THE DAY'S DOINGS.

SUMMARY OF LATE NEWS BY WIRE.

RIGHTEOUS VERDICT.

RAILROAD COMPANY GETS THE WORST OF IT.

New Chinese Treaty Less Stringent than the Geary Law—Holdings of the Sugar Trust—Boston Gains Forty Voters in a Year.

Told In a Few Words.

—The suit of Angelina V. Burham against the Consolidated Railroad was settled at Providence, R. I., by the payment of between $11,000 and $12,000 to the plaintiff, whose husband, a railroad engineer, was killed in a collision. The accident occurred in 1890, and the case has been in the courts since that time. The corporation obtained three new trials, and each time a larger verdict against it was secured. The first was for $7,500, and the fourth, given a few weeks ago, was $20,000. Every judge but one on the Supreme bench has heard the case in some form.

—The treaty with China, which was ratified by the action of the Senate, prohibits the coming of Chinese laborers to the United States for the next ten years except upon conditions specified. The restriction is not to apply to the return of such laborers as have lawful wives, children or parents in this country, or who have property here of the value of $1,000, or debts equal to that amount due them. Each departing Chinaman is to secure before leaving a certificate from the collector of customs of the district from which he leaves to the fact that he has deposited with the collector a description of his family, property or credits, and this certificate is to entitle him to return to the United States within one year, but in exceptional cases may be extended for another year. It is especially agreed that the provisions of this convention shall not affect the right of Chinese subjects, being officials, teachers, students, merchants or travelers for curiosity or pleasure, but not laborers, of coming to the United States and residing therein. To entitle such Chinese subjects to admission they must produce a certificate from their government or the government where they last resided or the diplomatic or consular representative of the United States in the country or port whence they departed.

—The sugar trust, according to report, has been buying raw sugar the world over during the past two or three months, and the importations are valued at $100,000,000. Treasurer John E. Searles, of the trust, disputes this, and in a letter to Chairman Wilson, says that the value of the sugars now held by the American Sugar Refining Company does not exceed $12,000,000, represented by 200,000 tons of sugar.

—By the assessors' official report the total valuation of Boston is $928,092,456, an increase of $3,998,705 over last year. There was a gain in real estate of $15,996,475, the total this year being $723,728,750, but there was a loss of $11,967,770 in personal, the total being $204,363,706. There was a gain of but 46 in the poll tax list over last year, the number being 139,743. There is a loss of bond stock over last year of $1,009,570. The tax rate is fixed at $12.80 per $1,000.

—The National Educational Association will meet next year in Denver.

—H. D. Booge, of the absconding Chicago bucket-shop firm of Booge, Frazer & Co., is said to have sailed for Europe.

—Burton Johnson, of Chicago, has been elected President of the National Association of Railway Contracting Freight Agents.

—William H. Clowney, the Bridgeton, N. J., insurance man, who was reported to have been killed at New Orleans, is alive and well.

—Obituary: At Los Angeles, Cal., Prof. Joseph A. Aarmsiey, the eminent Syrian scholar, aged 72.—At Dubuque, Iowa, John T. Hancock, aged 70.—At Staunton, Ill., A. Bechtele, aged 70.—At Oakdale, Minn., Thomas Garner, aged 101.—At Berwick, England, James Allen, head of the Allen Steamship Company.

—As the boat that took an excursion from Seaford, Del., to Dells Island campmeeting was starting on the return trip, news was received that a sail boat had been capsized in the bay, and all its occupants, twenty-two in number, drowned.

—Two negroes who assaulted Miss Potts in Lafayette County, Fla., a few days ago, were captured near Macaipla. They confessed their guilt, and were carried to the scene of their crime and lynched.

—Quincy (Mass.) dispatch: John Quincy Adams died at his home at Mount Wollaston Tuesday morning. Mr. Adams belonged to one of the most distinguished families in Massachusetts. Both his grandfather and great-grandfather held the office of President of the United States. Mr. Adams was in his 58th year. He was a native of Boston and took an active part in politics. His death was due to a stroke of apoplexy.

—Mrs. Melinda Hayes, charged with poisoning W. G. Minard, was freed by Judge Gibbons, at Chicago, the evidence being insufficient. H. V. Wiggins, a witness for the prosecution, was arrested, charged with perjury.

—Friends secured a writ of habeas corpus for Ed Pardridge, but the Chicago plunger had already been taken from the Washingtonian Home to his residence.

—Mines in the Massillon (Ohio) district will be consolidated so as to enable the owners to operate them more cheaply.

—In a paper read before the Geological Society at its meeting in Brooklyn, Professor J. W. Spencer declared the North American continent was sinking.

—Professor Ely, of the University of Wisconsin, in an address at Chautauqua, N. Y., denied that he was a teacher of socialism or anarchy.

—The government crop bulletin says corn has been irretrievably injured by drought in Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota and Kansas.

—Eight thousand persons witnessed the hanging of Madkins, a negro, executed for criminal assault, at Raleigh, N. C.

—Obituary: At New York, George W. Waite, a hero of the battle of New Orleans, aged 68. At Eldora, Iowa, Dr. Myron Underwood. At Leavenworth, Kan., Fritz Meyers, a prominent Free Mason. At Cleveland, Dr. Julius Wolfenstein.

—At Fiume, Austria, fire broke out in the general warehouses, causing a loss of $1,593,000. No damage was done to shipping.

—A death from Asiatic cholera is reported near Cokato, Minn.

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

AN ABLE DISCOURSE UPON THE EVILS OF SUICIDE.

The Great Preacher Says it Is the Worst of All Crimes—Infidelity and Self Destruction—A Christian's Life, Death, and Immortality.

Do Thyself no Harm.

Rev. Dr. Talmage, who is now abroad, has selected as his subject for his sermon through the press this week, the word "Suicide," the text being Acts xvi, 27, 28: "He drew out his sword and would have killed himself, supposing the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm."

Here is a would-be suicide arrested in his deadly attempt. He was a sheriff, and according to the Roman law a bailiff himself must suffer the punishment due an escaped prisoner, and if the prisoner breaking jail was sentenced to be endungeoned for three or four years then the sheriff must be endungeoned for three or four years, and if the prisoner breaking jail was to have suffered capital punishment then the sheriff must suffer capital punishment.

The sheriff had received especial charge to keep a sharp lookout for Paul and Silas. The Government had not had confidence in bolts and bars to keep safe these two clergymen, about whom there seemed to be something strange and supernatural.

Sure enough, by miraculous power they got free, and the Sheriff, waking out of a sound sleep, and supposing these ministers have run away, and knowing that they were to die for preaching Christ, and realizing that he must therefore die, rather than go under the executioner's ax on the morrow and suffer public disgrace resolved to precipitate his own decease. But before the sharp, keen, glittering dagger of the Sheriff could strike his heart one of the unloosened prisoners arrests the blade by the command, "Do thyself no harm."

In olden time and where Christianity had not interfered with it suicide was considered honorable and a sign of courage. Demosthenes poisoned himself when told that Alexander's embassador had demanded the surrender of the Athenian orators. Isocrates killed himself rather than surrender to Philip of Macedon. Cato, rather than submit to Julius Cæsar, took his own life, and after three times his wounds had been dressed tore them open and perished. Mithridates killed himself rather than submit to Pompey, the conqueror. Hannibal destroyed his life by poison from his ring, considering life unbearable. Lycurgus a suicide, Brutus a suicide. After the disaster of Moscow, Napoleon always carried with him a preparation of opium, and one night his servant heard the ex-emperor arise, put something in a glass and drink it, and soon after the groans aroused all the attendants, and it was only through utmost medical skill he was resuscitated from the stupor of the opiate.

A Spreading Evil.

Times have changed, and yet the American conscience needs to be toned up to the subject of suicide. Have you seen a paper the last month that did not announce the passage out of life by one's own behest? De'aulters, alarmed at the idea of exposure, quit life precipitately. Men losing large fortunes go out of the world because they cannot endure earthly existence. Frustrated affection, domestic infelicity, dyspeptic impatience, anger, remorse, envy, jealousy, destitution, misanthropy, are considered sufficient causes for absconding from this life by paris green, by laudanum, by belladonna, by Othello's dagger, by drowning, by leap from the abutment of a bridge, by firearms. More cases of "felo de se" in the last two years of the world's existence. The evil is more and more spreading.

A pulpit not long ago expressed some doubt as to whether there was really anything wrong about quitting this life when it became disagreeable, and there are found in respectable circles people apologetic for the crime which Paul in the text arrested. I shall show you before I get through that suicide is the worst of all crimes, and I shall put a warning unmistakable. But in the early days of this sermon I like to admit that some of the best Christians that ever lived have committed self-destruction, but always in dementia and not responsible. I have no more doubt about their eternal felicity than I have of the Christian who dies in his bed in the delirium of typhoid fever. While the shock of the catastrophe is very great I charge all those who have had Christian friends under cerebral aberration step off the boundaries of this life to have no doubt about their happiness. The dear Lord took them right out of their dazed and frenzied state into perfect safety. How Christ feels toward the insane you may know from the kind way He treated the demoniac of Gadara and the child lunatic and the potency with which He hushed the tempests either of sea or brain.

Scotland, the land prolific of intellectual giants, had none grander than Hugh Miller, great for science and great for God. He came of the best highland blood, and he was a descendant of Donale Roy, a man eminent for his piety and the rare gift of second sight. His attainments, climbing up as he did from the quarry and the wall of the stonemason, drew forth the astonished admiration of Buckland and Murchison, the scientists, and Dr. Chalmers, the theologian, and held universities spellbound while he told them the story of what he had seen of God in the old red sandstone.

Allowance Made.

The man did more than any being that ever lived to show that the God of the Bible is the true God of the Bible, and he struck his tuning fork on the rocks of Cromarty until he brought geology and theology accordant in divine worship. His two books, entitled "Footprints of the Creator" and the "Testimony of the Rocks," proclaimed the banns of an everlasting marriage between genuine science and revelation. On this latter book he toiled day and night through love of nature and love of God until he could not sleep, and his brain gave way, and he was found dead with a revolver by his side, the cruel instrument having had two bullets—one for him and the other for the gunsmith who at the coroner's inquest was examining it and fell dead. Have you any doubt of the beautification of Hugh Miller after his hot brain had ceased throbbing that winter night in his study at Portedello? Among the mightiest of earth, among the mightiest of Heaven.

No one ever doubted the piety of William Cowper, the author of those three great hymns, "Oh, for a Closer Walk With God!" "What Various Hindrances We Meet!" "There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood," William Cowper, who shares with Isaac Watts and Charles Wesley the chief honors of Christian hymnology. In hypochondria he resolves to take his own life and rode to the river Thames, but found a man seated on some goods at the very point from which he expected to spring, and rode back to his home, and that night threw himself upon his own knife, but the blade broke, and then he hanged himself to the ceiling, but the rope parted. No wonder that when God mercifully delivered him from that awful dementia he sat down and wrote that other hymn just as memorable:

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform.
He plants his footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.
Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan his work in vain,
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

A Leap to Perdition.

While we make this merciful and righteous allowance in regard to those who were plunged into mental incoherence I declare that the man who in the use of his reason by his own act snaps the bond between his body and his soul goes straight into perdition. Shall I prove it? Revelation xxi, 8, "Murderers shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone." Revelation xxii, 15, "Without are dogs and sorcerers and whoremongers and murderers." You do not believe the New Testament? Then perhaps you believe the Ten Commandments: "Thou shalt not kill." Do you say all these passages refer to the taking of the life of others? Then I ask you if you are not as responsible for your own life as for the life of others? God gave you a special trust in your life. He made you the custodian of your life as He made you the custodian of no other life. He gave you as weapons with which to defend it two arms to strike back assailants, two eyes to watch for invasion and a natural love of life which ought ever to be on the alert. Assassination of others is a mild crime compared with the assassination of yourself because in the latter case it is treachery to an especial trust: it is the surrender of a castle you were especially appointed to keep; it is treason to a natural law, and it is treason to God added to ordinary murder.

To show how God in the Bible looked upon this crime I point you to the rogues' picture gallery in some parts of the Bible, the pictures of the people who have committed this unnatural crime. Here is the headless trunk of Saul on the walls of Bathshan. Here is the man who chased little David—ten feet in stature chasing four. Here is the man who consulted a clairvoyant, the witch of Endor. Here is a man who, whipped in battle, instead of surrendering his sword with dignity, as many a man has done, asks his servant to slay him, and when the servant declines then the giant plants the hilt of the sword in the earth, the sharp point sticking upward, and he throws his body on it and expires, the coward, the suicide! Here is Ahithophel, the Machiavilli of olden times, betraying his best friend David in order that he may become prime minister of Absalom and joining that fellow in his attempt to parricide. Not getting what he wanted by change of politics, he takes a short cut out of a disgraced life into the suicide's eternity. There he is, the ignored!

Worse Than Judas.

Here is Abimelech, practically a suicide. He is with an army bombarding a tower, when a woman in the tower takes a grindstone from its place and drops it upon his head, and with what life he has left in a cracked skull he commands his armor bearer, "Draw thy sword and slay me, lest men say a woman slew me." There is his post mortem photograph in the book of Samuel. But the hero of this group is Judas Iscariot. Dr. Donne says he was a martyr, and we have in our day apologists for him. And what wonder, in this day when we hear a book revealing Aaron Burr as a pattern of virtue, and in this day when we uncover a statue to George Sand as the benefactress of literature, and in this day when there are betrayals of Christ on the part of some of his pretended apostles—a betrayal so black it makes the infamy of Judas look white! Yet this man by his own hand hung up for the execration of all the ages, Judas Iscariot.

All the good men and women of the Bible left to God the decision of their earthly terminus, and they could have said with Job, who had a right to commit suicide if any man ever had, what with his destroyed property and his body all aflame with insufferable carbuncles and everything gone from his home except the chief curse of it—a pestiferous wife—and four garrulous people pelting him with comfortless talk he sits on a heap of ashes, scratching his sores with a piece of Delft pottery, yet crying out in triumph, "All the days of my appointed time will I wait till my change come."

The Prime Cause.

Notwithstanding the Bible is against this evil and the aversion which it creates by the loathsome and ghastly spectacle of those who have hurled themselves out of life, and notwithstanding Christianity is against it and the arguments and the useful lives and the illustrious deaths of its deciples, it is a fact alarmingly patent that suicide is on the increase. What is the cause? I charge upon infidelity and agnosticism this wholesale thing. If there be no hereafter, or if that hereafter be blissful without reference to how we live and how we die, why not move back the folding doors between this world and the next? And when our existence here becomes troublesome why not pass right into Elysium? Put this down among your most solemn reflections and consider it after you go to your homes: There has never been a case of suicide where the operator was not either demented and therefore irresponsible or an infidel. I challenge you to disprove my sweep. There never has been a case of self destruction while in full appreciation of his immortality and of the fact that immortality would be glorious or wretched, according as he accepted Jesus Christ or rejected Him.

You say it is business trouble, or you say it is electrical currents, or it is this, or it is that, or it is the other thing. Why not go clear back, my friend, and acknowledge God in every case it is the abdication of reason or the teaching of infidelity, which practically says, "If you don't like this life, get out of it." And you will land either in annihilation, where there are no notes to pay, no prosecutions to suffer, no gout to torment, or you will land where there will be everything glorious and nothing to pay for it. Infidelity always has been apologetic for self-immolation. After Tom Paine's "Age of Reason" was published and widely read there was a marked increase of self slaughter.

Apologists for Suicide.

A man in London heard Mr. Owen deliver his infidel lecture on "Socialism" and went home and sat down and wrote these words: "Jesus Christ is one of the weakest characters in history, and the Bible is the greatest possible deception," and then shot himself. David Hume wrote these words: "It would be no crime for me to divert the Nile or the Danube from its natural bed. Where, then, can be the crime in my diverting a few drops of blood from their accustomed channel?" And having written the essay he loaned it to a friend. The friend read it, wrote a letter of thanks and admiration and then shot himself. Appendix to the same book.

Rousseau, Voltaire, Gibbon, Monteigne, under certain circumstances, were apologetic of self immolation. Infidelity puts up no bar to people's rushing out from this world to the next. They teach us it does not make any difference how you live here or go out of this world, you will land either in an oblivious nowhere or a glorious somewhere. And infidelity holds the upper end of the rope for the suicide, and aims the pistol by which a man blows his brains out, and mixes the strychnine for the last swallow. If infidelity could carry the day and persuade the majority of people that it does not make any difference how you go out of the world you will land safely, the rivers would be full of corpses, the ferry boats would be impeded in their progress, and the crack of a suicide's pistol would be no more alarming than the rumble of a street car.

Ah! infidelity, stand up and take thy sentence! In the presence of God and angels and men, stand up, thou monster, thy lip blasted with blasphemy, thy cheek scarred with lust, thy breath foul with corruption of the ages! Stand up, satyr, filthy goat, buzzard of the nations, leper of the centuries! Stand up, thou monster infidelity! Part man, part panther, part reptile, part dragon. stand up, and take thy sentence! Thy hands red with the blood in which thou hast washed, thy feet crimson with the human gore through which thou hast waded, stand up and take thy sentence! Down with thee to the pit and sup on the sops and groans of families thou hast blasted, and roll on the bed of knives which thou hast sharpened for others, and let thy muse be the everlasting miserere of those whom thou hast damned! I brand the forehead of infidelity with all the crimes of self immolation for the last century on the part of those who had their reason.

Make the Best of Things.

My friends, if ever your life through its abrasions and its molestations should seem to be unbearable, and you are tempted to quit it by your own behest, do not consider yourselves as worse than other. Christ himself was tempted to cast himself from the roof of the temple, but as He resisted so resist ye. Christ came to medicine all our wounds. In your trouble I prescribe life instead of death. People who have had it worse than you will ever have it have gone songful on their way. Remember that God keeps the chronology of your life with as much precision as he keeps the chronology of nations, your death as well as your birth, your grave as well as your cradle.

Why was it that at midnight, just at midnight, the destroying angel struck the blow that set the Israelites free from bondage? The 430 years were not up at 11, and 1 o'clock would have been tardy and too late. The 430 years were up at 12 o'clock, and the destroying angel struck the blow, and Israel was free. And God knows just the hour when it is time to loose you up from earthly bondage. By his grace make not the worst of things, but the best of them If you must take the pills, do not chew them. Your everlasting rewards will accord with your earthly perturbations, just as Cæius gave to Agrippa a chain of gold as heavy as had been his chain of iron. For your asking you may have the same grace that was given to the Italian martyr, Algerius, who, down in the darkest of dungeons, dated his letter from "the delectable orchard of the Leonine prison."

Divinely Arranged.

And remember that this brief life of ours is surrounded by a rim, a very thin but very important rim, and close up to that rim is a great eternity, and you had better keep out of it until God breaks that rim and separates this from that. To get rid of the sorrows of earth, do not rush into greatest sorrows. To get rid of a swarm of summer insects, leap not into a jungle of Bengal tigers.

An Old, Old Story.

Here is an extract from the diary of a man who lived 100 years ago: Women grow more frivolous every day. Young ladies scorn housework and learn to embroider, to play the piano, and to flirt, while their mothers are engaged in all the drudgery of the household. They eschew all useful reading, and prefer French novels to English classics. In selecting husbands they choose dandies with social graces, rather than men with solid attainments. They are full of strange, whimsical notions peculiar to the age. This is very much like the growl of the pessimists of our own day.

He Only Wanted to Know.

"Papa," said an inquisitive boy, "don't fishes have legs?"

"They do not," answered papa.

"Why don't they, papa?"

"Because fishes swim and don't require legs."

The small boy was silent for a few minutes, and papa forgot about his questions. Then he asked, "Papa, ducks have legs, don't they?"

"Why, yes, ducks have legs."

"Well, ducks swim, don't they?"

"Yes."

"Then why don't fishes have legs if ducks do? or why don't ducks not have any legs if fishes don't?"

Papa gave it up.

TARIFF BILL PASSED.

HOUSE RECEDES FROM ALL AMENDMENTS.

Separate Measures for Free Sugar, Iron, Coal and Barbed Wire Passed—Crisp Offers the Resolution on Which the Decision Was Finally Reached.

Victory for the Senate.

[Washington correspondence.]

The long struggle over the tariff bill came to a close at 6 o'clock Monday evening, when the House by a vote of 182 to 105 decided to discharge the House conferrees from further consideration of the bill, recede from its opposition to the 634 amendments and agree to the same. It was a complete victory for the Senate. The House must accept the bill or nothing.

The result grew directly out of the sensational course of events in the Senate and in the capitol precipitated by Senator Hill Friday. Up to that time the House conferrees had stood firm against the Senate amendments, especially on the three disputed schedules of coal, iron ore and sugar, and the temper and voice of the House was for war—war to the end. But the indications that the Democrats of the Senate might be unable to longer hold a majority of the votes in line for even the Senate bill and that the bill would be defeated unless the House Democrats to immediate action. The Democratic conferrees of the House at last admitted that they were beaten and that another vote could not be risked in the Senate; that it must be either the Senate bill or no bill.

The whole question was precipitated at the caucus held just before the House convened, at which, after a thorough review of the situation and speeches in favor of receding by Speaker Crisp, Chairman Wilson and others, it was decided to take the Senate bill and immediately afterward pass separate bills placing coal, iron ore, sugar and barbed wire on the free list, and so doing place the House on record and at least partially overcome the humiliation involved in its defeat. The program arranged in the caucus was carried out to the letter in the House after an iron-clad special order.

The caucus met promptly. There was no wait for a quorum. When Chairman Holman banged the desk with his gavel there were 153 members present. Ten minutes later every Democratic member in the city was inside the chamber. There was feverish expectancy on every face. All felt that the eyes of the country were upon them. The Senators themselves—cold and far removed from public touch—betrayed their interest in the outcome of the caucus. Even Senator Gorman's calm and ever in perfect control of himself, cut his greetings shorter than usual. And Senator Brice twirled his glasses around his forefinger with great rapidity.

In administration circles there was keen anxiety. There, more keenly than anywhere else perhaps, the importance of the caucus action was appreciated. Nothing but the Senate bill seemed probable. In the hotels, clubs, streetcars and streets "What will the caucus do?" was the sole topic. Some men like John DeWitt Warner spoke vehemently for continuing the fight. But the majority favored surrender and the prompt settlement of the controversy already much too prolonged.

Proceedings in Secret.

The doors of the House were tightly closed and extra guards placed to prevent listeners hearing anything of the proceedings within. No one was permitted in the gallery corridors, and it was only after great effort that the Sergeant-at-arms was induced to open the working-room of the press gallery. As Congressmen came from the caucus chamber they were button-holed for information, and like good sensible men answered all questions fully and promptly.

The caucus was exciting, but not tumultuous. Wilson, McMillin Crisp and Cockran spoke, the last in opposition to the surrender, and then the vote was taken on the all-important point of surrender or no surrender. The resolution offered by Speaker Crisp to accept the Senate bill went through with a whoop.

Immediately after the caucus adjourned the rules committee withdrew to the Speaker's room to prepare a rule providing for the immediate consideration of the tariff bill. The majority in caucus having decided to surrender, the best way to carry out its decision was to surrender.

DEATH IN A COLLISION.

Fatal Wreck on the Santa Fe—Two Killed and Eight Injured.

A disastrous head-end collision occurred on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, between Hurdland and Gibbs, Mo. Express train No. 5, west-bound mail, express No. 4, eastbound, collided, and both engineers were killed and several passengers injured. The engines and combination express and baggage cars were completely demolished. According to orders, the trains were to have met at Gibbs and it is alleged No. 4 violated orders. The latter was on a slight curve and came together with terrific force. Both engineers applied air brakes and reversed their engines. As soon as the passengers and those of the train crew who were unhurt recovered from the shock they rescued the unfortunate victims. Engineer Humphreys of No. 4 was found at his post with one of his legs cut off and his head almost split in two. He died in a few minutes. Express Messenger Caplinger was instantly killed. E. E. Derrick, the express messenger and baggageman of No. 5, had a very narrow escape, and his injuries may yet prove fatal. None of the passengers of No. 4 were injured.

Briefiets.

MISS LOU FRANKFORD, aged 22, of Frankfort, Ind., committed suicide by shooting herself. She had quarreled with her lover.

NEARLY 180,000 acres of land has been given in four years by the Province of Quebec to fathers of families containing twelve or more children.

HERMAN F. FREDE, of Detroit, a prominent Knight Templar and Secretary of the Michigan Mutual Life Insurance Company, died suddenly at Atlantic City, N. J.

DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

MEASURES CONSIDERED AND ACTED UPON.

At the Nation's Capital—What Is Being Done by the Senate and House—Old Matters Disposed Of and New Ones Considered.

The Senate and House.

In the House Wednesday Mr. Bailey, from the Committee on Judiciary, as a matter of privilege, presented a resolution providing for an investigation by that committee of the charges against Augustus J. Ricks, United States Judge of the District Court of Northern Ohio. The resolution was agreed to without division. Mr. Myer, from the Committee on Militia, called up a bill to promote the efficiency of the militia. It provided for an elaborate system of national defense, including in the militia all able-bodied citizens of the United States between the ages of 18 and 45, the organized militia to be known as the national guard and the unorganized as the reserve militia. The morning hour expired without action on the bill. A number of House bills were passed in the senate, among them one to open certain abandoned military reservations. A bill to prevent lobbying, and which carries heavy penalties, was introduced in the Senate by Mr. Allen.

After a session lasting only a little more than an hour and a half, during which no business of any importance was transacted, the Senate adjourned Thursday. A House bill to revise the section of the Revised Statutes which requires proof of loyalty as a prerequisite in applications for bounty lands was considered, but such opposition was developed that no action was taken upon it. The House passed the time debating a bill calculated to increase the efficiency of the militia of the various States.

The Senate devoted almost three hours to the consideration of the Chinese treaty in executive session Friday, and adjourned with the understanding that a vote should be taken Monday immediately after the reading of the journal. The entire executive session was devoted to speeches on the merits of the treaty, in which Senator Gray, as acting chairman of the committee on foreign relations, opened the discussion of the treaty, speaking upon its general merits and supporting it upon the ground of commercial advantage. Senators Palmer and Mitchell, of Oregon, also participated in the debate, Mr. Palmer speaking for the ratification of the treaty and Mr. Mitchell against it. The House did no business.

The seat of the tariff war having been transferred to the House, the proceedings in the Senate Monday were comparatively tame. The report of the conferees on the sundry civil bill was agreed to with some modification and the bill was sent back to conference. A further disagreement was had with the House on the amendment providing for the extension of the Government printing office, and the Senate receded from its own amendment for the purchase of the Mahone lot for the erection of a new printing office, thus having that building entirely unprovided for. In executive session the Chinese treaty was confirmed. The vote was 47 to 20. The latter number is a sufficient advance except to agree to the Senate tariff bill.

There was but a scattering of Senators present Tuesday when the Vice President called the Senate to order. At 12:15 o'clock the reading of the journal was concluded, when a message from the House of Representatives was announced, and informed the Senate that the House had passed the bills placing coal, iron ore, barbed wire, and sugar on the free list, in which it asked the concurrence of the Senate. Senator Manderson objected to the second reading, and Senator Hill gave notice of amendments repealing all internal taxes. Bills were passed promoting Commodore Louis C. Sartori, retired, to rear admiral on the retired list, and authorizing soldiers' home managers to extend relief to veterans. Resolutions for the investigation of the Dominion Coal Company of Nova Scotia and for the investigation of the recent election in Alabama were called up, but went over. The House bill reported on the Judiciary decided to report the bill introduced by Delegate Smith, of Arizona, to transfer criminal jurisdiction over reservation Indians in the Territories from the Territorial to the Federal courts. The House Committee on Pensions has agreed to the Senate bill to pension Mrs. Ada J. Schwatka, the widow of Lieut. Frederick Schwatka, the arctic explorer, at $30 a month.

"Honest Abe" Behind the Bar.

Abraham Lincoln once took out a license to sell liquor. The records of Sangamon County, Ill., show that he and his partner, who kept a public house, took out such a license and maintained a bar for the use and convenience of their guests. A veteran Indiana editor says that he was present at one of the joint meetings which were held during the Lincoln and Douglas senatorial campaign in 1858, and that on that occasion Lincoln publicly acknowledged that he had been an inkeeper and all that that implied. Douglas having made playful allusion to Lincoln's practice at the bar, the latter retorted that it was true, but that it applied with equal force to his distinguished opponent, "for while I have practiced behind the bar Douglas has practiced before it."

Where Four Countries Meet.

Perhaps there is only one place in the world where the flags of four nations, each on its own soil, may be seen waving in friendly rivalry, and in defiance, according to the condition of European politics. Midway in the narrow channel at the southern entrance of the Red Sea is the dark gray island of Perim, above which float the union jack of Britain. Surmounting the steep cliff on the neighboring shore of Arabia is the crimson banner of Turkey, and on the opposite coast is the border line between the Red Sea territories of France and Italy, whose flags are flung to the breeze within half a mile of one another.

Bullets.

A scientific authority states that by saturating a bullet with vaseline its flight may be as fly followed with the eye from the time it leaves the muzzle of the rifle until it strikes the target. The course of the bullet is marked by a ring of smoke, caused by the vaseline being ignited on leaving the muzzle of the gun.

THE WEATHER.

THE average annual rainfall over the whole earth is thirty-six inches.

THE principles of rainfall were first correctly set forth by Dalton in 1787.

IN the year 310 hardly a drop of rain fell in England, and 10,000 people died of famine.

IN 1035 there was a frost in England July 1 that destroyed nearly all the vegetation.

THE annual snowfall averages five feet in the interior of Maine, Vermont and New York.