

# OMAHA IS THE LOSER.

## VICTORY BEING ON THE SIDE OF COUNCIL BLUFFS.

The Inter-State Commerce Commission has decided the bridge arbitrary case—A lengthy dissenting opinion by Messrs. Morrison and Clements—The Points Touched Upon.

### Council Bluffs a Winner.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.—The Interstate Commerce Commission, by a vote of three to two, decided yesterday the bridge arbitrary case in favor of Council Bluffs. Morrison and Clements dissent in a lengthy opinion. Commissioner Knapp reporting the case for the majority.

Commissioner Knapp, after reviewing at considerable length the contentions of the Commercial club of Omaha in the Omaha bridge case, railroad companies and intervenors, discusses the question from three separate points:

First—Whether Council Bluffs has the same in-rates from all directions as Omaha.

Second—Whether Council Bluffs has the same out-rates as Omaha.

Third—Whether Omaha pays bridge tolls in addition to Council Bluffs rates on shipments from the south to Omaha and Council Bluffs over several systems of roads, some of which are these points from Nebraska and some from the Iowa side of the Missouri river.

Carriers in consequence he holds, are not responsible for existing conditions and says that if the conditions were reversed the result would be the same to either community. He lays down the proposition under this head, that if anyone is responsible for the apparent discrimination it is the Union Pacific, which has its eastern terminus at Council Bluffs. The second proposition he passes over with the merest reference, but upon the third his greatest argument is made, stating in contradiction to the assertion of complaints that "gross" rates are made in a number of cases much farther apart than Council Bluffs and Omaha. Shipments to Nebraska City require greater service for carriers than is performed for Council Bluffs merchants, for they are hauled a greater distance. "Not every inequality of rates constitutes a violation of law," says Commissioner Knapp, and "again discrimination is forbidden only when it is unjust."

Mr. Fronty, the new member of the commission, also writes a concurring opinion advancing the idea that as the railroads have to pay \$45,000 a year for the use of the bridge, they must charge higher rates, and to remove the bridge tolls on shipments east from Omaha would be of itself a discrimination against Council Bluffs. He thinks all traffic which crosses the bridge either way ought to pay toll for every time it crosses.

The dissenting opinion of Commissioners Morrison and Clements is conceded to be an exceedingly able presentation even by the majority commissioners. Colonel Morrison, who prepared the opinion, says the contract was entered into years ago by the railroads to equalize rates and in fact the agreement went into effect to all points east and west except in Iowa, which he says is not fair dealing. He combats the proposition of Knapp that Omaha has not been injured and says that two wrongs never make a right. He shows that Omaha, when the last census was taken, had a yearly output of \$22,000,000, as against Council Bluffs \$2,000,000 and that Omaha should be put on an equality with Council Bluffs. The companies should be granted all Missouri points, including Atchison, Leavenworth and Kansas City, equal rates, which three places like Omaha, are on the west bank of the Missouri river. He says that permitting the several merchants, manufacturers and traders of Council Bluffs to intervene clouded and obscured the issue, which he greatly regrets, as he believed the contention of the Commercial club is just and equitable.

### Henry George Memorial.

NEW YORK, Nov. 19.—It has been determined to appeal to the public at large for subscriptions to a memorial for the late Henry George on the broadest ground of respect for a man who devoted himself to the public good, and entirely irrespective of difference of opinion as to his economic or political views, in the hope that all the various projects which have sprung up in different parts of the country having this purpose in view can be brought into harmony. The following named parties, representing all shades of political opinions, to which other names may be added in their discretion, have agreed to act as a national committee for this purpose: Mayor Strong, Seth Lowe, Charles Stewart Smith, Isidor Straus, C. T. Christensen, Edward M. Shepard, Thomas G. Sherman, August Lewis, Tom L. Johnson of Cleveland, and William Lloyd Garrison of Boston. George Foster Peabody of this city has been appointed treasurer.

### Monetary Commission Meets.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 19.—After a recess of several days the monetary commission resumed its sessions here last night with all the members present except two. It is not probable that any reports will be ready when congress convenes early in December, but it is hoped that before the end of the month some preliminary suggestions at least will be ready for submission, to be followed later by more general and elaborate reports.

### Idiosyncrasy Nearly.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 19.—It was announced today that the monetary commission hoped to have its report well advanced toward completion by the last of the week. A number of the members will have to be absent next week and an effort is being made to get the entire plan formulated and ready for approval by Saturday evening. Any changes which may be thought necessary will be made later when the entire commission probably will come together for final revision and signature. The report is not likely to be made public before December 1.

## PROMISED REFORMS.

No sign as yet of their forthcoming for Cuba.

NEW YORK, Nov. 19.—A dispatch to the Herald from Havana says: There is no sign of the full text of the promised reforms and in consequence the hopes of the most optimistic autonomists are dwindling. The fault lies with General Blanco. There is every reason to believe that his promises on arrival were made in good faith. He is evidently deeply incensed at the false position in which he is placed. He cabled a day or two ago to Madrid, saying General Weyler had deceived him as to the condition of the army and the government has misled him regarding its sincerity in promising autonomy and broadly hinted that he felt inclined to ask to be relieved.

The Herald correspondent has just returned from a two days' trip through Havana to Artemisa. Every military commander of a town he met said he had not received any orders regarding the extension of the zones of cultivation. The condition of their reconcentrados is not altered. Their sufferings are appalling. The Herald's correspondent adds: "Unless General Blanco speedily makes more headway than he has done yet autonomy will be a dead letter in the Cuban issue."

### Rules for Inspecting Tobacco.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.—The government examiners of tobacco at several of the more important ports of entry into the United States, by direction of the secretary of the treasury met in conference recently in New York, with a view to the adoption of a uniform practice in the classification of imported tobacco. The report of the conference, which has reached the Treasury department, makes three recommendations, as follows: First, that 25 per cent of all marks of every invoice of imported tobacco should be examined, and that the rule for the present be limited to tobacco from the West Indies, Mexico and South America; second, that the percentage of wrapper found in filler bates be established by count of leaves; third, that the district from which tobacco is imported be marked on bales, where practicable. These rules will be adopted by the Treasury department.

### Germany Becoming Alarmed.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19. Consul Monaghan at Chemnitz, in a report to the state department on Germany's exports to the United States, says: "Germany is alarmed. Exports to the United States are dropping off. Nothing so alarming has appeared in twenty years. America was always the best customer in many lines of manufacture. In the September quarter of 1896 seventeen consular districts sent to the United States goods amounting to \$14,451,414. In the same quarter in 1897 the same districts sent \$7,189,112. The average loss all over the empire is nearly 50 per cent. In many cases this indicates much more than mere money losses to our revenues. It indicates a diminution in exports for this empire due to the Dingley bill. The public is told to put little confidence in newspaper reports, even if accurate. Each issue urges intelligent effort to retain the United States market."

### The Porte Backs Down.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Nov. 19.—It was not until after midnight that the Austrian ambassador here, Baron de Calice, received a note from the Turkish government announcing a readiness to make a satisfactory settlement of all the Austrian demands regarding the maltreatment of Herr Brazzafello, the agent of the Austrian-Lloyd Steamship company at Mersina, respecting the insults offered to the Austrian consul at that place and on the subject of arrears due the Oriental Railroad company, which is operated by Austrians, for transportation of Turkish troops during the recent war between Turkey and Greece. Consequently an indemnity will be paid Herr Brazzafello, the Austrian flag will be saluted by a Turkish fort or war ship, and the sum of \$250,000 (\$1,250,000) will be paid the Oriental Railroad company.

### A Disastrous Snowslide.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Nov. 19.—Word has just been received here of a terrific snow storm on the Noble Five mountain range, near Sannon, in the Steadon district, on last Saturday. Joseph McGribbens, whose parents reside in Oakland, Cal., and his partner, whose name is unknown, were working on the night crew of the Red Fox mine, and were caught by a slide while going to work. McGribbens was carried down the mountainside and buried under a mass of snow and ice, and his body cannot be recovered till spring. His partner was rescued in an exhausted condition. The slide continued down the mountain, completely covering the buildings of the Silver Bell, which were crushed like eggshells.

### To Manage Soldiers' Homes.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.—The question of more economical, efficient and responsible administration of volunteer soldiers' homes will be made the subject of investigation by congress as a result of the recent inspection of these institutions by Brigadier General Brockinridge, inspector general of the army. The officers will urge in his report the necessity of greater accountability of the board of managers of home for the expenditure of money received and its status with relation to the government will be definitely established. Brockinridge will suggest the advisability of a complete transfer of the administration of homes to the jurisdiction of a new bureau in the war department to manage its affairs.

### Thousands of Natives Killed.

PARIS, Nov. 19.—A special dispatch to the Journal brings serious news from the Niger region, West Africa, in order to punish the natives of the town of Kone, capital of the kingdom of Upper Guinea, for their refusal to supply his troops with provisions. Chief Samory has razed the town and massacred several thousand natives.

Rev. Mr. W. H. Smith, colored, is making an active fight to succeed James McCaffery as appraiser of the port of St. Louis.

## MAY BRING ON WAR.

A THREATENING OUTLOOK IN THE OLD WORLD.

Matters Very Much Strained Between Austria and Turkey—Fleet of the Former Threatens to Bombard the Ottoman Port—The Ambassador to Quit Constantinople.

### Austria and Turkey at Odds.

VIENNA, Nov. 18.—The Turkish government not having yielded to the demands of the government of Austria for redress on account of the indignities offered to an Austrian merchant of Mersina, Herr Brazzafello, the Austrian ambassador at Constantinople, Baron de Calice, will leave the Turkish capital and an Austrian war ship will bombard the port of Mersina (Asia Minor) tomorrow, if the demands of Austria are not complied with by noon on Thursday.

Austria demands that the Turkish government order a salute of the Austrian flag, that the wall of the district in which Mersina is situated be demolished from his post and that the mutasarrif, or local governor of Mersina, be removed.

It was announced on Tuesday that the Porte had agreed to the demands of Austria; but this (as cabled to the Associated Press last night), turned out to be premature, and the sultan, buoyed up by the easy victory of the Turkish troops over those of Greece during the recent war, will not, it is believed, yield until the last moment. Brazzafello, who was the agent at Mersina, the port of Adana, of the Austrian-Lloyd Steamship company, was expelled from Mersina last month because he was suspected, rightly or wrongly, by the Turkish authorities, of having intrigued against the government of the Sultan. He appealed to the Austrian government, the latter made representations on the subject to the Porte and eventually Brazzafello was allowed to return to Mersina. But when the Austrian merchant attempted to land, the local minor officials, with the knowledge of the vail of Adana and the mutasarrif of Mersina, it is asserted, allowed Brazzafello to be so grossly maltreated that he was compelled to appeal to the Austrian consul for protection.

The latter promptly interfered in behalf of his compatriot and was himself repeatedly insulted. This action upon the part of the authorities and others at Mersina was soon brought to the attention of the Austrian government and caused the latter to insist upon redress, notably the dismissal of the two Turkish officials who were shown to be the most responsible for the indignities heaped upon the Austrian consul and the merchant Brazzafello and a salute to the Austrian flag by a Turkish fort or war ship.

In reply to the strong note of the Austrian government demanding an explanation of its outrages, it developed that Brazzafello incurred the suspicions of Turkish authorities by befriending fugitive Armenians and by giving the most despicable cheap passages from Mersina on board the vessels of the Austrian-Lloyd Steamship company.

The newspapers of Vienna discuss the incident at length and express the hope that the Turkish government, recognizing its mistake, will give Austria the satisfaction it insists upon. Austria, in addition to the demands mentioned, will insist upon the Porte furnishing it with definite assurances respecting other matters, notably the complaints made by the officials of the Austrian company operating the Oriental railroads, which have frequently been brought to the attention of the Turkish government.

### Financial 'crookedness' in Iowa.

DES MOINES, Nov. 18.—Steals and rumors of steals, boodle and allegations of boodle were the order at the city hall yesterday. It was all caused by the discovery that there are \$11,000 more of general fund warrants of the city in circulation than are on record by the books of the city auditor. The matter was laid before the council in a secret session as committee of the whole by the city treasurer. He stated that his books showed \$11,000 more of warrants out than are indicated by the records of the auditor and that the discrepancy is of long standing. According to the treasurer's books there are \$35,000 of general fund warrants out; the accounts of the auditor indicate there ought to be only \$24,000 out. It is known that there are discrepancies in other funds, but their amounts are not yet ascertained.

### Officers of the National Grange.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Nov. 18.—Officers for 1898 were elected by the National Grange as follows: Worthy master, Aaron Jones, Indiana; overseer, J. C. Hale, New York; lecturer, Alpha Measer, Vermont; steward, John R. Cox, New Jersey; assistant steward, J. A. Newcombe, Colorado; treasurer, Mrs. Eva McDowell, Ohio; secretary, John Trimble, Washington, D. C.; gatekeeper, A. D. Campbell, Iowa; cares, Lena M. Mesick, Delaware; pomona, Mrs. Sarah G. Baird, Minnesota; flora, Mrs. E. L. A. Wiggin, Maine; lady assistant, Mrs. Amanda M. Horton, Michigan; Executive committee, N. J. Bachelor, New Hampshire; J. J. Woodman, Michigan. Other members of the committee hold over.

### Ask for Arbitration Treaties.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—Hon. W. Randall Cremer, the well known English advocate of international arbitration, is in the city for the purpose of presenting to the members of the senate a monster petition from the trades organization people of Great Britain in favor of the adoption of a treaty on that subject.

### The Monetary Commission.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—After a recess of several days the monetary commission resumed its sessions here tonight with all the members present except two. It is not probable that any reports will be ready when congress convenes early in December, but it is hoped that before the end of the month some preliminary suggestions at least will be ready for submission, to be followed later by more general and elaborate reports.

Nicaraguan government has determined to send a commission abroad to sell or lease the national railroads.

## ICE-BOUND WHALERS.

No Efforts to Be Spared to Get Succor to Them.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—Captain Shoemaker, chief of the revenue cutter service, under the direction of the secretary of the treasury, has prepared a letter of instruction to Captain Tuttle, who is to be commander of the steamer Bear, on its cruise north for the relief of the eight whaling vessels ice-bound in the Arctic ocean. Owing to the fact that at this season of the year the route to the Arctic through Bering sea is closed by ice Captain Tuttle is directed to establish communication with the whaling fleet by means of an overland expedition. With this purpose in view he is ordered to proceed with his vessels on or about November 23, to Cape Nome, thence, if the ice permits, north between St. Lawrence island and the coast of Alaska, to the north shore of North Sound, between Cape Nome and Cape Prince of Wales, where a landing will be effected if possible. From the point of land will begin the overland expedition north.

The people in charge of the government station at Unalaklikka are to be communicated with, with a view to collecting the entire available herd of reindeer to be driven to Point Barrow. W. T. Lopp of Cape Prince of Wales is to take charge of this herd and make all arrangements for herders, clothing, sleds, dogs, etc. The necessary food for use of the party will be landed from the ship. When the deer are collected and the start made the party from the Bear will travel with it as far as the Kotsue sound. That point reached, one officer and necessary drivers will push out ahead to Point Hope, leaving the others and the herd to follow. At this point the expedition probably will get news of the condition of the imprisoned fleet at Point Barrow. If it should be learned that the fleet is icebound and its people in distress the white people are to be informed and they will be expected to take care of such men as may be sent down later. The expedition is then to push on, following the coast.

On the arrival at Point Barrow, if the situation is found to be desperate, as is anticipated, the officers will take charge of the ship in the name of the government, apportion the provisions on hand and slaughter as many reindeer as necessary for food in order to hold out until August, 1898, when Captain Tuttle may be expected to arrive with the Bear. Such reindeer as are left will be turned over to the Presbyterian mission at Point Barrow. All of the rescued whalers should be at Point Hope by July 1, where they can be reached and succored a month earlier than at Point Barrow. No opportunity for hunting, sealing or whaling where the food supply may be added to is to be neglected.

In case Captain Tuttle finds it impossible to effect a landing on the north shore of Norton sound he is instructed to adopt the most feasible of five other plans which are outlined, always bearing in mind that food must be gotten to the 265 starving men at the earliest possible moment. He is given full authority and the largest possible latitude to act in every exigency that may arise. After landing the overland expedition the Bear will seek harbor as may be deemed proper in which to await results and the opening of navigation in the spring. In closing his instructions to Captain Tuttle, Secretary Case says: "Mindful of the arduous and perilous expedition upon which you are about to enter, I bid you, your officers and men, Godspeed upon your errand of mercy and wish you a successful voyage and safe return."

### Sovereign Out for President.

LOUISVILLE, Nov. 17.—The Courier-Journal under the caption, "Sovereign's Vaulting Ambition," says: "The great secret is out at last. J. R. Sovereign, the retiring general master workman of the Knights of Labor, resigned his position in order that he might push his candidacy for president of the United States in 1900. It was mentioned yesterday that Mr. Sovereign would be assigned to the position of field worker. Being free now from the responsibilities of general master workman, and having none of the former difficulties to contend with, Mr. Sovereign has a clear field before him, and delegates to the general assembly openly acknowledged that Mr. Sovereign is an avowed candidate for the presidency of the United States when Mr. McKinley's term expires, and the movement of making him 'field worker' is the initial step of the 'general assembly of the Knights of Labor' to launch Mr. Sovereign's boom."

### Investigation of the Soils.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—The division of soils of the agricultural department, which was established a couple of years ago, is conducting some of the most interesting experiments of the department. Prof. Milton Whitney, who is in charge of the division, is engaged in present in the investigation of the climatic conditions of moisture and temperature of crops. The work has a scope as broad as the country. It will eventually embrace all the soils and staple crops, and in its relations to the future of the country, when crops must be specialized under the intensified system of agriculture which must come to our farmers in a few years, it promises to be of the utmost economic and practical value.

The Greek bishop of Canea has been notified by the Russian consul that the czar proposes to rebuild at his own cost the burned Christian quarter of Canea and to enlarge the orthodox Greek church.

### Heavy Gold Shipments.

NEW YORK, Nov. 17.—The fact was cabled from London today that the report was current in that city that \$200,000 sterling in gold was to be shipped to New York by tomorrow's Liverpool steamer, but that the report could not be verified. None of the banking houses of this city had any advice, they said in response to inquiries, of any shipment of gold to them from Europe and all said they did not believe the report.

Services will be held in Memphis November 20 in memory of the late Senator Harris.

## BARTLEY'S ACCOUNTS

THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MAKES REPORT.

An Expert Accountant Places the Total Shortage at \$297,207.30—Funds Deposited in the Capital National Bank Computed in Arriving at Results—Report Filed With the Governor.

### The Legislative Investigation.

The report of the legislative investigating committee on the condition of the accounts of the state treasurer's office has been completed and filed with the governor. The accountant for the committee assigned to this part of the investigation of the state offices, O. W. Helbig, made the report, which the committee, after inspection, adopted as its own. The facts as to the condition of the state treasurer's office are practically as has been made to the public through the late trial of ex-State Treasurer Bartley for embezzlement and the suit against his bondsmen to recover the money lost by the state.

The accountant sums up the amount which the state has lost during Bartley's term and fixes the total at \$297,207.30. This is larger than the amount which has been popularly charged to the state treasurer, and the summary of the accountant shows that he included in the count the \$236,000 lost in the Capital National bank failure and the amount of interest tied up in suspended state depositories from the time of their suspension to the close of Bartley's term. This last amount is placed at \$28,227.30.

Aside from these two amounts last named the accountant shows that there was a loss to the state for which Bartley was accountable and which he failed to turn over, amounting to \$569,861.82. This last named amount is made up from several items as follows: Two hundred and one thousand, eight hundred and eighty-four dollars and five cents, the amount of the warrant drawn to reimburse the sinking fund for money lost in the Capital National bank in January, 1893, with interest on the amount of that warrant, which was drawn payable to Bartley individually and converted by him to his own use; \$325,878.08, as amount of trust funds converted to his own use by Bartley and not turned over to his successor; \$17,812.48, as the amount deposited by Bartley in depository banks in excess of the 50 per cent limit fixed by law; \$14,287.21 is the amount figured by the accountant as interest which should have accrued on money not deposited in depository banks and which should have been so deposited. These several items added together give the grand total of \$870,207.20, as above.

The investigation of the treasurer's office relates entirely to the term of Bartley from January, 1893, to January, 1897. The details of the bank in which excessive deposits were made are given in the report and the amount in each is set out.

The investigation shows that no deposits were made in depository banks prior to April, 1894, except the amount deposited in the Capital National just prior to its failure in January, 1893. During this time, from January, 1893, to April, 1894, there were bonds filed by banks which had been designated as depository banks. On February 20, 1894, the accountant finds that there were funds in the hands of the state treasurer subject to deposit under the depository law amounting to \$618,123.09. The interest on this amount, which the accountant finds have been deposited and the interest credited to the state.

The report says: "The system of bookkeeping used in the state treasurer's office is very faulty. Debits and credits were reversed in the ledger, the books were not closed at the end of each month, as they should have been, or even at the end of the official term of the treasurer, but only on the dates on which the biennial reports were rendered. If any cash books were kept they have disappeared and cannot be found in the office. Different systems of bookkeeping, it seems, were used in the different state offices. There should be a uniform system of bookkeeping in all of the state offices and institutions, and a better and more complete system of reports should be adopted. This would simplify the business of keeping state accounts, facilitate investigation of the different offices and be much more economical and satisfactory."

### Transportation Board Joggled.

Governor Holcomb has written the secretaries of the board of transportation the following letter: "I am in receipt of a resolution passed by the Western Nebraska Stock Growers' association in relation to the change made by the railroad companies in the charges of shipment of live stock. It appears that heretofore a rate has been made by the railroad, but since August 18, 1897, the rate is made by weight alone. I understand that a copy of this resolution has been forwarded to you and it respectfully requests that you give it your immediate attention and careful consideration."

About a year ago a similar change in rates was made by the railroads upon live stock shipments, but after the matter had been considerably agitated the railroad companies decided to return to the old schedule until August last. This change in rates, I am informed, increases the rate per carload from the western part of the state to the Union stock yards at South Omaha from \$10 to \$15 per carload. This is an injustice to the farmers and stock raisers of Nebraska and I hope that you will take the proper steps looking to the immediate re-establishment of the old rates. Yours very truly, "SILAS A. HOLCOMB."

### State Exposition Funds.

The statement of the bookkeeper of the state exposition commission shows that on November 1 the state fund of \$100,000 had been reduced by \$19,834.59, leaving a balance of \$80,165.41. The expenditures were composed of the following items: Salaries of officers and employees, \$1,696.38; furniture and fixtures, \$139.54; office supplies, \$28.65; construction, \$4,398.55; agricultural exhibit, \$59.28; snary exhibit, \$36.77; poultry exhibit, \$21.15; live stock exhibit, \$12.22; postage, \$50; space account, \$3,589.25.

## BIG BELL FOR NEBRASKA.

Wong Chin Foo Proposes a Scheme for Exposition Attraction.

The most remarkable proposition yet submitted to the exposition, says the Omaha Bee, has been received by the Department of Exhibits from Wong Chin Foo, Chinese commissioner for the exposition. It is based on the assertion of Wong Chin Foo, as expressed when he was in Omaha the last time, to the effect that the Chinese are the most successful manipulators of iron in the world. He says his people have methods of casting totally unknown in this country and secure results which the metal workers of modern civilization never dreamed of.

This broad claim is borne out by the rather startling nature of the proposition which Foo makes to the exposition management. His letter, couched in quaint language and showing idiomatic peculiarities here and there, in brief is this: He offers, for the sum of \$50,000, to reproduce the famous bell of Nankin, the great bell which was in existence in this ancient Chinese city 2,700 years ago. This bell was a quarter of a mile in circumference and was made of cast iron. Foo says a stroke upon this monster bell could be heard all over the state of Nebraska and he suggests that it might be called the Nineteenth Century bell of Nebraska.

Foo proposes to cast this giant bell on the exposition grounds. This would require the labors of 330 skilled Chinese mechanics from the greatest iron foundry in China, whom Foo proposes to import especially for the purpose, a part of his proposition being that these men be allowed to go wherever they please after the bell is finished.

One of the most peculiar things in connection with Foo's proposition and one which gives color to his statement are entirely different from those in use in this country, is his suggestion that the casting of the bell be on regular days and he suggests that Saturday of each week be designated for this purpose, saying that on fifteen consecutive Saturdays the bell would be cast. He predicts that millions of people from all parts of the world will come to see the casting of "the cast iron bell of Nankin."

Foo provides that the exposition management of the state of Nebraska shall furnish the material needed in casting this bell and that it shall also furnish \$20,000 worth of machinery to assist in the operation. He guarantees to complete the bell one week before the exposition closes, "to toll the closing hours of the exposition and never to sound again until the next Fourth of July."

In the latter part of his letter Foo suggests a schedule of days on which the great bell should be struck in commemoration of some event of great importance. He suggests twelve strokes on each Fourth of July, a similar number of strokes on Washington's birthday and New Year's day, ten strokes on Lincoln's birthday, the same on Grant's birthday, twelve in celebration of the preservation of the union in 1865 and lastly, "Twelve strokes on the death of each man or woman who has brought up a meritorious family, one of which has been a benefactor to the public and a patriot to his country, and not one of its members has willfully committed a wrong act toward his neighbors."

This remarkable document will be taken under advisement by the manager of the Department of Exhibits.

### Secretaries Want Testimony.

The secretaries of the State Board of Transportation have issued the following statement:

Numerous complaints have reached the secretaries of the Board of Transportation from shippers of live stock that in the change made by railroads from carload to rates by the hundred pounds the rates have been increased. The secretaries notified the railroad companies of these complaints and asked them to furnish them information as to the facts from their records. A conference was held Monday last in Omaha, where it appeared from the records kept by the railroads that under the present system as compared with the old carload rates the roads were in most instances receiving slightly less compensation for the same services, thus raising a question of fact as between the complaints made by shippers of cattle and records kept by the roads. A hearing has therefore been called to take testimony on this point, such hearing to be had at the Omaha Stock exchange, South Omaha, beginning November 22, 1897, at 10 a. m. Stock shippers and all others interested are requested to write to the secretaries at Lincoln, Neb., giving any information and making any suggestion to aid in arriving at a just and fair conclusion in the whole matter.

### Will Test the Law.

County Attorney Leamy of Pierce county was at the state house the other day looking up the history of senate file No. 165. This bill provided for the election of clerks of the district court in counties having a certain population as calculated from the vote cast at the general election in 1896. The bill failed to pass the house, but was certified to the governor and signed by him. There has been a question as to just how much of a law it is, if any, and that question is now likely to be presented to the courts for settlement.

Pierce county is one of the counties which had no clerk of the district court, and which under the provisions of this bill is entitled to have one if it is a valid law. Heretofore the duties of clerk of the court have been discharged by the county clerk.

Attorney General Smyth has been requested by the supreme court to submit a brief in the Barrett Scott case. The court requested him to cover two points not argued by the county attorney of Holt county. The approval of the Scott bond out of time and the estoppel of sureties are the two questions which the supreme court desires the attorney general to argue. The Scott case is considered of great importance by the legal fraternity and the public, because it involves the same points which will come before the court in the case of ex-State Treasurer Bartley and his bondsmen.