



NATIONAL.

The opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of the Northern Securities Company *vs.* the United States, involving the merger of the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern Railroad Companies, has been handed down and was in favor of the government.

The opinion was read by Justice Harlan, and the opinion of the United States Circuit Court of the district of Minnesota was affirmed. The effect is to sustain the contention that the Sherman anti-trust law applies to railroad combinations of the character in question. Justice Harlan said that in the merger of the two roads the stockholders disappeared, and reappeared in the Securities Company, the two thus becoming practically consolidated in a holding company, the principal object being to prevent competition. "No scheme or device could certainly more effectively come within the prohibition of the anti-trust law, and it is, within the meaning of the act, a 'trust.'"

The report of Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General Bristow was read in the House of Representatives last week, and caused great excitement in that body by referring to several members of Congress. The feeling ran very high, and an investigation of postal affairs, as far as members of the House are concerned, was ordered by a special committee of seven members, to be appointed by the Speaker; who, likewise, are to examine into the origin of the Bristow report so far as it concerns members of the House.

The senatorial inquiry into the charges against Senator Dietrich of Nebraska has begun, and

is for the purpose of probing the charges on which the senator was indicted last fall in Nebraska, and which were dismissed on demurrer.

FOREIGN.

The Japanese fleet has returned from Vladivostok to the vicinity of Port Arthur and has been shelling that place at long range, evidently to see if they could reach the inner harbor from outside. No statement is given as to the damage done. Another sea fight is reported in which six Russian torpedo boats went out to sea and encountered the Japanese torpedo boats. A Japanese torpedo boat was sunk, as was also a Russian destroyer. It is reported that the Russian troops in Manchuria are suffering greatly from cold and hunger.

The question of the coaling of the Russian Baltic fleet during its proposed voyage to the Far East next summer is considered one of great delicacy. The strict rule allows the warships of a belligerent to take in a neutral port enough fuel to carry them to the nearest home port. It is not known what the British ports of India will do, for the forwarding of the fleet would be direct aid to Russia against Great Britain's ally, Japan.

GENERAL.

The Committee on Military Affairs reported favorably the bill to present to the city of Boston the disused cannon and other military trophies on Castle Island. These guns and carriages now form part of the armament of Fort Independence.

No team of American tennis players will be sent to England this year as challengers for the Davis international challenge bowl which was won by the English players at Longwood last season. This failure to send a team causes much disappointment, but the committee evidently could not get together a team which would fittingly represent this country in so important a contest.