowed to look upon her face for the last time. The other body was in no condition for inspection and the casket was not opened.

REED'S STATEMENT.

He Explains to the Public the Reasons For His Course. WASHINGTON, D. C., February 2.—Speaker Reed to-day made to a representative of the Associated Press the following statement concerning the Republican position in the present great controversy: Mr. Carlisle was entirely right when he said in substance that the decision of the House that a quorum was constituted to do business when a majority of the House was present, would change from the foundation the method of doing business. It certainly will do so, for it will enable the majority elected by the people to rule by their own votes and not by the sufferance of the minority. The rule of the majority is at the very base of our Government. If it be not true our faith is vain and we are yet in our sins. Look at the practical working of the other doctrine. The Republicans have a majority of seven, but they have only three over a quorum—168 is our number, 165 is a quorum. If we are to furnish a quorum and the Democratic party be silent when business is to be transacted, but vocal when it is to be obstructed, then there can be but four Republicans absent on penalty of a stoppage of public business. Now, let us see how that works. We are allowed but three absentees. Mr. Rockwell is sick; it would endanger his life to come; Mr. Wilber is in the same case; T. W. Brown is too sick to be able to be there all the time; Mr. Caswell's wife was dying; another member must be with his wife for reasons somewhat similar. Just about this number of members will be at all times either sick or incapacitated. These may get well, but others fall sick in their turn. There is then our quorum, according to Mr. Carlisle's idea, gone entirely, gone to pieces, though, even after all fraud shall be deducted, the people had found for the Republicans by seven majority. Mr. Carlisle says there is no precedent for the decision of the House. I have personally seen and heard him furnish a hundred. A hundred times I have heard him declare that the number for and against such a bill was, say, 80 for and 20 against—mathematically less than a quorum—and yet declare the bill passed and then sign the bill, thereby certifying under the most solemn sanction of his oath of office that the bill had properly and constitutionally passed the House. How could he have done this if his doctrine be true that a quorum must vote? Understand me. Day after day Mr. Carlisle, in my presence, has declared such a bill had votes for and against by his own count as Speaker, less than a quorum, and yet immediately declared it passed, and has signed it—thus furnishing the only proof that the President could have that it had passed. How could this be except on the plain ground that if a quorum did not vote, the presence of a quorum was enough. But this matter does not need argument. In Mr. Carlisle's own State, in Democratic Tennessee, in Democratic New York, in Democratic Ohio, in Massachusetts and in the courts everywhere, as you may see by Mr. Butterworth's speech, the doctrine just upheld by the House is the law of the land, and it ought to be if good government is not to perish from the face of the earth. Not a ruling has been made in the House to suppress filibustering which has not the full sanction of parliamentary law. That men should resist only shows how ingrained a wrong course has become and how necessary the remedy. What is the House trying to do? Why, to perform its highest function, that of deciding the right of a member by his seat? Until 1882 no man ever dared to filibuster against such a case. No man ought to be allowed to do it to-day. Yet every day three hours are wasted in approving the journal, when five minutes would be ample. These three hours belong to public business. The people do not understand that an every roll call consumes three quarters of an hour. When we first came here the obstructionists declared that they would die in the last ditch against any rules they did not approve of, and now they are wanting to die at Thermopylae in defense of the liberties of their country because we don't force the rules on them. If there could be fewer deaths at Thermopylae, and more business in the House, the country would be better off. It is true that Democratic leaders like Mr. Carlisle have long since ceased to participate in a defiance of good government, but they should now make themselves heard affirmatively on the side of order.

Defending the Mormons.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The House Committee on Territories to-day heard an argument by Hon. Jeremiah Wilson of this city on the bill for the admission of the Territory of Idaho as a State of the Union. Mr. Wilson appeared in behalf of the Mormons and addressed the committee in opposition to the provision in the constitution of Idaho, as adopted at Boise City last year, disfranchising the Mormons. He contended that the only safe ground for the committee to take in this matter was to deal with this as with every case where a man commits a crime, not to inquire what he believes or teaches, but when that belief breaks out into an overt act which is the commission of crime, then punish him by disenfranchisement after the commission of the overt act. He said he protested against depriving the 35,000 Mormons in the territory of the rights, privileges and immunities of American citizens and against imposing upon them taxation and compelling them to bear all the burdens of a state government and at the same time refuse them those rights.

CONGRESSIONAL.

THURSDAY, JAN. 30. SENATE.—Mr. Vance addressed the Senate on the negro emigration bill. Mr. Vance sarcastically characterized Mr. Ingalls' recent speech as oratorical pyrotechnics, concealing a paucity of ideas; acknowledged that the millionaires had not returned on the South and that the land of reconstruction was not yet a land of perfect righteousness. He referred to the Northern gerrymandering, blocks of five, ejection of colored children from white schools, etc. and hoped in time some accomplished black man might be sent to represent the country in some other land besides Hayti and Siberia. Referring to Mr. Ingalls' remark that the South is standing on a volcano, he said that the South needed no help. It could wage war without assistance from anybody and could easily manage and overcome the uprising of 57,000,000 negroes. Then there would come a solution of the negro problem that would stay solved. Given a high-spirited, cultivated, dominant race, occupying a free State, with that race, a race of unmanicured slaves of recent African origin; how should the negro be made to dwell together in peace and fraternity? It is a fundamental principle of American law that the majority shall rule (within time); but it is a principle of natural law that the stronger must rule. The negro is not incapable of civilization, but is incapable of keeping up with the civilization of the white race. He (Vance's) solution of the negro problem was simply, "Hands off!" Then the speaker addressed himself to Mr. Ingalls: "If you cannot help either the black or the white, common decency requires that you should hold your peace." He could not, he said, support the motion; he did not reach the time. Mr. Hampton spoke briefly. While in full accord with the proposed measure he did not think the remedy met the requirements of the case. Adjourning. HOUSE.—The galleries of the house were crowded to their utmost capacity long before noon to-day by spectators anticipating a resumption of the contest of yesterday. Nor were they disappointed, for as the clerk read the journal in the usual manner omitting the detailed vote by yeas and nays on the question of the consideration of the contested election case, Mr. Breckenridge rose and demanded the reading of the full vote. After a moment's hesitation the speaker directed this to be done. This having been done, Mr. Breckenridge demanded the reading of the names of those not voting, and the speaker ordered this done. Then Mr. Springer demanded the reading of the full statement of Mr. Reed, giving the ground for his ruling yesterday, and the clerk proceeded to read accordingly. The reading of the journal having been completed, Mr. McKinley moved that the journal be approved, and upon that motion the speaker directed the yeas and nays to be taken, and the yeas and nays having been ordered, the order, "Don't vote," was passed around the Democratic side of the chamber and studiously obeyed. The yeas and nays were announced, the speaker directed the clerk to record the names of thirty members whom he enumerated as present, and the speaker then announced the vote to stand, yeas 103, nays 102. "Which, in addition to the gentlemen present, constitute a quorum, and the previous question is ordered." This brought forth a storm of applause from the Republican side. Mr. Springer (Illinois) made a point of order to a quorum, and said that if the speaker so decided he would take an appeal. The speaker said: "The chair declines to entertain the appeal of the gentleman from Illinois." [Applause on the Republican side and hisses from the Democrats.] Then, amid wild cheering on the Democratic side, Mr. Breckenridge (Kentucky) rushed down the aisle and, standing in front of the speaker, exclaimed: "That we appeal! There is no appeal pending. There was an appeal yesterday, but this is a different appeal, because the speaker is assuming that the House will sustain his decision of yesterday, and is deciding by his own vote to-day the decision he has made." Cheers after cheers arose from the Democratic side, mingled with hisses from the Republicans, until the House resembled a perfect inferno. In the midst of the tumult the speaker stated the question to be on the motion to approve the journal, and yeas and nays having been ordered, directed the clerk to call the roll, and the vote resulted, yeas 102, nays 103. The speaker declared the motion carried and directed the clerk to enter on the journal the names of the members present but not voting. Before another storm, occasioned by Mr. Springer's persistent efforts, which in the end proved unsuccessful, to address the chair, the House became quiet and the floor was accorded to Mr. McKinley who spoke upon the appeal of yesterday and gave the result of the speaker's decision. Mr. McKinley moved to lay on the table the appeal from the speaker's decision, and shouts of disapproval were heard on the Democratic side, but Mr. McKinley persisted. The clerk proceeded with the call, no Democrat responding and most of them leaving their seats and retiring to the cloak rooms. The speaker, however, followed the call and noted down the names of Democrats present and not voting. The non-voting members were again called, but still no Democrats responded. When the vote was completed the speaker took the returns from the tally clerk and gave the clerk to record the names of twenty-six Democrats present and declining to vote. He then announced the vote—102 yeas, and none in the negative—and declared the motion to lay the appeal on the table carried. The House then adjourned until to-morrow, the Republicans jubilant at their success and the Democrats correspondingly depressed. FRIDAY, JAN. 31. The Senate was not in session. HOUSE.—That the public at large understood that the contest in the House was not ended by yesterday's Republican victory was made manifest by a glance at the galleries this morning. Half an hour before noon every nook and cranny was filled with spectators, and the corridors outside of the gallery doors were crowded with an expectant throng, patiently awaiting an opportunity to be admitted. Mr. Springer interjected a motion to adjourn, saying that he did so to enable the Committee on Rules to bring in the code of rules. The speaker said that the gentleman was not in order in speaking on the motion to adjourn.

Mr. Springer—There are no rules for the House.

The Speaker—There are rules for the House. Mr. Springer—Where are they. The Speaker—The rules that govern all parliamentary assemblies, and these rules most distinctly declare that a motion to adjourn is not debatable, of which the gentleman is perfectly aware. The motion to adjourn was lost—yeas 185, nays 162—and the question recurring on the demand for the previous question, the yeas and nays were ordered. The Democrats again pursued the policy of not voting and the Speaker once more pursued his method of jotting down the names of members present and not voting. The vote being heavy the Speaker directed the clerk to enter on the journal the names of several members present but not voting. Mr. Bynum (Indiana) moved to adjourn, but the Speaker declined to recognize him, and again put the motion on the approval of the journal. The roll-call was then called and the old tactics were brought into play. The vote completed, the Speaker handed a list to the clerk to record of those present and not voting. Then the floor was opened of the three days' battle burst upon the House. Mr. Bynum (Indiana) rushed to the front and demanded the floor on a question of personal privilege and proceeded to arraign the Speaker. To his speech the Speaker replied as follows: "The House will not allow itself to be deceived by epithets. What has been done here has been done in the face of the world, and in the face of the most discriminating judgment. The proceedings of this House, so far as the chair is concerned, have been orderly (Democratic hisses), suitable, in conformity to the rules of parliamentary law (renewed hisses) and in the presence of the chair to entertain a motion to adjourn at this juncture is strictly in accordance therewith. (Democratic groans.) There is no possibility by which the orderly methods of parliamentary procedure can be used to stop legislation, hence, when any member or set of members undertake to oppose the orderly progress of business, even by the use of the ordinarily recognized parliamentary motions, it is the right of the majority to refuse to have those motions entertained and cause public business to proceed. Primarily the organ of the House is the man elected to the speakership. It is his duty in a clear case, recognizing the situation, to endeavor to carry out the wishes and desires of the majority of the body he represents. Whenever it becomes apparent that the ordinary proper parliamentary motions are being used solely for the purpose of delay and obstruction, which members break over an unprecedented roll call (renewed hisses), break over a rule (applause and laughter on the Democratic side) in regard to the reading of the journal, and a gentleman steps down to the front amid applause of his associates and announce that he intends to make opposition in every direction, it becomes apparent to the House and the community that the speaker is. It is then the duty of the Speaker to take under parliamentary law, the proper course in regard to such matters, and in order that there may not be any misunderstanding as to whether or not it is his wish and desire to stop legislation, the House that a question of appeal from the refusal of the chair to entertain a motion will be presented to the House. The appeal was then laid upon the table—yeas 102, nays none—and the Speaker, as usual, counting the requisite number to make a quorum. Mr. Springer moved to adjourn, but the speaker said that the decision of the chair had been sustained by the House meeting to entertain a motion. The speaker thereupon recognized Mr. Dalzell of Pennsylvania, to speak on the Smith-Jackson election case. Mr. Dalzell then proceeded to speak, but the uproar continued until Mr. Criss advised his colleagues that he should give the election case a quiet hearing so that they might pass upon it intelligently. This advice was acted upon and at the conclusion of Mr. Dalzell's argument, the House adjourned. SATURDAY, FEB. 1. The Senate was not in session. HOUSE.—The same wrangling which had occupied the three or four previous days was renewed with similar results. The contested election case was called but little progress was made. MONDAY, FEB. 3. SENATE.—Immediately after reading the journal Mr. Cameron announced the recent afflictions in the families of two members of the Cabinet and moved adjournment, which was agreed to unanimously. HOUSE.—After the usual parliamentary fight the Smith-Jackson contest election case was resumed. Messrs. O'Farrell, Greenhalge, Outhwaite, Lacey and Wilson took part in the debate. At the conclusion of Mr. Wilson's remarks the questions recurring on ordering the report of the Committee on Elections and it was ordered—yeas 101, nays none. This is the first time since the meeting of Congress that the Republicans have had a quorum voting, and the result was received with applause. The only absentees on the Republican side were Mr. Caswell and Mr. Wilber, both of whom are sick. Four roll calls were required before a vote came finally on seating Mr. Smith, the contestant, but at the end he was declared entitled to a seat by a vote of yeas 103, nays none. Amid Republican applause Mr. Smith appeared and took the oath of office, whereupon Mr. Springer sarcastically inquired whether this was a proper time to make a motion to adjourn. With a similar intonation of sarcasm, the Speaker replied in the affirmative, and the House accordingly adjourned. TUESDAY, FEB. 4. SENATE.—The Senate ratified the Somoan treaty with but twelve dissenting votes. Among the bills introduced and referred was one by Mr. Wolcott for the admission of New Mexico as a State, and one by Mr. Plumb for the protection of the American bison. Mr. Ingalls presented a petition asking an appropriation of \$100 per capita for emigration to Liberia. Referred. Mr. Plumb offered a resolution, which was subsequently agreed to, calling on the Secretary of War to furnish copies of the various military officers in relation to affairs in Cuba and Oklahoma City since the opening and settlement of the territory. After an executive session the Senate adjourned. HOUSE.—The Speaker laid before the House various Senate bills for reference, and among them was one to relieve the Treasurer of the United States from the amount now charged to him, and deposited with several States. This bill the Speaker referred, under the rules, to the Ways and Means Committee. Objection was made by the Democrats but the bill was finally so referred after which the House adjourned.

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LOCAL HAPPENINGS.

—Valentine day to-morrow.

—Elder Rhoads will preach next Sunday at the school house.

—Several of the boys have been taking fifty dollar buggy rides lately.

—Another young couple had a smash up while out riding last Sunday.

—George Gilmore a brother of J. A. arrived from Texas his former home last week, to make Roswell his future home.

—A deserter from Troop L of the 6th cavalry, at Ft. Stanton, was arrested at Roswell last Saturday and taken back to the Post where he will be court martial ed for horse stealing and deserting.

—We noticed a peach orchard in the Hondo valley just above the big hill on the Lincoln road in full bloom last week, the storm of this week will blast the buds, we are afraid of more orchards than that.

—Peter McCourt, in company with G. D. Tarbell, made a flying trip to Roswell last week, returning Tuesday. Pete was successful in procuring several good jobs of tin and galvanized iron work, roofing, etc.—Interpreter.

—James Carter returned from Roswell on Wednesday. He reports that the business outlook for their new store there is very good; and also that Harry Morrison will remain there for a short time to conduct the business.—Champion.

—We still have some choice lots in Ovard's addition at prices less than any other part of town, and more desirable for resident property, it is the only part of town that you can get good water, or dig wells and cisterns.

—Nathan Jaffa and Phelps White went to Fort Stanton last week on business for the masons of Roswell. They were given a new "grip" while there that proved stronger than the grip of the lion's paw—it was the "la grippe." They are now improving.

—J. C. DeLany the popular Post trader at Ft. Stanton has been in Roswell for several days. Mr. DeLany is pre-haps the strongest general merchant in the country, and does an immense business, he has a fine store and good hotel with all the comforts and luxuries the country affords.

—Fred Joyce is now a full fledged J. P. His first case was the examination of "Dobey" for burglary. He bound him over to appear at the next term of court for trial, and the same evening "Dobey" made good his escape from Deputy Sheriff Jordan, and is now free from the fetters of the law.

—Mr. Sebe Grey of Ft. Stanton is in town attending to business in the valley. Mr. Grey is interested in the Stanton Coal Mine and we learn that the coal is anthracite and in the summer time can be delivered in Roswell for \$18 per ton. If this is so it will be cheaper fuel than wood at \$7 and \$8 per cord.

—We neglected to mention the party given by Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Ovard, last week, at their pleasant home in Roswell. It was a very pleasant affair, about forty guests being in attendance. Mrs. Ovard displayed great qualifications as a hostess, her supper was the greatest feast we have seen in the country, a great abundance of the very best things to be had was on the table. The party was an enjoyable affair.

THE COURT HOUSE.

What Some of the Engineers and Builders say about the Court House foundation.

At the request of a number of the citizens and tax payers of the County we have asked the Engineers, builders and mechanics to give their opinion as to the sufficiency of the foundation for the court house as per the plans and specifications if placed upon the chosen site. Mr. L. M. Long is an engineer of experience in heavy building and his opinion ought to have weight in this matter, he says: "The specifications as they now are I do not consider sufficient for the safety of the building, especially the foundation for the tower, I would recommend that the concrete base be at least 8 feet wide and 1 1/2 feet thick under the tower and 6 feet wide 1 1/2 feet thick under remainder of building, the expense created will be much less in proportion to the factor of safety increased." Mr. Long said further that there would be no great factor of safety with this improvement and that he would not guarantee the building not to settle unequal which would cause the walls to crack.

Mr. Blashek, whom we consider one of the best mechanics and judges of the values of material for building, in fact a mechanical genius; has been interviewed on the question and he says, "The present plan is wholly insufficient and unsafe the building will certainly settle more rapidly under the heavy pressure, or tower of the structure than at other parts and the result will be the walls will crack and our court house become unfit for use." Mr. Blashek recommends, if a concrete base is used at all, that it should be four feet thick and 8 feet wide, the present plan is good enough for hard solid ground but not for soft mucky soil such as is the Court House grounds.

Mr. Howell an Engineer of ability and long years of experience says in answer to this statement "What is your opinion about the court house foundation for safety, as per the present plans, which includes a base of concrete one foot under the ground, one foot thick and 5 feet wide, with a pressure of about 5 tons to the square foot on part, and two tons or less on other part of the foundation."

"I think it is insufficient on this ground, the court house block, I have never calculated the weight of the building, or the pressure on the foundation, I answer from the statement made by you, the building would certainly settle unevenly which would cause the walls to break. The pressure should be the same on all parts of the foundation or the resisting power equal to the difference. I would recommend piling to insure a factor of safety, but that would be expensive, if they would get long timbers, such as may be had in the red-wood forests in California and lay them full length on top of this concrete foundation so as to make the pressure equal all around it might be secure otherwise I think not.

Mr. John Campbell an Engineer who recently removed from Las Vegas and is now the partner of A. H. Whetstone says:

"I think if the soil is thoroughly drained to a sufficient depth any ordinary foundation will be sufficient.

These men are experts, and their opinions have been asked because they have practical knowledge of such things. Again we ask the Commissioners to settle the question of foundation before doing any thing else.

LINCOLN LOCALS.

From the Independent, Feb. 7th.

We thought la grippe was going to give us the go-bye, but it didn't. It's here. The court house seems to be its headquarters. Col. Cronin had a pretty hard tussle with it, likewise Capt. Roberts. Sheriff Nowlin and George Curry have had light attacks.

Lieut. Scott and family and Mrs. Frank Lesnet returned Sunday from their visit to Roswell.

Messrs. Booth and Joyce, two prominent Roswellites, were in the city last week. Mr. Joyce is the new J. P. down there. He looks rather young to be "His Honor," but The Independent bets he'll "get there" just the same.

G. A. Richardson, of Roswell, is here on legal business.

John J. Cookrell has returned from Roswell, where he has been on legal business.

Messrs. Phelps White and Nathan Jaffa, of Roswell, were in the city yesterday on business.

C. C. Perry and Milton McKenzie came up from Roswell yesterday, on a little court business.

Mrs. O'Neil, of Roswell, arrived in the city Wednesday evening, and went on to Fort Stanton yesterday.

It is not generally known, but it is nevertheless a fact, that Lincoln county has one of the safest, strongest, and most convenient jails in the territory, with all modern improvements for the safe housing of our county boarders. Evil doers, paste this in your hats!

Has the spring time come, gentle Annie? Or is old winter "playing possum?"

—L. O. Fullen the junior member of the Register publishing firm and foreman of the office is down with La grippe, which fact will account for any irregularities in the make up of the Register this week.

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