CITY - COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Mayor Bemis Sends His Farewell Message to the Members.

URGES THE NEED OF RETRENCHMENT

Affairs of Omaha's House Keeping Reviewed at Length by the Retiring Mayor-Suggestions for the Future.

The advent of a new city council into official existence was a big attraction at the city ball and standing room in the lobby was barely available. The gallery was also occupied, half a dozen women being in evidence in the front row. The lobby numbered a vast number of city employes and prospective employes, as well as an unusual representation of property owners and contractors. Conspicuous in the first class were a number of vacant chairs in the councilmanic row, among them being Isnac Hascall and D. H. Wheeler.

When City Clerk Highy called the roll last night every councilman was present except Samuel DuBois, deceased, S. R. Gordon, resigned, and C. L. Jaynes, out of town. Kennard took the floor to nominate "Hon." W. A. Saunders as president. There were no further nominations and on roll call Mr. Saunders was

unanimously chosen. The newly elected president was greeted by a general hand-clapping as he took the He briefly thanked the council for the honor conferred, expressed the belief that the proceedings of 1896 would be in every way orderly and harmonious, and con-cluded with the statement that "economy"

cluded with the statement that "economy" must be the watchword of the year.

On motion of Councilman Alian the rules of the old council were declared adopted until otherwise ordered. President Saunders then introduced Mayor Bemis, who read his retiring message, as

URGES MORE RETRENCHMENT. URGES MORE RETRENCHMENT.

To the Henorable City Council of the City of Omaha: Gentlemen—In bringing to a close an administration extending over the past four years, I deem it proper to review the events which have transpired during that period, and to make such recommendations as experience shows are for the best interests of the community, of which we are all the servants. The administration of municipal affairs is about to pass into other hands, and the course to be pursued must be determined by those who are just entering upon their official duties, but I feel warranted in offering such suggestions as seem pertinent and are based upon past experience.

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The last two years have been a period of unparalleled string-ney in finaccial matters, and of unprecedented drouth, causing great suffering among all classes of people. One of the greatest burdens felt by the people is taxation, and there is a crying demand for relief. This demand must be heeded, and the relief sought must be afforded. The will of the taxpayers may be thwarted for a time, but there can be only one inevitable result. The city of Omaha is afflicted with a system of government sufficient for a city double its size, and the excessive cost of maintaining the same is the burden against which the people rebel. The entire system should be remodeled upon a basis commensurate with the size and needs of the city. It is true that a few ordinances have been passed in the line of retrenchment, but what is demanded is an entire remodeling of the system of government, and not the cutting down of the galaries of a few clerks and minor officials. I do not interpret the demand of the people to be a call for the payment of niggardly galaries to the men who actually do the work, but I construe that demand to mean that the superfluous officers who are paid large salaries for doing absolutely nothing should be entirely done away with. There is nothing saved in the end by the employment of cheap labor, but there are a number of offices from which the public derives no benefit whatever, and which simply afford a few fortunate individuals the opportunity of feeding at the public crib. As an illustration of this statement, I will cite a few cases,

CUT OFF SUPERNUMERARIES. The three members of the Board of Public Works and its secretary draw salaries aggregating \$7,700 annually; the building inspector and his clerk will draw this year salaries amounting to \$2,720; the plumbing inspector, under existing ordinances, will cost the city \$1,200. Existing conditions salaries amounting to \$2,720; the plumbing inspector, under existing ordinances, will cost the city \$1,200. Existing conditions clearly demonstrate that little or no public work can be do e within the next few years; there is scarcely any building or plumbing work being done, and no good reason can be urged against the total abolition of all these offices. The entire public work of the city could be done under the supervision of the engineering department. This would effect a saving to the taxpayers of at least \$20,000. By increasing the cirrical force of the city clerk's office, at an annual expense of about \$3,000, the comptroller's office could be abolished and more efficient service secured, with a saving of \$7,000 each year. All minor offices, such as boiler inspector, plumbing inspector, etc., should be eliminated from the charter, and the continuance of such offices left to the discretion of the mayor and council. In order to accomplish this, it will be necessary to amend the city charter, and this matter should be made the issue during this year. A movement should be started early, in order that its full extent may be generally understood, and the election of members of the legislature from Douglas county should depend upon their position upon this most important matter. The mayor and council should take the initiative in matters of this kind and the subject should be given the most careful and carnest consideration. I attempted to inaugurate a movement of this kind early last year, and appointed a partial committee, with the recommendation that the council appoint a like number, and suggested that amendments to our city charter be drafted in time to make them an issue in the approaching campaign; but the council delayed action, the candidates for the legislature kept the matter in the background, and the result was that our charter was mutilated by the last legislature at the instance of large special and corporate interests, until its most intimate friend would never have recognized it. If it had not

SAYS TAX SYSTEM IS WRONG.

At the same time this matter is agitated, attention should be directed to our prevaling system of tax assessment. This is a matter of vital importance to all our citizens, and a strong and determined effort is necessary to accomplish a reform in this direction. It will be recalled that an amendment was included in the bill introduced in the last legislature, which provided for a single assessor. This section was stricken from the bill as a result of the lobbying of some of our wealthiest citizens and corporations of some wealthy citizens and corporations pay a very small proportion of the total taxes, the bulk of the burden being borne by the small home owners and the people who are the least able to bear it, whereas the heavy property owners and the corporations, by means senerally understood, are assessed at a valuations in one ward are fixed without any reference to valuations in the wards adjoining, and the entire law is so faulty that no reasonable arguments can be advanced in support of it. A change in this method would equalize the burden of taxation and greatly relieve those who are oppressed by the present system.

There are changes which can be made by SAYS TAX SYSTEM IS WRONG.

There are changes which can be made by the mayor and council independent of any charter amerdments, and which should be made at once, viz.: The police force should be reduced at least 30 per cent; the way to accomplish this is for the mayor and council to reduce the levy for the police department upon this basis. The same course should be pursued with respect to the levy for the Poard of Health. The office of gas inspector should be abclished, and his duties performed by the city electrician without additional expense. There are still other reforms which may be accomplished by abolishing useless offices, but I will not go further into detail.

FIRE INSURANCE RATES.

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I believe it would be entirely proper for the mayor and council to take some action looking toward a reduction in the rates for fire insurance in force in this city. At the time the matter of fire protection and water service was under discussion about a year and a half ago the statement was made by lesurance men that the high rates of insurance in force were due to insufficient apparatus in the fire department and lack of water pressure. The changes made in the exity have removed many of the objectionable features as far as the pressure is concerned, and there can be no question as to the marked increase in the efficiency of the fire department. Four engines and about ten men have been added to the equipment, but the increase in efficiency is not due entirely to that fact. The records in the office of the chief of the fire department show that in 1895 there were 330 alarms of fire; in 1894 there were 331, a difference of only one alarm. It will undoustedly surprise persons who have not given the matter any thought to learn that the amount of insurance carried on buildings and contents ex-

posed to fire in 1894, as shown by the reports in the office of the chief of the fire department, was \$258, 325, all of which was lost; while the insurance carried on buildings and contents exposed to fire in 1895 amounted to \$1.519.35; on which the insurance companies lost only \$80.90. The arrount of insurance carried is the best possible indication of the importance of the fires and the showing made is a very flattering encomium upon the effectiveness of our fire department under the present chief. The time has now arrived for a general move looking toward a reduction in insurance rates and I suggest that the movement be inaugurated by the mayor and council in adopting a memorial setting forth the facts to which I have briefly alfuded and insisting on a general reduction in rates. This would give an impetus to the movement which could then be taken up by our citizens and some roturn secured for the large outlay necessitated by the changes which have been made.

CONCERNING WATER WORKS.

which have been made.

CONCERNING WATER WORKS.

In former annual messages it has been my unpleasant duty to call attention to the fact that the contract between the city and the American Water Works company was being violated in a most serious manner. I have also been compelled to most emphatically call the attention of the council to this fact in vetees of the bills of this company for hydrant rentals. I also agitated the matter in the meetings of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. The old adage, "Constant dipping wears away a stone," was exemplified in this matter to a certain extent. Individual citizens and members of the Commercial club took the matter up, meetings were held at which the question was thoroughly ventilated, and the council was finally prevailed upon to look into the matter. As a final result it was decided that the city had for years been paying large sums of money for semething it never received. The water company was inclined to be arbitrary in the matter, but a compromise was effected and it was agreed that the disputed bills of the company, amounting to \$85,255.05, should be paid in accordance with an agreement that the entire amount was to be used in making designated improvements in the way of larger mains in the business portions of the city. The bills in question were paid during the past summer and the werk was inaugurated a little later. Plans for the work were made by the city engineer and were agreed to by the water company, and, according to the statement of the receivers, have been carried out excepting on Sixteenth street from Howard to Leavenworth and connecting ten fire hydrants with larger mains, which they claim they were prevented from doing by freezing weather and which they promise to do in the spring as soon as the weather will permit.

The policy of enlarging mains should be followed out until the supply mains for the residence districts are of a size sufficient to inceed all demands and furnish the fire protection for which the claim they were prevented from CONCERNING WATER WORKS.

of the water company is violated just as seriously in this regard as it has been in the business district. In this same connection, steps should be

the business district.

In this same connection, steps should be taken without any unnecessary delay to require the construction of a duplicate main from the pumping station at Florence to the reservoirs at Walnut Hill. It will be recalled that early in December, last, the large main from Florence burst in the neighborhood of Twenty-fourth and Lake streets and the water supply of the estire city was shut off for a considerable time. If such an accident had happened during the progress of a fire the result might have been something terrible to contemplate. Matters of this kind should not be allowed to rest until after a serious accident has happened. In April of last year a new form of ordinance was drafted, to be used in ordering water hydrants. This ordinance prescribed the size of the hydrant, the minimum size of the pipe to be laid as main, and the street in which such main was to be laid; it was also provided that in no case was the internal diameter of the pipe to be less than eight inches. This ordinance has been in use ever since, and, if continued, will serve as a means of regulating a very important matter which had previously been left to the water company, and which had resulted in the city being largely covered with water mains four or six inches in diameter, to which policy is due the inferior service and the lack of adequate fire protection.

ASPHALT PAVING MATTERS.

for years been in the grasp of a giganic and powerful corporation, which has almost entirely monopolized the asphalt paying business in nearly all the large cittes of this country, regulating the prices and precluding all compelition. The standard price in this city was \$2.39 per square yard, an outrageously high price, which was maintained, except at brief intervals, when it became necessary to make a lower figure in order to drive out some competitor who could not be forced into the combine. In consequence of this method our citizens have been systematically robbed of thousands of dollars by this corporation. From the beginning of my term of office I have endeavored to encourage competition in asphalt paying, but no tangible result grew out of these efforts until Hugh Murphy threw down the gauntlet October 19, 1884, by bidding \$2.07 per square yard for paying Sherman avenue, from Nicholas to Lecust streets, a distance of over one mile. The next highest bid was that of one of the members of the combine, who bid \$2.15. The difference between these two bids for the entire work amounted to \$10,607.51. The printed specifications, upon which all bids were made, contained a clause requiring bidders to designate the source from which they intended to procure their asphalt, and another provided that the payement, "must be equal to the best asphalt payement laid in Omaha." John Grant's bid specified the so-called "pitch lake" on the island of Trinidad, not controlled by the combine, or from Bermudas, or from California. Two other bids were rejected on the island of Trinidad, not controlled by the combine, or from Bermudas, or from California. Two other bids were rejected on the ground that they were higher than the two mentioned, being made by concerns in the combine and in accordance with the well known method of this octopus, in order to give the appearance of competition. These four bids were laid over by the Board of Public Works for further consideration. Five days intendifference of the proper of the competition

the board played into the hands of the higher bidders and gave them time to secure an injunction on a trumped-up case restraining the board from making the contract. December 19 this case was settled in Judge Keysor's court, the temporary restraining order being dissolved. Dilatory tactics were again indulged in by the Board of Public Works until the higher bidder, acting through a stool-pig-on, secured another restraining order. This time the matter was heard by three judges sitting enbanc, and the temporary injunction dissolved. All the fertile resources of the combine having apparently been exhausted, the Board of Public Works finally consented to comply with the demands of the power which created it and January 22 of last year entered into a contract with Hugh Murphy. The contract was approved by the mayor and council the same day. Mr. Murphy erected an asphalt plant costing in the neighborhood of \$20,000 and during the summer proceeded to carry out his contract. He made a large number of experiments in order to secure the best formula for use in this climate. The work was completed early in the fall and after parsonal inspection I do not heating to say that it is one of the best asphal; pavel streets in this city. Time alone will demonstrate the lasting qualities of this pleer of work, but I feel confident that it will empare favorably with any other work of this kind in the city. I zongratulate our citizens that we have at last secured competition in this work and I sincerely hope that they will see to it that this competition is not allowed to die out.

PUBLIC WORK.

PUBLIC WORK.

In the line of public work there are a number of changes which were made during the past four years which I believe are in the interest of the laxpaying public. Among other things, the conjuncting depairment inaugurated a plan for main sewers based upon the prospective needs of the city. The city was divided into drainings areas and the needs of each in the way of sewerage was computed, and on this basis, as main sewers were required, they have been constructed with a capacity sufficient for all future needs. This method wand appear the most natural and common-aense manner of procedure, but main sewers have been constructed in some districts in th. 8 city during former years which was degroyed.

thousands of dollars for their reconstruction.

A change in method which has been most a
generally noticeable in its effect has been re
with reference to the repuirs of respinit a
pavements. In former years failure to enforce the terms of the contract with respect to repairs resulted in these streets
being almost impagnable the greater part
of the time. A change was inaugurated in
this matter whereby the city engineer
makes a plat each month, showing the
exact condition of all the asphalt streets
in the city, and orders for repairs are
based on this report. The result has been
that these streets are a credit to the city
instead of a digrace.

An innovation which will be appreciated
by all property owners, when they realize d

instead of a dirgrace.

An innovation which will be appreciated by all property owners, when they realize its full effect was the change made in the manner of doing plumbing work between the sever and the property line. This work is now required to be done under the supervision of the sengineering department, in accordance with grade lines established by that department, and in such a manner as to prevent obstruction. This system has been vigorously opposed by certain plumbers, but other cities have copied it and have endorsed it as the best system which has been devised.

The legal and engineering departments have perfected a plan for forestalling fictitious claims for damages on account of injuries occasioned by defective sidewalks. This has proved a fruitful scheme for filching the municipal treasury in past years and it was found necessary to adopt some means for preventing payment in unworthy cases. Under the plan adopted, as soon as the news of an accident reaches the legal or engineering department a man is sent out with a camera and a photograph is taken of the scene of the injury and the caimant is met with a perfect likeness of the spot when he undertakes to exaggerate the case. As a result of this method legitimate claims are settled on an equitable basis, out of coort, and the expense of a suit is avoided by both parties.

Acting upon the advice of the legal department, the method of procedure in nearly all matters relating to the levying of special taxes has been changed, and it is believed that less difficulty will be experienced in the future with reference to taxes levied during the past administration than has been the case with taxes levied during previous years.

ARC STREET LIGHTING.

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There have been no new developments during the past year in the matter of electric street lighting. It will be recalled that a new contract went into effect, January 1, 18/5, between the city and the New Omaha Thomson-Houston Electric Light company, which fixed the price of arc lights at \$120 per annum, the lights to be supplied with a current of \$5.5 amperes and 50 voits. Since this contract went into effect there has been a cessation of the unpleasant contention between the city and the contracting company. I am still firm in my opinion, however, that the question of electric street lighting will never be settled until it is settled right, by means of municipal ownership of the lighting plant. The contract above referred to will expire in Jazuary, 1888, and, as I stated in my message of one year ago, the details of cost, location, issuing of bonds, etc., should be thoroughly investigated while there is ample time. It will not be necessary for me to go into details showing the desirability of advantagus of municipal ownership of lighting plants; the current magazines are discussing these questions in all their bearings, the general result of all the investigations of this subject being largely in favor of municipal ownership and control. Statistics are quoted, showing that the cost of service is from 25 to 50 per cent. less with municipal ownership as compared with private contracts. These statements are not based on theory, but are the result of actual experience in cities of all sizes, situated in many different sections of the country. In the interest of the taxpayers of Omaha, I therefore strongly recommend that this matter be taken up in the near future and arrangements made to establish a municipal plant when the present lighting contract shall have expired. The city already owns suitable real estate for the location of such a plant, and the erection of a building and the installing of the necessary machinery would require but a comparatively small outlay of capital. The plant should include the necessary machinery for commercial lighting, both are and incandescent, in order that the taxpayers may receive the full benefit of the lower prices which will result from such a system. A rather interesting condition of affairs

lating a very important matter which had previously been left to the water company, and which had resulted in the city being largely covered with water mains four or six inches in diameter, to which policy is due the inferior service and the lack of adequate fire protection.

ASPHALT PAVING MATTERS.

Another reform accomplished during the past year is in relation to the cost of asphalt for street pavements. It is universally conceded that this material is the most desirable for this purpose of anything that has been discovered, but the high prices prevailing in this city have operated as a bar to its general use. Omaha has for years been in the grasp of a gigantic and powerful corporation, which has almost entirely monopolized the asphalt paving business in nearly all the large cities of this country, regulating the prices and street lighting amounting to over \$30,000, these matters having been amicably adjusted and settled upon an agreed basis; and without including the legion of street repair resolutions and other councilmanic devices for keeping constituents in line by the expenditure of a few municipal dollars, the total amount of money represented by measures vetoed by me for good and sufficient reasons is \$78,887. Of this amount, \$53,187, or 87 per cent, was passed over my veto by the council. My vetoes of these measures were invariably based upon the same sound business reasons which would have actuated any prudent business man after a thorough and careful investigation of the subject matter in each case. The result simply shows the danger of hasty and ill-considered action on the part of the council.

council.

In bringing to a close my last message to the city council, I wish to say that while there have been times when the relation between the mayor and council have been somewhat strained, that condition was no due, on my part, to any personal feeling toward any member of the council, but was simply due to the fact that we differed in our judgment. I cherish no feelings of ill-will towards any councilman, and trust they have none towards me. Respectfully, GEORGE P. BEMIS, Mayor.

The message was heard with marked attention and the various recommendations contained were referred to the appropriate for consideration. Broatch then delivered his inaugural ad-

MAYOR BROATCH'S ADDRESS.

In entering upon my duties as mayor for a second time it is not my purpose to tax your patience by asking you to listen to an elaborate inaugural address.

During the period of Omaha's greatest prosperity large sums of money were expended in public matters—a very large indebtedness created for street paving, etc., and bonds were issued to cover the Same, which are now rapidly maturing, and, together with interest coupons, enust be paid or the city will become a delinquent. We have suffered in common with the general depression throughout the United States, and, in addition, have suffered from the almost total loss of crops in 1834, and the partial loss of 1855. These causes, combined, created a depression which has been very discouraging, and has placed our tax-payers at the limit of their endurance.

In the speeches which I made during the recent campaign. I promised the city a careful business administration upon an economic basis, and have since felt fully justified in pledging to a large number of our citizens your hearty co-operation in the direction of a rigid and consistent retrenchment in public expenditures.

Many of our taxpayers have found themselves in an unenviable position, owing to their inability to pay the taxes failing due upon their various properties, and which were levied for the purpose of providing for the payment of the special bonds previously referred to.

If the taxpaying power is crippled the time will come when the city will be unable to pay salaries and its ordinary running expenses. Our bankers, merchants and manufacturers, and, indeed, all, have been compelled to curtail their expenses. Even with the most radical reductions, in most cases, they have been unable to meet their ordinary expenses during the past two years.

As it is with individuals, so it is with a corporation, whether municipal or other. MAYOR BROATCH'S ADDRESS.

As it is with individuals, so it is with a corporation, whether municipal or other, and, unpleasant as the task may be, it is the duty of public officials to so arrange the business of the city that the burden of its maintenance may fall as lightly as possible upon all classes.

During the month of December short time bonds fell due in New York City. The treasury found itself in no condition to meet them, and had it not been for the aid rendered by the local banks, their payment could not have been made. This condition is one which will have to be met from time to time during the coming year, as a large portion of the special taxes are now in default. It therefore becomes imperatively necessary that a rigid retrenchment should be inaugurated at once. It would be unreasonable to expect the banks of this city to continually come to the rescue of our treasury department unless encouragement is given that this administration will put itself in accord with the taxpayers of this city.

RETRENCHMENT SUGGESTIONS. As it is with individuals, so it is with

by storm water on account of lack of capacity, causing the expenditure of many thousands of dollars for their reconstruction.

A change in method which has been most generally noticeable in its effect has been with reference to the repairs of capitalt payements. In former years failure to enforce the terms of the contract with research to remains resulted in those streets

be considered in any effort for the public relief.

It is to be regretted that so many of the offices are fixed by the charter, or they could be consolidated or discontinued.

An order for the sale of the American Water Works has been made, and, as a sound business policy would indicate such a course, steps should be taken to protect the city's interest with the intention of having the ownership vested therein.

One of the greatest needs of this city is depet accommodations. The various railway corporations centering in this city should respond to the spirit of our citizens and afford facilities which would reflect credit upon themselves and be a pride to our city. The way to gain the good will of a people is to keep in touch with them, and by fostering friendly relations mutual advantages would be obtained.

A market house should be established for

A market house should be established for the convenience of hucksters and the convenience of hucksters and the conveniration of that class of business. The present condition of the finances will not, however, justify expenditures for that purpore. This might be accomplished by concessions to private parties.

About \$20.000 was paid out by the county last winter to ald the poor, many of whom were able-bodied men, and I suggest that as the city pays about four-fifths of the taxes of the county, an arrangement be made whereby those who can work may be employed in keeping our streets clean, and some equivalent be thus returned for the charity bestowed.

I have faith in the future of Omaha. Nebraska is rich in the fertility of its soil, and its agricultural resources are boundless. God helps those who help themselves. Let us make the best of circumstances. Let us help ourselves, and five years hence the present adversity will be forgotten.

FRANK PLANCK REAPPOINTED.

FRANK PLANCK REAPPOINTED. Mayor Broatch's message was referred to suance of the caucus arrangement, President Saunders appointed Frank Planck as ser-geant-at-arms. The appointment was confirmed. Burkley voting "no" on the ground that a surgeant-at-arms was not a necessity

and should be dispensed with as a measure of The council then proceeded to the annual lottery of desks. Jaynes being absent, the As it happened, his name was the first drawn from the hat and Mr. Higby selected Jaynes old seat in the first row. Thomas changed the desk vacated by Bechel, Bingham took Saunders' seat in the center of the first row. Burmeister succeeded Jacobsen at the right of the desk, Christie drew Gordon's seat the extreme left, Allan took that of Bo Holmes, Benawa succeeded Cahn, and Ax-ford took Thomas' old seat, and Kment, Prince, Burkley, Taylor, Kennard, Mercer and

Lemly retained their old places.

The appointments of George Holbrook as deputy city clerk, Fred Sackett as deputy comp-troller and Charles L. Saunders as deputy treasurer were submitted and placed on file ing the annual reports. Omaha Printing com pany, \$2.71 per page; Rees Printing company, \$2.69; Klopp & Bartlett company, \$2.65. The entract was awarded to the Klopp & Bartlett ompany.

There were nineteen bidders on the con tract for moving the city jail. Kennard asked that the contract be held open for another week, as some who were anxious to bid had not been able to ree the plans and ecifications. His suggestion was agreed o after some opposition.

FRANK DOES NOT GET PAY. The veto of Mayor Bemis of the bill for Israel Frank's services as meat inspector came up in the regular order. All the docu-ments in the case were reread for the information of the new members. The veto was then sustained. Ayes, Allan, Benawa, Bingham, Burmelster, Christie, Kment. Prince, Saunders, Taylor, Thomas-10. Nays, Axford, Burkley, Kennard, Lemly,

Allen then wanted to expunge from the records that portion of the veto message which reflected on the integrity of Frank. The point of order was raised that the council had no authority to mutilate a mes-sage from the mayor, and President Saunders ruled that the only course was to re fuse to spread the veto on the records. This suggestion was adopted, and the clerk was directed not to enter any part of the veto n the journal. The mayor's veto of the bill for Frank's

by 11 to 4.

There was a rather humorous proceeding in connection with a resolution by Taylor to allow the comptroller two additional clerks allow the comptroller two additional clerks.

Omaha people in Lincoln: At the Lindell—Methodist church. Mrs. McKennan is a daughter of John Close, an old resident and pioneer farmer of Elkhorn township. members down at the tail of the list voted to with some vigorous remarks on the subject of retrenchment gone glimmering. Then the new members hastened to change their votes and the resolution was lost.

MOVING AGAINST BONDSMEN. Kment offered a resolution instructing the egal department to take immediate steps to recover the amount of Henry Bolln's dealeation from his bondsmen. Taylor wanted action postponed. He was overruled and the resolution was adopted.

The two ordinances providing for filling va-rancies in the office of councilman, which were introduced by Saunders last year, were taken up and disposed of according to the prestranged program. The ordinance vesting the appointing power in the mayor was promptly placed on file and the ordinance giving the sole appointing power to the coun-'I was passed, Burkley, Thomas and Kment

bids on the city jail were held for one week was reconsidered and the bids were opened. The bids were on three clauses of work, plumbing, mason and carpenter work and iron work. It developed that in nearly every case a copy of the advertisement did not accom-pany the bid and Kennard moved that all bids be rejected. This was overruled and the bids were all referred to a special commit-tee, consisting of Christie, Kennard, Bingham and the building inspector.

KELLEY, STIGER & CO. We Announce the First Opening

Display own importation of Embrolderies

spring, 1896. We have also received our advance La lies' Muslin Underwear. We have given the selection of these goods the most careful attention, as to style of garments, quality of materials, perfection rimmings—and what is most essential good needle work."

We respectfully solicit your approval. KELLEY, STIGER & CO., Corner Farnam and Fifteenth streets.

There's the true test of a train-the number of passengers it carries. If it is a good train it will do a good business. If it is an exceptionally good train it will do an exceptionally good busi-

ness. If it is the best train it will do the

biggest business. There isn't any disputing these statements They are as evident as that Omaha wants a new union depot. The Omaha-Chicago train that does the biggest business—the lion's share—is the Burlington's "Vestibuled Flyer." It ought to, because it is the most comfortable, the

best equipped train between the Missouri River and the World's Fair City. Vestibuled — gas-lighted — sleepers—chair cars—a la carte diners. Leaves Omaha—5:90 p. m. Arrives Chicago-8:20 a. m. Tickets at 1324 Farnam St.

City Advertising Contract Enjoined. temporary injunction on petition of The Bee Publishing company, restraining the city Publishing company, restraining the city clerk, comptroller and other city officers from inserting city advertising in the News Republic under the alleged contract approved Monday night by the city council. The parties enjoined are invited to appear Tuesday, January 14, to show cause why the injunction shall not be made permanent. The petition sets up the fact that under the charter the accepted paper has not the subscription list that entities it to be considered among the bidders.

SUPREME COURT AT WORK

Cunningham R. Scott Appears to Explain Some of His Judicial Conduct.

BECKET CONTEMPT CASE TO BE REVIEWED

Matter to Be Taken Up at Once-Other Contempt Cases Will Also Be Heard-Hill Case Motion.

LINCOLN, Jan. 7 .- (Special.)-The supreme court convened this morning for the January term. The calendar was called in the presence of the largest number of attorneys that has ever assembled at the opening of this court. Judge Canningham R. Scott of Omaha was down in the interest of his contempt case against Attorney Becket The case was passed, pending an examination On the assembling of the court Chief Justice Norval requested the attorneys present to take notice that in the future it would be necessary for them to file with the clark of the court notices of motions to be called up three days prior to the time at which they proposed to call them. In this way only could they be properly docksted.

In the case of Edward Rosewater against State, on appeal from Judge Scott's court, have was granted to file the same brief that was filed in the case of Percival against State. It was held that the same points were involved in the former as in the latter. The state was given ten days in which to file its brief in this case. The case of the Commercial National bank of Omaba against Mer-chants' Exchange bank was passed to the February call of the docket.

Judge Post has issued an order suspending the sentence of imprisonment in the case of the State against Peter C. Boasen, alleging that he found there was probable error in the court below. Boasen was chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Kearney county He was ordered committed to jail and to be kept in close confinement by Judge Beali until he should sign, execute and deliver ertain warrants drawn against the fund of the county. The case is an old one, and arises out of the proposed condemnation of a road in Kearney county. Owners of the land traversed by the road obtained judg-ment against the county in injunction proceedings for \$1,200. Boas n refused to sign the varrants, alleging that the judgments se cured were erronsously entered up by the court, and he was, accordingly, sentenced by Judge Beall for contempt.

This morning the case of the State against ex-Treasurer Hill was called up on the motion of the state for a new trial. The hearing of argument on the motion was set for omorrow morning. There will be no decisions handed down until Thursday next. At that time Judg:

Post will assume the chief justiceship and the court desires all opinions filed this term to be rendered under one chief justice.

The committee appointed to make the attempt to secure the Grand Army reunion for Lincoln is moving in the matter with considerable enthusiastic earnestness. A subommittee has been appointed to canvass the city and solicit subscriptions to the necessary guarantee fund of \$5,000. The com-mittee was named as J. L. McConnell, J. E. Miller, H. Herpolsheimer, Henry Mayer, R. W. Johnson, O. W. Webster, C. H. Rudge, C. J. Jones and Al Hargreaves. number of prominent merchants have already

Captain Billingsley is in Omaha looking after the interests of the Rock Island Railroad company in the suit against it for ight of way damages through the Davenport property in the Antelope valley. The suit s now being tried in the federal court. Governor Holcomb's private secretary, Benton Maret, has returned from Texas, where he has been visiting furing the past month with Mrs. Maret. While absent he vis-

subscribed sums ranging from \$50 to \$20

itel the principal cities of the Lone Star state. He left Mrs. Maret at Houston, where she will probably remain for some time for

J. Chaffee, C. B. Horton, C. E. Skidmore, J. K. Goodwin, A. R. Talbot, James M. Orr, Miss Emma Blakeley, J. C. Cowin, E. W. Simeral, W. D. McHugh, M. A. Hall, J. longdon, E. M. Bartlett, Guy R. C. Read, J.

CARD PARTY AT NEBRASKA CITY diss Florence Wilson Entertains in

Honor of Miss Henry of Columbus NEBRASKA CITY, Jan. 7 .- (Special.)-Miss Florence Wilson entertained at cards last evening in honor of her friend, Miss Mary Henry of Columbus. Miss Blanche Davis and Allan Wilson carried off the ionors. The guests: Misses Emma Schnelier, Sine Fass, Mary Wilson, Mary Rolfe Blanche Davis, Gertrude Sousley, Eve Staf-ford, Olga Bischof, Lillie Bischof, Lillie Wilhelmy, Reba Duff, Florence Clark, Gertrude Warren, Clara Allen, Dora Davis, Georgia Weimer, Florence, Fan and Lou Wilson, and Messrs. Harry Mollring, Mar-shal Huckins, Harry Rolfe, Ted Whitten, Fred Rottman, Willard Harding, Edwin Duff, Bert Hershey, Fred Ellis, Allan Wilson, Clarence Rosa, Ed Lorton, Fred Hoebel, Herbert Price, Will Wright, Lester Plattner, George Kidd, Morris Reed and Leon Wil-

helmy. their leader, Prof. Mariager, last evening and carried into execution a carefully planned surprise party. The professor was busy upstairs at the time of their arrival, and the first intimation he had of their visit was the sound of one of his best compositions rendered by the entire orchestra.

A. O. Swift, who has for twenty-six years been employed in the postoffice in this city, yesterday received his commission as inspector of postoffices, and will assume the duties of his position at once. Emmons Rolfe has been promoted to the position of deputy postmailing clerk.

The funeral of the late Major J. W. Pear-nan was held from the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial hall yesterday afternoon. The sermon was preached by Rev. J. B. Green, and a large number of sorrowing friends followed the remains to their last resting place in Wyuka cemetery.

FUGITIVE MOORE GROWS BOLD. Elopes with the Child Whom He

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., Jan. 7 .- (Special relegram.)—Alonzo Moore was arrested here early in August last on the charge of assault upon the 15-year-old daughter of Fred Patter, postmaster of Rock Bluff, and was placed in the county fail without bail to await trial. He managed to escape November 12, since He managed to escape November 12, since which time he has successfully cluded the officers, although he has not been further than fifty miles from here at any time. He went to the home of the girl late last night and induced her to accompany him, and the two got into a buggy and drove off, leaving no trace as to their course. Reports from the neighborhood of Rock Bluff are to the effect that threats are being made if Moore is captured he will be roughly dealt with. Extra precaution is being used by the officers to protect the prisoner in the event that he is protect the prisoner in the event that he is brought back.

Entertained at Cards PLATTSMOUTH, Jan. 7 .- (Special.) -- Mrs. . H. Snyder entertained twelve of her lady friends this afternoon at 1 o'clock luncheon The tables were decorated with roses. Cards furnished entertainment for the rest of the afternoon. The ladies present were: Mesdames Charley Parmelee, T. P. Livingston, H. N. Dovey, Tom M. Patterson, Byron Clark, J. M. Craig, Earnest Wagner, Harvey D. Travis, George Houseworth, D. S. Guild and J. L. Mullingan.

Populists Disappointed LEXINGTON, Neb., Jan. 7 .- (Special.)-

The populist centest against W. C. May, who was elected county clerk by sixteen majority, proved to be a sad disappointement to its originators. Thirteen precincts were canvassed before County Judge Pierce, resulting in three votes increase in May's majority. At this stage of the proceedings Oldham of

We have made a large purchase of Woolen Hose at a price less than the cost of the material and place them on sale Monday morning. They are divided into two lots and we offer

Among the 15c lot you will find the best heavy all wool socks, seamless-with Double Heels and Toes-also light and fine grades-not a pair in the lot which retail ordinarily for less than 25c, and the great majority of them worth up to 40c.

The 25c lot contains some of the choicest half hose of fine wool and cashmere for which you pay regular from 40c to 60c. This is the opportunity for you to lay in your next winter's supply of socks.



DOWER FROM GASULINE CHEAPER THAN STEAM. No Botler. No Steam. No Engineer. BEST POWER for Corn and Feed Mills, Baling

OTTO GASOLINE ENGINES Stationary or Portable. Send for Catalogue, Prices, etc., describing work to be don

THE OTTO CAS ENGINE WORKS hicago, 245 Lake St.,

Kearney, who appeared for the contestant, made a speech dropping the contest. Many changes occur in the court house offices January 9. Judge Pierce, who has held the offic of county judge in Dawson county for twenty two years, retires to make room for Roberts of Gothenburg.

CONCLUSION OF THE M'KENNAN CASI Remarried to His Former Wife After

FREMONT, Jan. 7.—(Special.)—Charles Mc Kennan was married Saturday to his former wife. About eight years ago McKennan disappeared and had not been heard of by any of his friends or relatives in this vicinity until he turned up at his former home in Elkhorn township, near Arlington, a few weeks ago. About three years after his disappearance his wife got a divorce from him on the ground of desertion. She was much surprised at his return, but glad to see him once more. His second courtship was brief and Saturday afternoon they were remarried

PREPARED TO SUE THE OXNARDS. Dodge County Sugar Beet Producers Not Satisfied.

maller sugar beet raisers have called a meeting for Saturday evening at the court house, at which it is expected action will be taken on bringing suit to enjoin the payment of the state bounty to the Oxnards. The probability is that Judge Maxwell will be employed. Actions are likely to be brought against the companies for not fulfilling the terms of their contracts. C. W. Sheldon today received returns on a carload of beets he shipped. He received \$6.38 for nearly twenty-two tons of beets, the company charging him extra for unloading. Charles Munzel received \$21, so he says, for three cars of beets.

Baron Mosier's Funeral. NORTH LOUP, Neb., Jan. 7 .- (Special.)-

The remains of Byron Mosier, accompanied by his widow and son, arrived here last evening from northern Wisconsin, and were immediately taken in charge by a commit-tee of the Masonic fraternity and interred in the North Loup cemetery. Mrs. Moster has a number of relatives resident in this vicinity with whom she will make her future While the inhabitants of other portions of

the union are floundering in mud and having their cattle and other property swept away by destructive floods, or are shivering with agony from the intense cold, the citizens of this favored clime are congratulating one another on having cast their lot in a counry where the roads are as smooth and solid as the best macadamized street, and where the sun is almost constantly shining with all the glory of June. With the genial and comfortable warmth of the solar rays making mere existence a pleasure beyond ex-pression, it is not difficult to see why all older and most of the newer settlers "stand up for Nebraska." The mercury stood at 60 in the shade today, and this is no excep-

Failed to File His Bond. GRAND ISLAND, Jan. 7 .- (Special.) -- A special session of the county board will be held tomorrow for the purpose of acting upon the bond of Treasurer-elect Thomssen, who neglected to file his bond at the regular Sheriff Depue was out today summoning the members of the board. Should the board fail to have a quorum for any reason tomorrow, the time for the treasurer-elect to qualify would have passed.

The Pacific Hose company band is arranging for a series of popular concerts. The band has given the people of Grand Island free open air concerts for the past three summer seasons. La Platte Personal Mention.

LA PLATTE, Neb., Jan. 7 .- (Special.) Willie Cripin has returned from an extended sojourn in the southern part of the state. Merchant O'Leary is erecting an extensive The protracted meeting at the Free Methodist church will begin Wednesday evening. The pastor in charge, Rev. Mr. Adams, will be aided by Evengelist D. Meyers of Shensadesh Is The Platte river is solidly frozen over, and clear ice from eight to ten inches in thick-

ness may now be obtained. Flyer Delayed Near Valley. FREMONT, Jan. 7 .- (Special.)-The westbound flyer, No. 1, was brought to a sudden stop this morning ten miles west of Valley by a wagen heavily loaded with corn, which had stuck on the crossing. A collision was narrowly avoided. The train crew and a number of passengers turned out and backed the wagen off the track.

Novel Social Event at Hildreth HILDRETH, Neb., Jan. 7.—(Special.)—A very pleasant social entertainment was given

the husband of some other lady and the pro gram was carried out without a hitch and was the occasion of much merriment. Bellevue College Opening.

BELLEVUE, Neb., Jan. 7.—(Special.)— Believue college opened today with a large attendance and the prospects for the coming term are good. President Kerr, who is in the east in the interests of the institution, is meeting with success.

Mrs. L. M. Guttery, principal, and Miss Jessie Flynt, primary, attended the State Teachers' association last week and are very enthusiastic in their praise of the same.

Miss Ollie Burtch gave a leap year party at her home Thursday twenty guests were present. Miss May Brown of Dunbar, Neb., is the guest of Miss Jennie Wallace.

Mrs. G. Rhoads, Plattsmouth, Miss Shelda and sister, Omahs, were in town Sunday.

Insurance Company Elects Officers. CLAY CENTER, Neb., Jan. 7 .- (Special.) -The Clay County Mutual Insurance company held the annual meeting here today. The reports showed the condition of the association was very favorable. The follow-ing officers were elected: President, A. M. Lathrop; vice president, H. E. McDowell; secretary and treasurer, J. W. Israelson.

FAIRBURY, Neb., Jan. 7 .- (Special.)-Last ight Sheriff Mindenhall captured John and Charley Henry while in the act of stealing corn at McLucas Bros.' feed yards. The boys are 19 and 13 years old respectively. Mc-Lucas Bros. have lost considerable corn lately

by theft and kept watch last night. Sunday School Officers Elected. WILCOX, Neb., Jan. 7 .- (Special.) -- The Congregational Sunday school elected officers yesterday as follows: Superintendent, G. D. Coutant; assistant, Mrs. Bessie Marsheler;

secretary, Miss Grace Wilke; treasurer, Miss Stella Tillman; librarian, Carl Olander; or-ganist, Miss Lida Kenedry. Murderer Walker Indifferent, LEXINGTON, Neb., Jan. 7 .- (Special.)-The news of Murderer Walker's respite was received by the prisoner in his usual indifferent manner. It is the general opinion here for another examination as to Walker's mental condition.

ASHLAND, Neb., Jan. 7 .- (Special.)-The entertainment given at Odd Fellows' hall last night by the Independent Order of Odd Felown and Daughters of Rebekah was largely attended. Refreshments were served at 12 o'clock. Fremont Banks Want Some Bonds

Odd Fellows' Social at Ashland.

FREMONT, Jan. 7 .- (Special.)-In reply to a circular of inquiry sent out by eastern parties the four national banks of this city, through the Fremont clearing house, have agreed to take \$50,000 of the new loan. Wealthy Stock Dealer Dead.

RANDOLPH, Neb., Jan. 7 .- (Special Telegram.)-Robert Wadsworth, a wealthy and influential stock dealer living ten miles south of Randolph, died of paralysis today.

One Minute Cough Cure is a popular remedy for croup. Safe for children and adults. The Burlington's Slowest Train

to Lincoln is faster than the fastest train of any other line. Four trains daily—8:30 a. m., 2:45 p. 4:35 p. m. and 7:05 p. m. Tickets at 1324 Farnam St.

LEARY-Dennis, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Leary, aged 15 years, 3 months. Errylees at residence, 1296 S. 30th Ave. Interment Focest Lawn.

UMPHERSON-Josephine, Jan. 7, 1896, wife of John Umpherson, at her late residence, 1919 South Tenth street. Funeral Thursday, January 9th, 1896, at 2 p. m., to Prespect Hill cemetory.

WALKER-Jessie L., daughter of E. H. and E. A. Walker, at Florence, Neh., January 7, aged 15 years, 3 months. Funeral Thursday at 2 p. m.

Highest Honors-World's Fair, ·DR



from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant. 40 YEARS THE STANDARD,