drilled every night except Saturday night, so that a considerable force could be concentrated at any given point in the city within an hour.

Despite the elaborate police arrangements and the fact that the 1,700 officers could be so quickly reinforced by the National Guardsmen, the strikers and their sympathizers were not deterred from committing some acts of violence yesterday, most of them early in the morning.

POLICE AND STRIKERS IN CONFLICT.

A serious conflict between the police and the strikers and their cohorts, men and women, occurred about 1:30 p. m. at Fifth-ave. and Twenty-third-st., where the Atlantic Avenue Railroad Company has large stables and carhouses. President Norton had applied to Police Commissioner Welles early in the morning for protection, and the Commissioner had assured him that if he could secure experienced and competent motormen, so that the public safety would not be endangered, he would protect the cars to the utmost extent of the department's power. At the hour named a car left the stables in charge of a motorman and conductor who had volunteered to take the places of strikers. Several policemen were on the front and rear platforms of the car, which was also flanked by foot and mounted police, and virtually within a hollow square. Before the car started a crowd, composed of from 5,000 to 6,000 excited men, women and boys, had gathered in Fifth-ave., between

COLLINS (BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF ARBITRATION).

Ninth and Twenty-third sts. The instant the car started the mob began to shout derisively at the motorman, conductor and police, and to hurl all sorts of missiles against the car and through its windows. Inspector Mackellar, who was in command of the police, assisted by Captains Kenny and Murphy, ordered his men to make a charge on the crowd and endeavor to push the rioters back, but without using either clubs or revolvers.

When the mob saw, as one of its ringleaders expressively said, that the police were "handling them with kid gloves," men, women and boys became so emboldened that they broke through the flanking column of foot police, and made a mad rush for the car, intending to drag the motorman and conductor from it and punish them. Just at this point, the utility of cavalry in such an exigency was plainly demonstrated, for when the small squad of mounted police galloped to the rescue the rioters retreated in disorder, with the exception of one woman.

In a state of frenzy, the woman hurled stick after stick through the car windows regardless of the attempts of officers to remove her without injuring her, but finally, when she suddenly seized a brick and hurled it through one of the windows, a couple of stalwart officers grabbed her firmly by the arms and carried her away to the nearest police station, where she was locked up. The car mentioned and one other were successfully but with great difficulty enabled to make their trips, but as soon as they had gone, the most serious trouble of the day took place.

ATTACKED BY THE CROWD.

At this time a wagon carrying thirty-five men, who had been employed to take the place of strikers, arrived. This was the signal for a fresh outbreak. The mob surged around the wagon, throwing sticks and stones at the men and wildly shouting "Scabs!" "Kill 'em!" etc. After a sharp struggle with the rioters, the police succeeded in getting the men inside of the stable, though not till several of them had sustained severe contusions from the missiles which had struck them on head and body.

While this struggle was going on, about 1,000 men, urged on by daring leaders, overpowered a small force of officers who were guarding a mailcar of the Atlantic Avenue Railroad Company, at Fifth-ave. and Union-st. The police held their ground as best they could, and sent a messenger for reinforcements. When four wagons filled with officers arrived, the mob vanished.

The Prospect Park Plaza, virtually under the very shadow of the Soldiers and Sailors' Arch, was the scene of turbulence about 2 p. m. Fully 2,000 persons, who were massed on the plaza, declared that no car should pass through it. A Flatbush mail car, which arrived a little later,

ANDREW D. BEST.

was attacked and its police guard overcome. A squad from the Tenth Precinct speedily appeared and the car was escorted on its way.

Soon afterward, a force of policemen, commanded by Inspector MacKellar, clashed with another mob at the Prospect Hill reservoir, and another mob at the Prospect Hill reservoir, and reinforcements were summoned. While dispersing the mob the police made the following arrests: A. McDonald, conductor; Louis Reed, motorman; Edward O'Hara, motorman; Edward Keegan, conductor; John Fitzpatrick, motorman; Peter Gill, motorman; Henry Geisken, conductor; James O'Brien, conductor, and Daniel Price, motorman. Half an hour later, in a fight at Fifth-ave. and Twenty-third-st., the police arrested Bartley Cloonen, of No. 259 Twenty-third-st., and William Hamilton, of No. 618 Sixth-ave., motorman, charged with having thrown stones at a car. When car No. 26, of the Fifth-ave. line of the Atlantic Avenue Railroad Company returned to the station in Gowanus it was found that Thomas R. Biggs, the motorman, of No. 625 Fifteenth-st., had received a severe scalp wound from a brick thrown at him by an unknown man, who escaped at Fifth-ave. and Twenty-second-st.

Sympathizing hotel and restaurant keepers, notably in Flatbush, have refused to sell food to the police, but this peculiar proceeding has been offset by an order from Commissioner Welles to a caterer to see that the officers are fed.

WORKMEN IN PLENTY.

The presidents of the different railroad companies said yesterday afternoon that they could get all the men needed to run their cars if the men could be assured of ample police protection. Superintendent Norton, of the Atlantic Avenue Railroad Company, told Commissioner Welles that he would start the cars on the Fifth-ave. section of that system early this morning, if the police would protect his men to the best of their ability. Accordingly, Commissioner Welles, Superintendent Campbell and Inspectors MacKellar, McLaughlin and McKelvey held a conference at Police Headquarters last night, when it was decided that strong details of officers from the Tenth, Eleventh, Fifteenth and Sixteenth precincts and the mounted and steamboat squads should be stationed along Fifth-ave. at 6 a. m. to-day, when a test of the strength of the strikers and their sympathizers will be made. Commissioner Welles said last night in reference to this: "The police will maintain order at any cost. The railroad people have a right to run their cars, and the people have a right to ride in them unmolested. There will be no trifling. The situation is critical, but the law will be enforced."

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HE WILL NOT COMPROMISE.

President Norton, of the Atlantic-ave. line, was in an uncompromising mood yesterday. If his counsel prevails, it is doubtful whether any concessions are made to the strikers on behalf of his company.

"The matter has gone too far," he said, "for any compromise or arbitration so far as our road is concerned. When the men went out on Monday they settled the matter for themselves. I shall refuse to have anything to do with any one who officially represents the strikers. The road will not retreat from its position. The ex-employes will be paid in full to-day. After 12 o'clock to-morrow we shall begin operating our lines. It may take some time to get things running, but we shall get everything back in shape again before long. We shall run every car then exactly as we want to run it, and you can say positively that the service will be better in every respect than it has been heretofore. During this trouble we shall take every advantage of those sections of the Penal Code that relate to the operation of our road and the care of our property. And every one arrested under those laws will be prosecuted to the fullest extent.

"Last night one of our old conductors was arrested for disturbing a switch at Twenty-third-st. He was promptly taken to court and held in $2,000 bail for the Grand Jury. He will stay in jail until the law has taken its full course with him."

Mr. Norton declared that by noon to-day the Fifth-ave. line would be in full operation. He said he would call on the police for protection and would hold the city responsible for any damage done to his road. He said that as soon as he got the Fifth-ave. road running he would turn his attention to the Seventh-ave. line.

Mr. Norton has written the postal authorities at Washington asking what protection he may expect for his mail cars and for those ahead of the cars carrying the mail.

Yesterday was the regular payday on the Atlantic-ave. line. As each man received his pay he was asked to surrender his badge and buttons. There was no trouble when the strikers received their money. Everything was orderly. The mail cars, under the protection of two policemen, left the stables on time and made the trips without trouble.

BEFORE THE ARBITRATION BOARD.

The State Board of Arbitration met in the Common Council Chamber in the Brooklyn City Hall at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The board consists of Gilbert Robertson, jr., William Purcell and Edward Feeney. A committee from the strikers was present. The only railroad official in attendance was W. A. H. Bogardus, secretary and treasurer of the Brooklyn Heights, or Brooklyn City, Railroad Company. It was soon apparent from the stand taken by Secretary Bogardus that little encouragement would be received from his company looking to an arbitration of the difficulties existing between it and the strikers. Early in the proceedings he remarked that the company "had nothing to arbitrate."

GIBLIN: "WE ARE WORKING MORE THAN THE TEN HOURS SPECIFIED IN THE AGREEMENT."

In reply to the Commissioners's question, Mr. Bogardus given a history of the strike. When asked if the company could now operate any of its lines, the witness said it was running cars on the Court-st. line and some on the Flatbush-ave. line.

The next witness was John Giblin, of the strikers' committee, who on request of the committee gave a long statement of the causes of the strike and the present position of the men.

The witness said that in his opinion the companies had rejected the agreement because it would lessen the number of trips. He said the men were willing to arbitrate and to waive certain things, but "not everything." One point they would not waive was the increase in the running time of the trips. He showed that cars had to make four and a half miles in thirty-two minutes, inclusive of the time lost in stopping for passengers. This was plainly an infraction of the law, which says the cars must not run at a higher rate of speed than eight miles an hour.

THEY WANT NO DICTATION.

Mr. Bogardus said the companies would never agree to the men dictating the number of "tripper" cars which should be run.

Giblin said in reply that that was "the gist of the whole difficulty." If the companies were permitted to run all the "trippers" they wished, too many of the men would have to lie around the car shops all day, making possibly a trip in the morning and another after the theatres at night. They would be paid by the trip, and would receive starvation wages. In fact, the condition of all the men would eventually become worse than it has during the times of horsecars, when the work required of them was not so severe as now.

An amusing reason put forward by Mr. Bogardus as to why his company had not signed the agreement was that it contained a clause saying the company must comply with the law in running its lines. He said such a clause was unnecessary, because the company had always complied with the law. A moment after, however, he had to acknowledge it had not done so.

Andrew D. Best, of the Executive Committee of the strikers, was the next witness, and was followed by Patrick Collins. The board will meet again to-day at 11 o'clock, when it is hoped more of the companies' officials will be on hand.

The members of the Board of Arbitration were somewhat incensed over the fact that so few of the presidents appeared before them. To-day President Partridge, of the DeKalb Avenue Line; President Norton, of the Atlantic Avenue Line; Lewis, of the Brooklyn City Railway Company, and Wicks, of the Brooklyn, Queens County and Suburban Company, will be summoned to appear before the board unless they come of their own volition.

HE SAYS IT WILL END TO-DAY.

"The strike, in my opinion," said Master Workman Martin J. Connolly last evening, "will end to-morrow. The railway people cannot resist the pressure that is being brought to bear upon them by merchants doing business along their lines. Thousands of dollars have already been lost by business men and the strike cannot be prolonged."

"But if it should," a Tribune reporter inquired, "in what condition are the men to stand a long siege?"

"For a month, at least, they could rely on their own resources, and when their own means are exhausted, we have plenty of friends on whom we can call. Already citizens, many of them employers themselves, have pledged $5,000 to sustain the men, and labor organizations will give us all the financial aid required. There is no need, however, in discussing resources now. The strike will end to-morrow."

"What will the managers concede?"

"That I can't say; but they will have to give in some point or the men will never return."

"Have you heard from General Master Workman Sovereign?"

"Yes, but nothing which I can give out. He (Before the State Board of Arbitration.) heartily approves our action, and the men will be sustained at headquarters."

TRAVEL ON THE ELEVATED ROADS.

The travel on the Brooklyn elevated railroads yesterday was greater than on Monday. The roads carried over 300,000 passengers, the officials said. Although all the rolling stock of the roads was in use, the officials were sadly embarrassed in handling the crowds. The jam on the station platforms and in the cars was great all day, but more especially during the hours in which the business men and working people were going to and from their homes. Many of the large stores will have special bargain sales to-day, and the traffic on the roads, it is expected, will be larger than ever.

President Giblin, of the organization which ordered the strike, said last night that there was no intention of ordering a strike on the elevated roads. He was also an authority for the statement that General Master Workman Sovereign would not come to Brooklyn to take charge of the strike.

STATEMENT FROM THE MEN.

The Executive Board of the striking employes issued the following statement last night:

The great struggle between the surface railroads and their employes still continues. Now, conductors and motormen wish their position to be clearly understood by the public. In the annual agreement presented by the men to the companies for the present year, the men have asked for an increase of pay or a reduction of the speed, trips, which would mean a reduction of the speed. The men are willing to waive the question of an increase of pay, but they insist that there shall be at least as many full-day cars as were agreed to by the companies before the introduction of electricity. The companies are operating their cars at a less cost than was required by the horse-cars, and their receipts are far greater than was the case on the horse-cars, yet the companies refuse to give the men as many full-day cars as have been mutually agreed to during the last few years. The men maintain that it is impossible to run their cars at the high rate of speed demanded by the companies with due regard for the safety of the public, and insist that this speed be reduced. This is the real issue, and the men are determined not to yield.

M. J. CONNELLY,
JOHN GIBLIN,
A. D. BEST,
P. J. COLLINS,
Executive Board, D. A. No. 75.

WHAT THE MAYOR SAYS.

When Mayor Schieren was asked what his course would be in the event of rioting, he said:

"I have not consulted with the Corporation Counsel relative to my duty in the premises. I believe that the police will be equal to the emergency."

STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES.

A MEETING TO LAY DOWN RULES AND REGULATIONS.

UNTIL THIS IS DONE, SOME INSTITUTIONS CAN'T GET THEIR MONEY FROM THE STATE—A NEW BILL PROPOSED.

The special committee of the State Board of Charities held its first meeting since the increased powers have been given to the board by the Constitutional amendments, yesterday morning, in the boardroom of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, at No. 297 Fourth-ave. President William Rhinelander Stewart acted as chairman of the meeting. There were also present Commissioners W. P. Letchworth, of Buffalo; Dr. E. H. Stoddard, of Rochester; Stephen Smith, of New-York; Mrs. Beekman De Puyster, of New-York, member of the State Board of Charities; Dr. Monroe Morris, of the State Board of Health; John B. Pine, of the State Charities Aid Association; Bryan Lawrence, President of the New-York Catholic Protectory; Elbridge T. Gerry, president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; R. C. Savage, vice-president of Roosevelt Hospital; Conrad Strassburger, secretary of St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum; Henry W. Wolf, and Henry Schmitt, of St. Joseph's Home; Edward Lauterbach, chairman of Charities Committee of Constitutional Amendment; F. A. Barnard, Five Points' House of Industry; Homer Folks, secretary of State Charities Aid Association; Miss S. E. Minton, of the State Charities Aid Association; Mrs. Anna F. Wilson, assistant secretary of the State Charities Aid Association; Mornay Williams, of the New-York Juvenile Asylum, and Father Kinkead, chaplain of the Convent of St. Francis, Peekskill. The chairman, in opening the conference, said that the board had been invested with very great powers by the Constitutional amendment. There were a great many State institutions with which the board had had to deal in the past, while it paid little attention to private institutions. The board had now received powers to expend public moneys on private institutions and were now about to make rules for the future guidance of the board.

"I desire to state," said the chairman, "that I do not intend to be pressed or hurried on by any one. We will hold open court here every day until we have finished our hearing of all parties concerned. The Constitution was passed without our knowledge and we will take our time in framing such rules and regulations as we deem fit."

John B. Pine said that the Constitution had placed them in an intermediary position between private institutions on one hand and the State on the other. He then presented the new rules and regulations as drafted by him for the State Board. They provided for the appointment of a chief inspector, assistant inspector, classification of inmates, discharge and reception of inmates and other details.

Gherardi Davis, of the New-York Infant Asylum, said that the non-payment of the December dues would seriously affect several institutions. H. H. Tobias, who represented the Controller's office, said that an opinion was expected from the Corporation Counsel in a few days. "I have no doubt," said he, "that the Corporation Counsel's opinion will favor the payment of the December dues."

Mornay Williams, of the Juvenile Asylum, said that his institution would make a most emphatic protest against the State Board assuming the power to change their charter.

Edward Lauterbach, who was the chairman of the Charities Committee of the Constitutional Convention, was present by invitation of the board. He made extended remarks upon the real purport of the disputed provision of the Constitution, but he declined to say just what the power of the State Board would be. He was positive that the convention never intended to shut down at once on the aid now afforded by the State to the various charitable institutions. He added:

"It seems to me that it would be perfectly proper for the board at this time to adopt a rule something like this, that all those institutions which have heretofore complied with existing rules and which shall continue to comply with such rules, shall continue to receive aid. This rule could be made to do until new rules can be defined."

Commissioner Letchford suggested that it would be a good thing if the representatives of the various institutions would communicate with the committee and give their ideas on what was best to be done.

"That is an excellent idea," said the chairman. "We are here to receive suggestions and invite them from those who are competent to speak on the subject."

The committee then adjourned until 10 a. m. to-day.

The State Legislature has been asked to pass a bill authorizing the State Board of Charities to appoint a chief inspector and as many assistant inspectors as may be necessary, not exceeding twelve in number, to visit and inspect the several charitable, eleemosynary, correctional and reformatory institutions which receive payments from any county, city, town or village in the State for the support, care or maintenance of inmates, and which are wholly or partly under private control. The bill provides that the salary of the chief inspector shall be not less than $2,500 nor more than $3,500 per annum, and the salaries of the assistant inspectors shall be not less than $1,500 nor more than $2,000 each per annum. The bill also would empower the State Board of Charities to make rules by which the several institutions to be inspected should be governed and to determine the amount of public money which each institution should receive.

G. W. CABLE READS FOR CHARITY.

A reading by George W. Cable, in aid of the Messiah Home for Children, was given yesterday afternoon, at the home of Mrs. Gilman Collamore, No. 165 West Fifty-eighth-st. About 100 women were present. Mr. Cable read extracts from "Dr. Sévier," and by request sang a Creole slave song, and recited a pathetic Creole nursery tale. The reading was patronized by Mrs. J. Wells Champney, Mrs. Gilman Collamore, Miss E. A. Egan, Miss Flint, Mrs. Charles S. Horner, jr., Mrs. Edward Holbrook, Mrs. George F. Shrady and Mrs. John S. White.

FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER.

The case of Thomas Kerrigan, charged with murder in the first degree, went to the jury in the Court of Oyer and Terminer late yesterday afternoon. Kerrigan killed Aaron Alexander in a liquor-store at No. 23 Rivington-st. last April. The two men had quarrelled over the payment for a drink. At 9:30 p. m. the jury had agreed, and fifteen minutes later Judge Ingraham took the bench. The prisoner's sweetheart, Mamie Doyle, took a seat beside her lover and wept as she talked to him. She broke down when the verdict was announced. Kerrigan took the matter coolly. Sentence will be pronounced on Monday next.

W. K. VANDERBILT GOING BACK TO EUROPE

W. K. Vanderbilt will sail to-day on the White Star steamer Teutonic for Liverpool. He will be accompanied by his friend, Winfield Scott Hoyt.

REIMBURSING GOVERNOR MATTHEWS

Indianapolis, Jan. 15 (Special).—The House passed the bill appropriating $48,500 to reimburse Governor Matthews for money borrowed of banks to pay the troops in service during the strikes and riots last summer. This is the second instance of such action in this State, Governor Morton's experience with Governor Matthews's party during the war being the first.

While Congress is Busy

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M. CASIMIR-PERIER RESIGNS.

Continued from First Page.

sentatives in regard to what were generally known in France as the "Scoundrelly Conventions," concluded with the main railroad lines, to the injury of the laboring classes and of the small bourgeoisie.

M. CASIMIR-PERIER.

THE PUBLIC CAREER AND THE ANCESTRY OF THE RETIRING PRESIDENT.

Jean Paul Pierre Casimir-Perier belongs to a family long prominent in France. His great-great-great-grandfather was a notary, whose home was near Grenoble. The notary's son, Jacques, a tradesman of Lyons, at his death left a fortune of $125,000 to his son, Claude, a long-headed and enterprising speculator, who in the troublous days before the Revolution contrived to amass a colossal capital, part of which he invested in the stately Château de Vizille. After the Terror he came to Paris, where he helped to found the Bank of France and sat in the Corps Legislatif. He left eight sons, the two elder of whom became peers of France, while the third gave evidence of a commercial sagacity equalling his father's. It was the fourth of the children, Casimir, who was destined to establish the political fortunes of the family on a prouder basis than theretofore. He was a man of indomitable energy and strong but honorable ambition; in person a giant, with a voice of thunder, a bitter style of eloquence and a coarse, even brutal, manner. He played a considerable part in the Opposition after the Restoration, and his policy as President of the Council under Louis Philippe is a matter of history. In 1832 he visited the Cholera Hospital with the Duc D'Orleans, father of the Comte de Paris, caught the infection and died. The elder of his two sons, Paul, is still living, and is Senator of the Seine Inférieure, but has never been prominent.

Auguste, his younger brother, adopted the baptismal name of his father as part of his surname, and was known as Auguste Casimir-Perier. In 1846 he was returned for one of the divisions of Paris, and in 1849 he represented the Department of the Aube in the Legislative Assembly. During the Empire he held absolutely aloof from public affairs, but in 1871 he gave in his adhesion to M. Thiers, who made him Minister of the Interior. Like his son, who has just relinquished the Presidency, he was suspected of leanings toward the Orleanists, for he had married the sister-in-law of the Duc d'Audiffret-Parquier, and received a visit from the Comte de Paris at his country home. However, he cleared himself of these asperations by a letter in which he frankly avowed his loyalty to the Republic as the only form of government which could save France from Anarchy. He died in 1876, and his son, Jean, succeeded to the greater share of both his political reputation and his estate. The family still retain possession of the Château de Vizille, a noble feudal structure, built in 1611 by the Constable de Lesdiguières, near the ruins of a still more ancient stronghold. It was much injured by fire in 1825, and was subsequently restored, but most of its artistic contents perished beyond recovery. M. Thiers was entertained there in 1874, and M. Carnot was a visitor more recently; but M. Casimir-Perier's favorite home has been the Château de Pont-sur-Seine, much more accessible from Paris.

M. Casimir-Perier was born in Paris on November 8, 1847, and received a fine classical education. In the war with Germany he distinguished himself as commander of a battalion of Mobiles. He was mentioned in general orders for having rescued a wounded comrade, under heavy fire, in a skirmish in front of the redoubt of Moulin Saquet. For this he also received the decoration of the Legion of Honor. In the winter of 1871-72 he served under his father in the Ministry of the Interior, and in 1874 he was elected a Deputy from Nogent-sur-Seine. He was re-elected by the same constituency in 1876, and in May, 1877, he was one of the 363 Deputies who refused to give the Ministry of the Duc de Broglie a vote of confidence. Dissolution followed, and he was a third time elected to the Chamber. Under the new Government, he was made Under Secretary for Public Instruction, Worship and Fine Arts. In 1881, for the fourth time, Nogent-sur-Seine sent him to the Chamber. Soon afterward a law was passed excluding from all civil and military offices all the members of the families who had reigned over France, and he showed his sense of that law of proscription by resigning from the Chamber. His immediate re-election showed that his constituents approved his course. In the fall of 1883 he became Under Secretary for War. In October, 1885, he was chosen a Deputy for the Department of Aube, and in 1889 Nogent-sur-Seine once more returned him. In 1890 he was re-elected Vice-President of the Chamber, and chairman of the Budget Commission, and in August, 1893, he was again chosen a Deputy by an overwhelming majority. In November of that year he was made President of the Chamber of Deputies, and a fortnight later he became Prime Minister. Last spring his Ministry was defeated, and he resigned, but he was promptly chosen again President of the Chamber of Deputies, which office he held when President Carnot was assassinated, last June.

Casimir-Perier was elected President by the National Assembly at Versailles on June 27, 1894. Only one ballot was taken, M. Casimir-Perier receiving 451 votes to 195 for M. Brisson, 97 for M. Dupuy, 52 for General Février, 22 for M. Arago, and a few scattering votes for a half-dozen other men. M. Casimir-Perier is a strong and energetic man; his critics say he is too proud and autocratic. A thorough Republican, he has been regarded as belonging to the Orleanist school of politics, which holds that liberty stands in need of the corrective of order.

THE FORMER FRENCH PRESIDENTS.

THIERS, MACMAHON AND GREVY RESIGNED AND CARNOT WAS ASSASSINATED.

The predecessors of M. Casimir-Perier in the Presidential chair were not much more fortunate than he was. Thiers acted as President, but with the title of Chief of the Executive Power, from 1871 to May, 1873, when he resigned, being replaced by Marshal MacMahon. MacMahon could not remain President to the end of his constitutional term. He resigned in 1879, unable to resist any longer the pressure brought to bear upon him by the different parliamentary factions. His successor, Jules Grévy, completed his full first Presidential term and was re-elected, but he was compelled to resign in 1889, after the disclosures of the malversations and corrupt doings of his son-in-law, Deputy Wilson. He was succeeded by M. Carnot, whose honorable career was cut short by the poignard of Caserio at Lyons on June 24, 1894.

ASTONISHMENT IN WASHINGTON.

DIPLOMATS AND OTHER OFFICIALS GREATLY SURPRISED AT THE FRENCH PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION—NOT WILLING TO TALK ABOUT IT YET.

Washington, Jan. 15.—The cable advices from Paris to the United Press this evening, announcing that the retirement of the Dupuy Ministry had culminated in the resignation of President Casimir-Perier, were an altogether unlooked for and astounding piece of intelligence to diplomats and officials generally, whose first information on the subject was communicated to them by the United Press. The State Department was without advices as to the resignation of the French President, and the news dispatch which was handed to Secretary Gresham early in the evening, was far ahead of any advices received at the Department, in advance of which the Secretary did not consider it proper to discuss the great change in the French republic. President Cleveland was not aware of the resignation of M. Casimir-Perier, until advised by telephone by the United Press, and beyond expressing thanks for the information had nothing to say regarding it.

As a matter of course, it is felt in official quarters in Washington that there is nothing proper to be said by members of the Government beyond the hope that the coup is not of a character to occasion any permanent distress to the sister Republic; but that if the resignation of the President is final and beyond recall the Chambers will take such patriotic action in the election of his successor as will redound to the continued welfare and happiness of the French nation. Official advices will probably be received to-morrow, though they are not expected to contain any absolute facts other than conveyed in press dispatches.

As would naturally be thought, when the announcement was made to the French Ambassador, M. Patenotre, it occasioned great surprise to him. Official propriety would not allow him to make any reference to the subject, and though he was anxious to know if any details of the circumstances attending M. Casimir-Perier's action were at hand, he felt sure that his Government would in due time cable to him full information.

The Secretary of the Navy, who, among other officials, was advised of the change in the affairs of France, had not heard anything from representatives of the Navy in that country, who are probably not as yet themselves cognizant of the situation. Mr. Herbert, like others, could only express a hope that the great Nation will in no way suffer from changes in its domestic politics.

Members of Congress who learned of the resignation all felt convinced that the resources of the people and statesmen of France would be sufficient to stem any influences directed toward evil.

COMMENTS OF THE ENGLISH PRESS.

PRESIDENT CASIMIR-PERIER PRAISED AND CRITICISED—GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION.

London, Jan. 15.—"The Morning Post" will say editorially to-morrow, regarding President Casimir-Perier's resignation:

The French Republic cannot progress while her leading men consider public life nothing better than a rehearsal of amateur theatricals. French public life is vitiated by vanity, selfishness, stupidity and folly. The result is that one of the few sane and sensible politicians in France has found it impossible to keep things quiet. It is idle to talk of such men as Dupuy and Brisson. The time has come for a military leader of the fibre of Bismarck or Gourko, or for an autocratic despot of the firmness of Crispi or Stamboluff.

"The Standard," while sympathizing with M. Casimir-Perier in his indignation at the grievous provocation, questions whether he is warranted in abandoning the struggle at a moment of supreme distress. It continues:

Where is there a savior of society ready to restore authority and rescue France from the anarchy of incessant change and irreconcilable factions? M. Casimir-Perier is evidently not the man. He lacks moral courage. Truly the "grande nation" offers a pitiable spectacle to the world.

"The Daily Chronicle" will say:

M. Casimir-Perier proved to be a Republican of unimpeachable integrity. If he persists in his resignation it will be a bad day for France.

"The Daily News" will say in an editorial:

There is nothing to justify M. Casimir-Perier in regarding recent events as proof of a want of trust in him. He has deserted his post at a time of difficulty and anxiety, plunging France into political confusion, rather than stick to his onerous duties.

"The Times" will say:

If M. Casimir-Perier persuaded himself on good grounds that he could not longer serve the country with advantage, his resignation constitutes another claim to the gratitude of France. But if he has abandoned his post—if he has thrown up in mere impatience and personal disgust the honorable burden he assumed with such loud promises of future service to the Republic, he will rightly be adjudged to have incurred heavy responsibilities in the eyes of his contemporaries and in history. Such may be the act of a strong man, but it is not the act of a lover of his country.

JOSEPH THORON GREATLY SURPRISED.

"I cannot believe it," said Joseph Thoron, president of the Société Francaise de Bienfaisance, last night, when told by a Tribune reporter of M. Casimir-Perier's resignation. "It seems incredible. This is the first news of it that has reached me and it astounds me. Are you sure that it is true?"

"Quite sure," answered the reporter, "and now what in your opinion will result?"

Mr. Thoron paused a minute and then said: "Well, I do not think for a moment that there will be any trouble. You see that the Constitution of the Republic provides for a meeting of the two houses—the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies—within forty-eight hours after the death or resignation of the Chief Executive of the Nation. Now when these two houses meet they will appoint a successor to Casimir-Perier. They will meet at Versailles."

"But who, in your opinion," asked the reporter, "will be elected?"

"Well," said Mr. Thoron, after a pause, "M. Brisson, president of the Chamber of Deputies, may be; but if he is, I hardly think that he will continue in office very long."

Mr. Thoron refused to discuss the subject further. "I am more surprised at the news you have given me," he said, "than I was at the news of the assassination of President Carnot; so I cannot speak further until I am sure that the news of M. Casimir-Perier's resignation is true."

Efforts to find other well-known Frenchmen here were unsuccessful.

AN ITALIAN VICTORY IN AFRICA.

THE ABYSSINIANS ROUTED WITH HEAVY LOSS—ITALIAN TROOPS TO BE REINFORCED.

Rome, Jan. 15.—General Baratieri has telegraphed to the War Office that on Sunday he made an attack upon the Abyssinians under Ras Mangascia, and that, after severe fighting, the Italian troops were victorious. A large number of Abyssinians were killed and many taken prisoners. The prisoners attribute the victory of the Italians to their use of the explosive, balystite.

There were 10,000 Abyssinians engaged in the fight, while the Italians, with their native allies, numbered only 4,000. Ras Mangascia, who had expected his Dervish allies to make a simultaneous attack, crossed the River Beleca in the face of the Italians at 8 o'clock in the morning. Under the fire of the Italian machine-guns, the Abyssinians suffered heavily and soon retired. They renewed the attack later, concentrating their efforts on the Italian flank. At this juncture the Italians were joined by 3,000 men under General Arimondo, who had made a forced march of fifteen miles. The Abyssinians then fled in disorder.

General Baratieri has telegraphed that the necessity for the immediate reinforcement of the Italian troops in Africa is urgent. Signor Crispi and General Mocenni, Minister of War, held a protracted conference last evening, when it was decided to dispatch several battalions of troops to Africa without delay.

MANY GERMAN OFFICERS IMPRISONED.

SENTENCES IMPOSED BY THE COURT MARTIAL IN THE MAGDEBURG FORTRESS CASES.

Berlin, Jan. 15.—The court-martial before whom were tried the nearly 200 non-commissioned officers from the artillery school who were arrested some time ago and confined in the Magdeburg fortress imposed its sentence to-day. Two officers were sentenced to five years' imprisonment for inciting their associates to insubordination, thirty-one were condemned to nine months' incarceration, and 130 were sentenced to prison for six months.

OPENING OF THE PRUSSIAN LANDTAG.

Berlin, Jan. 15.—The session of the Prussian Landtag was opened to-day by the Emperor in person. At noon only the Catholic members had assembled in the White Chamber. At 12:15 p. m. the Emperor-King, in grand state, followed by the Protestant members, entered the chamber from the chapel, traversed the hall and retired by another door. At 12:25 p. m. he re-entered the chamber and ascended the throne. The royal speech was handed to him by Chancellor Hohenlohe, and was read by the King in a clear voice. His Majesty said that several bills would be introduced for the benefit of agriculture, in which he was greatly interested. He was disposed to strive in every way possible to advance the interests of the agricultural class. He hoped, he said, with the patriotic assistance of the Landtag, to combat successfully the renewed attacks which were being made upon social order and the monarchy.

The president of the upper house, at the close of the speech, called for cheers for the King, which were heartily given. The King then left the hall, followed by the Prussian Ministers.

THE UNION BANK'S SHAREHOLDERS MEET.

St. John's, N. F., Jan. 15.—The shareholders of the suspended Union Bank held a stormy meeting this evening, though the complete report of the directors of the bank will not be presented until to-morrow. The bank, it is expected, will make a fairly good showing and will probably pay the noteholders and depositors in full by a call on one-half of the shareholders' reserve liability fund. According to the report, the total amount of discounts, overdrafts, etc., is $3,941,000, of which about $2,000,000 is credited to firms in which the directors of the bank were members. A considerable portion of this latter sum is secured by debentures and mortgages. The directors were roundly denounced at the meeting this evening for their loose management, and a committee was appointed to approximate the valuation of the assets on hand.

There are no new political developments, the Government adjourning the Legislature from day to day on the plea of having no business ready.

TO RULE OVER BRITISH COLONIES.

LORD BRASSEY TO BE GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA, AND SIR W. F. H. SMITH, GOVERNOR OF THE BAHAMAS.

London, Jan. 15.—Lord Brassey has accepted the Governorship of Victoria, Australia, as the successor of the Earl of Hopetoun.

Sir William Frederick Haynes Smith, Governor of the Leeward Islands, has been appointed Governor of the Bahamas. Sir Francis Fleming, Governor of Sierra Leone, has been appointed Governor of the Leeward Islands.

THE DUKE OF ARGYLL CRITICALLY ILL.

HE FAINTED WHILE ADDRESSING A MEETING IN GLASGOW—SUFFERING FROM SYNCOPE.

Glasgow, Jan. 15.—While the Duke of Argyll was addressing a political meeting in this city this evening he suddenly became pale, his voice sank to a whisper, and he reeled and fell insensible into the arms of Lord Kelvin, one of the bystanders. The audience became greatly excited, some persons shouting: "The Duke has fainted!" "Fetch him water!" "Give him air!" "The Duke is dead!" The Duke soon reopened his eyes, gazed vacantly around and slowly recovered consciousness. He then asked friends to telegraph his son, the Marquis of Lorne. His daughter, Lady Frances, was present. The Duke was removed to Lord Kelvin's residence on a stretcher, and three physicians were summoned to attend him. The physicians agreed that the Duke's condition was critical, and they decided to remain with him during the night. At midnight Dr. Anderson said that the Duke had suffered an attack of syncope, but there had been no return of the faintness. The doctors experienced great difficulty in restoring the patient's temperature.

ARE THE JAPANESE IN SHAN-TUNG?

REPORTED TO HAVE LANDED NEAR WEI-HAI-WEI—DEPARTURE OF CHINESE PEACE ENVOYS DEFERRED.

London, Jan. 15.—A dispatch to "The Pall Mall Gazette" from Che-Foo, under date of January 15, says that it is rumored that the Japanese have landed in Shan-Tung, twenty-five miles south of Wei-Hai-Wei, and that the British fleet is cruising in the waters in that vicinity, watching the movements of the invading force.

A dispatch from Shanghai to the Central News says that the departure of the Chinese peace envoys for Japan has been further delayed, owing to the necessity of their awaiting orders from Peking.

THE SITUATION IN ARMENIA IMPROVED.

Vienna, Jan. 15.—A dispatch from Constantinople says:

Relations between the Porte and the Armenians have notably improved. Several prisoners in Armenia have been ordered released. It is said that Zekki Pacha's reports on the Sassoun affair, including one admitting that 1,729 persons were killed, have been removed from the Turkish War Office.

LORD RANDOLPH WEAKER.

London, Jan. 15.—Lord Randolph Churchill passed a restless night, and was somewhat weaker to-day.

INTERNATIONAL ATHLETIC MEETING.

STEPS TAKEN BY THE NEW-YORK A. C.—COMMITTEES OF THE CLUB APPOINTED.

The international athletic meeting was the principal subject under consideration at the organization meeting of the new Board of Governors of the New-York Athletic Club last night. An answer to the London Athletic Club's acceptance of the challenge was laid before the Board. The letter, which will be sent by to-day's mail, deals fully with every question on which there is any doubt, but, although its contents were not made known, it is evident that the expense will be borne by the home club entirely, as shown by the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Athletic Committee be empowered to make all arrangements with reference to the international contest between this club and the London Athletic Club, and that the expenses be deducted from the appropriation to the Athletic Committee.

The board appointed the following committees for the ensuing year:

House Committee—John R. Van Wormer, chairman; D. D. Youmans, W. D. Searls, B. G. Williams, C. L. Burnham, James A. Lynch, A. T. Docharty and R. D. Winthrop. Admissions—D. D. Youmans, chairman; James H. Haslin and James Wills. Office and Auditing—W. D. Searls, chairman; E. G. Lemon and Albert E. Colfax. Athletic—B. C. Williams, chairman; H. H. Baxter, John C. Gulick, B. F. O'Connor, R. D. Winthrop, James Whitely and