

NEBRASKA.

There is an unusual amount of sickness prevalent in Beatrice.

Thomas L. Whitehill presented the reorganized company C, at Nebraska City, with a fine large silk flag.

Sheriff Lancaster of York county returned from Graansburg, Pa., where he arrested and brought with him H. B. Kemble, who is charged with having forged checks in York. Kemble is now in jail awaiting trial.

An epidemic of measles is raging a few miles southwest of Wilcox. Some schools have been closed but no deaths have resulted from the disease. Two cases of diphtheria are reported seven miles south of Wilcox.

Joseph L. Eastig, aged 76 years, a prominent merchant of Sidney, died last week. Deceased has been a sufferer from paralysis the past two years and recently contracted la grippe, which hastened his demise. His remains were sent to Canton, O., his former home, for interment.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Syracuse has just completed a new edifice, and dedicated the same recently with appropriate exercises, all the sister churches participating in the ceremonies. The building is 36 by 60 and was erected under the supervision of H. O. Hall. It cost about \$4,000.

The elevator of W. H. Butterfield & Son at Creighton, burned. Loss, \$4,500, with \$2,500 insurance. There was eighty-two hundred bushels of grain in the elevator which was destroyed. While trying to save the new depot, H. A. Cneeny, cashier of the Security bank, received painful, but not serious injuries.

Adjutant General Barry received a telegram from Congressman Stark announcing that the 200 Nebraska soldiers on the way home from Manila had been discharged in order to reduce the regiment to the minimum. It is believed that the soldiers will be given transportation from San Francisco to Nebraska.

The York Mutual Benefit association of York has been authorized by the auditor to begin business in Nebraska. E. A. Gilbert, lieutenant governor-elect, is vice president of the new association. The other officers are: N. V. Harlan, president; F. R. Clark, secretary; G. S. Cook, treasurer; Robert McConaughy, medical director.

The will of the late Rev. Father Eugene Cusson, who died in Nebraska City recently, was admitted to probate last Wednesday, there being no contests or objections. The court appointed Father Janette of Omaha and Thomas Heafey of Nebraska City, as administrators, with a \$30,000 bond. The estate will be settled up as rapidly as possible.

Frank Ward, who shot Sheriff Bonawitz last summer in Clay county, Kansas, and was acquitted by the jury there at the last term of court, came back to Fairbury and was arrested on the charge of removing mortgaged property, the same offense which Bonawitz was attempting to arrest him for when the shooting occurred. He will be held until the district court meets.

The business men of Chadron are inaugurating the first steps toward a pronounced business revival. A project is on foot to secure the trade of the Pine Ridge Indian reservation for that city and a strong petition is being prepared asking that a mail route be established between Chadron and Pine Ridge. Chadron is said to be the natural location for the supply of the mercantile needs of Pine Ridge agency.

Hereafter all revenue stamps on documentary matter must be marked not only with the day of the year, but with the month and day on which they were affixed. Previously Commissioner Scott ruled that it was only necessary that the year should be inscribed, but recently some extensive frauds have been discovered on the Board of Trade in New York. These included cases where \$5 and \$10 stamps were used and after being used once they were removed and used again on subsequent documents. The result was the new order which prevents a second use of the stamp.

The following promotions in the Third Nebraska have been made by Governor Holcomb: Captain Harry S. Dungan, Company K, to the rank of major, to date from December 12, 1898, vice McClay, promoted; First Lieutenant William J. Ohihelsner, Company K, captain Company K, vice Dungan, promoted; First Lieutenant William G. Doane, Company C, to rank of adjutant, to date from October 20, 1898, vice Beck, resigned; First Lieutenant Oscar H. Allen, Company B, regimental quartermaster, to rank from December 20, 1898, vice Schwine, resigned; Second Lieutenant Frank D. Mills, Company H, first lieutenant, to rank from December 31, 1898, vice Ohihelsner, promoted; Second Lieutenant Henry M. Morrow, Company C, first lieutenant Company C, to rank from December 31, 1898, vice Doane, promoted; Carlos A. Rowes, second lieutenant Company B, first lieutenant Company B, to rank from December 31, 1898, vice Allen, promoted; First Sergeant George E. Hall, Company H, second lieutenant Company H, to rank from December 31, 1898, vice Mills, promoted; First Sergeant Thomas R. White, Company C, second lieutenant Company C, to rank from December 31, 1898, vice Morrow, promoted.

The resignation of Frank Israel as county judge of Dundly county was accepted by the commissioners and he left for Lincoln to perfect his contest for a seat in the legislature as representative, to which he believes he was elected.

A stranger, supposed, from papers found on him, to be William C. Norwood, residence unknown, was killed in the railroad yards at South Omaha, being run over by a Rock Island freight train. He had attempted, together with others, to board the train while it was switching. He lost his footing, fell under the wheels and was literally ground to pieces.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

Lawmakers Convene and Both Houses Organize.

CAUCUS AGREEMENTS CARRIED OUT

Two Lancaster County Men Get the Honors Pertaining to the Chair—A. R. Talbot Made President of the Senate—Paul Clark Chosen Speaker of the House.

The Nebraska Assembly. The Twenty-sixth session of the Nebraska legislature convened at the appointed hour on the 3rd. The organization of both houses was promptly effected along the lines that had been agreed upon by the various caucuses. Paul Clark was made speaker and A. R. Talbot president of the senate, both of Lancaster county by a strict party vote.

In the senate Lieutenant-Governor Harris presided. Senators Holbrook of Dodge, Steele of Jefferson, Van Dusen of Douglas, Canady of Kearney, and Schaaf of Sarpy were designated as the committee on credentials. There were no contests. Chief Justice Harrison of the supreme court then administered the oath of office.

The rules of the session of 1895 were adopted temporarily until new rules can be framed. Senator Noyes by resolution offered the list of officers chosen by the republican caucus, headed by Senator A. R. Talbot of Lincoln for president pro tem and Alpha Morgan of Broken Bow for secretary, to serve during the session, and moved their election. Senator Farrell of Merrick wanted a private secretary for the lieutenant governor, and thought the republicans had overlooked this. Officers were then elected by adopting the resolution of Senator Noyes. Senators Talbot of Lancaster, Alexander of Adams and Howard of Hamilton were appointed a committee to wait on Secretary of State Porter and bring him to the senate for the purpose of swearing in the officers elected. Secretary Porter administered the oath.

The committee on standing committees was then selected as follows: Talbot of Lancaster, chairman; Arends of Otoe, Barton of Johnson, Allen of Furnas, Crow of Douglas, Steele of Jefferson and Holbrook of Dodge.

Senators Steele of Jefferson, Hannibal of Howard and Currie of Custer were named to wait upon the house and notify it that the senate was organized and ready for business. Senators Noyes of Douglas, Allen of Furnas and Farrell of Merrick were also selected to confer with a like committee from the house and wait upon Governor Holcomb to advise him that the legislature was in session and ready to receive any communication he may have; also to fix a time for receiving his message.

The complete list of officers elected in the senate under the resolution of Senator Noyes is as follows: A. R. Talbot, Lincoln, president pro tem; Alpha Morgan, Broken Bow, secretary; A. R. Keim, Falls City, assistant secretary; E. E. Thompson, Grand Island, second assistant secretary; T. A. Boyd, Beaver City, bookkeeper; A. A. Cressman, Crete, chaplain; Clark Robinson, Fairmont, sergeant-at-arms; H. J. Tate, Steele City, assistant sergeant-at-arms; A. C. Wright, Elmwood, postmaster; Mrs. Frank St. Louis, Lincoln, assistant postmaster; G. B. Butts, Omaha, doorkeeper; Martin Kerl, West Point, assistant doorkeeper; John Howard, Hastings, doorkeeper of the gallery; W. H. Pool, Washburn, chief engrossing clerk; N. E. Gardner, Norden, assistant enrolling clerk; W. S. Bourne, Beatrice, clerk of the committee of the whole; Eugene Bush, Tecumseh, custodian of the senate; Charles Johnson, Omaha, mail carrier; H. H. Winterstein, Fremont; and Charles Cummings, Omaha, custodians of the cloak room; B. E. Powell, Cozad, bill clerk; George McCullum, Nebraska City, assistant bill clerk.

It was decided at a committee meeting of senators that no requisition will be made for newspapers to be paid for by the state. However, it was decided that each senator shall be furnished with 20 cents worth of postage stamps per day.

The report will recommend that employees shall be paid only while on duty for the state; at other times during the session of the legislature their pay will stop. Five pages and one messenger will be employed.

In the senate on the 4th Senator Noyes of Douglas sent to the secretary's desk a resolution naming the following employees agreed on at last night's caucus: Pages, Manley Broughton, Walter Rodgers, Charles Bercher and Willie Stout; messenger, Arnold Hucanning; night watch, Chester Franklin. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Senator Ahrens of Otoe presented a resolution providing that senators be furnished with no newspapers at the state's expense; that each senator be allowed daily ten 2-cent stamps or their equivalent; and requested the secretary to keep the time of all employees, to the end that they be paid only for the time actually spent in the discharge of his duties. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Preliminary work of organization being now complete, Senator Talbot of Lancaster moved the appointment of a committee of three to act with a like committee from the house in arranging for a joint session to canvass the votes cast for state officers at the last general election. The chair appointed as such a committee Senators Talbot, Steele and Canaday. Later the committee reported that they had conferred with the house committee, and had agreed on 11 a. m. as the time for a joint session, to be held in representative hall, for the purpose of canvassing the vote cast for state officers on November 8 last. At 11 a. m. a recess was accordingly taken and the sergeant-at-arms, by direction of the lieutenant governor, formed senators in proper line and marched them through the corridors to the hall of the house. Returning from representative hall at 11:45 the senate, on motion of Senator Holbrook, adjourned until Thursday morning.

In the senate on the 5th a communication from General Barry was read by the secretary inviting members of the senate to attend the reception to be tendered Governor-elect Poynter in the senate chamber at night.

Senate file No. 1 was introduced by Senator Prout of Gage, being introduced to amend. Lieutenant Governor Harris held up a gavel, announcing that it had been presented by the wards of the deaf and dumb institute at Omaha. On motion of Senator O'Neill of Holt, the secretary was instructed to write to the wards of the institute a letter expressing the thanks of the senate.

The senate then, on motion of Senator Steele of Jefferson, repaired to the house for joint convention.

At 5:10 senators having returned from the joint convention, the senate was called to order by Lieutenant Governor Harris. After roll call Senator Talbot moved the appointment of a committee of three to conduct the lieutenant governor, just installed, to the senate chamber. The motion being agreed to. Senators Talbot, Morgan and Canaday were named as such committee, and promptly returned with Lieutenant Governor E. A. Gilbert, who, on taking the chair, delivered a brief address.

A telegram from Senator V. V. Allen was read, as follows: Washington, D. C., Jan. 5.—Hon. E. A. Gilbert, Senate: I congratulate the senate, and beg to express the hope that its sessions will be of profit to the state, and benefit to its members. WILLIAM V. ALLEN.

Senator Barton moved the appointment of the following committee of rule to report Monday at 2 o'clock: Senators Talbot, Noyes, Crow, Steele and Holbrook.

The senate adjourned until 2 p. m. Monday.

The house of the twenty-sixth session of the Nebraska legislature was called to order by Secretary of State Porter. Eric Johnson acted as clerk. The roll call showed all present except Walling, who afterward came in.

Price of Hall, when nominations for speaker were asked for, named Hugh A. Myer of Douglas, and L. L. Loomis of Butler nominated J. R. Morrison of Thayer.

The roll call showed fifty-two for Myer, republican, and forty-four for Morrison, fusion.

Wilcox of Lincoln moved that a committee of five on credentials be appointed. This motion prevailed, and the speaker pro tem, named on the committee, Detweiler of Douglas, Price of Hall, amson of Douglas, Wilcox of Lincoln and Weaver of Richardson.

Weaver of Richardson offered a motion that each member deposit his certificate with the credentials committee, and it was adopted.

On motion of Pollard of Cass the rules of the last session of the legislature were adopted, subject to change by a majority vote.

Chairman Detweiler of the committee on credentials reported that certificates had been presented and recommending that those holding them be declared entitled to seats in the house. The report was adopted.

On motion of Pollard of Cass, a committee of three was appointed to wait on the chief justice of the supreme court and request him to administer the oath of office to the members.

Chief Justice Harrison being announced, the members stood at their desks and the chief justice, from the clerk's stand, administered the oath, and afterward each member as his name was called went to the clerk's desk and signed the written oath.

A committee from the senate announced that body to be organized, and ready for business.

On motion, the house proceeded to permanent organization. Pollard of Cass nominated for speaker Paul F. Clark of Lancaster, as the choice of the republicans, and Grosvenor of Hamilton nominated C. F. Wheeler of Furnas, the fusion caucus nominee.

The roll was called, and Clark received 52 votes and Wheeler 48 votes. Clark was declared elected.

Speaker Clark, on taking the seat, thanked the members, and said he knew the responsibilities of the office were great; that, while he would know no faction on the floor, he rejoiced that once more the legislature of Nebraska was in the hands of the republican party, and that the election of a United States senator in accord with the president was assured. He pledged his help to the members toward making the session an economical one.

Weaver of Richardson offered a motion that the remainder of the list of officers of the house be selected by acclamation, according to the list made out by the republican caucus, suspending the rules for that purpose. This was agreed to, and the following list was read by Detweiler of Douglas and elected by the house: Chief clerk, John Ware, Valley; first assistant clerk, A. D. Gilmore, Nemaha; second assistant clerk, J. O. Berkeley, Brown; third assistant clerk, R. H. Langford, Lincoln; sergeant-at-arms, Frank Cramer, Cass; doorkeeper, Charles Carpenter, Washington; assistant doorkeeper, F. L. Miller, Jefferson; engrossing and enrolling clerk, William Wheeler, Wayne; chaplain, J. W. Seabrook, Nuckolls; postmaster, J. Cornell, Washington.

Rouse, Jansen and Wheeler were appointed a committee to notify the senate that the house was ready for business and fully organized.

Pollard of Cass, Chittenden, Olmstead of Douglas, Wilcox of Lincoln and Burns of Lancaster, republicans, were appointed a committee on employees to report for the guidance of the speaker.

Grosvenor of Hamilton moved that a committee to determine the quantity and character of stationery supplies for the house be appointed, and the speaker appointed Burnam of Douglas, Nesbit of Burt and Grosvenor of Hamilton.

The house then adjourned.

The house, on the 7th, was called to order by Speaker Clark. A committee from the senate announced that it had been appointed to confer with a like committee from the house and arrange for a joint convention of the two houses to canvass the vote for state officers.

rick, providing for the committee to inform the governor that the house was ready to consider any communication he might wish to present, having prevailed, the speaker appointed Thompson of Merrick, Haller and Grosvenor on that committee.

The joint session to canvass the vote announced the following result: For governor, Hayward, 92,982; Poynter, 85,702; Tuley, 1,724; Aley, 248.

For lieutenant governor: Murphy, 92,150; Gilbert, 94,350; Loomis, 1,778; Kerrigan, 254.

For secretary of state: Duras, 92,395; Porter, 94,403; Lawson, 1,749; Dilworth, 144; Bernine, 229.

For auditor of public accounts: Matthews, 91,539; Cornell, 94,674; Crowell, 1,710; Johnson, 166; Conway, 240.

For state treasurer: Mortensen, 91,623; Meserve, 95,040; Burch, 1,699; Luth, 138; Kissel, 239.

For superintendent of public instruction: Taylor, 91,791; Jackson, 94,595; Upton, 1,915.

For attorney general: Jackson, 91,694; Smyth, 94,255; Wolfenbarger, 1,805; Odell, 146; Baker, 249.

For commissioner of public lands and buildings: Williams, 91,471; Wolfe, 94,503; Blum, 1,651; Kelly, 143; Herman, 275.

For congressman, First district: Burket, 16,960; Manahan, 14,466; Herman, 50. Second district: Mercer, 11,951; Hitchcock, 11,023. Third district: Norris, 17,333; Robinson, 18,722. Fourth district: Hinshaw, 18,377; Stark, 18,904. Fifth district: Adams, 15,487; Sutherland, 16,354; Armstrong, 27. Sixth district: Brown, 13,401; Greene, 15,415.

For judges of district court to fill vacancy, Sixth district: Hollenbeck, 5,222; McAllister, 5,203; Third district, Tuttle, 4,501; Prost, 5,518.

The committee appointed to wait on the governor reported that his excellency had declared his readiness to submit his annual message at any time, but that he preferred to do so just prior to the close of his term and just before his successor was inaugurated.

Prince of Hall (rep.), moved that a committee on deficiencies be added to the regular standing committee of the house. In explaining his motion, he said the object was to separate the claims for deficiencies in appropriations for institutions and state officers from other claims that were likely to come before the house. After considerable discussion, the motion was dropped. Adjournment followed.

In the house on the 5th Thompson of Clay, fusionist, offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of three to inquire into the number, character, sufficiency and amount of all claims against the state now on file and those during the two years ending November 30, 1898, and to report to this house. It was laid on the table.

The speaker announced the following appointments of employees. Fourth assistant clerk and time-keeper, H. Glasgow; custodian, G. W. Davenport; stenographer and typewriter to chief clerk Mrs. Hattie Fletcher; custodian of cloak room, J. Y. Colper; assistant custodian of cloak room, Theodore Smith; janitors, F. P. Culling, Frank Johnson; assistant doorkeeper, Jerry Wilhelm; assistant postmaster, S. J. Harris; private secretary to the speaker, G. W. Marsh; night watchman, John Licklider and F. W. Koetter; bill clerk, Ed. Morris; assistant, S. S. Skinner; custodian of supplies, G. P. Porter.

Speaker Clark announced the committee on rules as follows: Speaker, Pollard, Prince, Thompson of Merrick, Detweiler, Wheeler and Weaver.

The resolution by Beverly of Douglas, providing that there be at once a sufficient number of employees of the house appointed to transact the business of the body, was adopted.

The motion of Jansen that, when the house adjourns it be to meet Monday at 2 p. m., was agreed to.

The senate was announced and the members, preceded by the lieutenant governor and President Pro Tem, Talbot, came in and were seated with the members of the house, the lieutenant governor being given the gavel by the speaker.

The roll of each house was called and on resolution presented by Senator Noyes, a committee of five was appointed to wait upon the governor and inform him that the joint convention was in session and ready to receive any communication he desired to lay before it. The committee was also directed to invite the governor-elect and state officers-elect to attend the convention.

The supreme court of the state of Nebraska was announced by Sergeant-at-Arms McLeod and immediately after announced the governor and state officers.

Governor Holcomb and Governor-elect Poynter were conducted to places on the clerk's stand and the members of the supreme court seated beside them. Lieutenant Governor Harris introduced Governor Holcomb, who at once proceeded to read his annual message.

The message was a lengthy one, containing seventy-six typewritten pages. It gave a review of the past year, the war with Spain and Nebraska's part in it; the condition of the prosperity of the state and taking up of abandoned farms; the state finances; suspended banks and delinquencies of state officials; investment of trust funds, as shown by the treasurer's report; condition of state institutions; operation of the parole law; management of state prison and benefits of the agricultural experimental station.

Governor Holcomb made the following recommendations: A reduction rate of interest on state warrants to 4 per cent.

The calling of a constitutional convention for revision of the constitution.

Revision or amendment of state revenue laws.

Passage of law for collection of an inheritance tax.

Amendment of tax law which at present allows much property to go untaxed while the poor man pays a high rate in proportion to the rich man, owing to the system of the low valuation.

The transfer of certain funds to the general fund as recommended by the state treasurer.

He asked the passage of a law to remedy it.

Appropriation for current expenses of state institutions.

Enlargement of insane asylums at Lincoln and Hastings and a special building tax to provide for it.

The owning by the state of the home for the friendless at Lincoln.

A larger appropriation for the state university.

That contract labor be restricted to manufacture of those articles needed in state institutions, especially shoes.

The sale of penitentiary lands.

Continuance of the bureau of labor statistics, but a better method of gathering crop statistics, which would require provisions for at least one salaried office.

A law against indiscriminate voting of irrigation bonds.

Amendment of live stock laws, especially with reference to contagious diseases.

A supreme court commission to try cases until amendment of constitution increases number of judges.

Careful investigation and consideration of railroad rates and passes; moderation of maximum freight laws; an elective railroad commission.

Speedy determination of litigation in South Omaha stock yards cases.

The reorganization of the Nebraska national guard.

An appropriation of \$50,000 for prosecution of cases wherein the state is a party, especially cases for recovery of money due the state by defaulting officers or failing banks.

Direct vote for senator.

Erection of an executive mansion.

When Governor Holcomb closed Chief Justice Harrison administered the oath to Governor-elect Poynter and the latter read his message.

The oath was then administered to the other state officers by the chief justice and the joint convention adjourned.

Extra Pay for Volunteers.

At the opening of the session of the house on the 6th inst. Mr. Marsh, republican of Illinois, asked unanimous consent for the consideration of a bill to grant to officers and men of the volunteer army upon their muster-out two months' extra pay if they have served beyond the limits of the United States and one month's extra pay if they have only served within the limits, this extra pay to be in lieu of furlough or leaves of absence. It has been the practice to grant these furloughs or leaves of absence, so that in reality the bill only sought to do directly what has heretofore been done indirectly. After this explanation of it Mr. Bailey announced that he had no objection to the measure. The bill was passed.

Dingley Very Low.

The condition of Representative Dingley of Maine, who has been ill for almost a week with pneumonia, has undergone a marked change for the worse and his physicians hold out little if any hope for recovery. Although the lung has improved considerably and the cough lessened the effect of the pneumonia has so weakened the system as to decrease the vitality alarmingly. The poison from the sickness has permeated the whole system which leaves it less able to stand the strain. Today the patient appeared to be uttering extracts from speeches he had made on the tariff question. He was conscious only when aroused. The physicians say there must be a radical change one way or the other very soon.

State Rights in Germany.

The decision of the Bundesrath that it is competent to deal with the Lippe-Metmold succession dispute is based on the professional opinion of Prof. Kekule von Strudonitz, which differs from the majority. The whole matter will form the subject of a resolution in the reichstag and the freising party will force the government to define how far the Bundesrath or federal council may interfere with sovereign rights of each state of the German empire.

Will Abolish Japanese Labor.

The legislative assembly of Victoria, B. C., onered on the 6th Thomas Forster, member for the Delta, New Westminster district, was chosen speaker. The government had a majority of four. The government policy, indicated by the speech from the throne, includes the abolition of the employment of Japanese in coal mines and legislation to prevent the acquiring of mining claims by aliens.

Trade Booming in Manila.

Advices received at the San Francisco customs house from officials in the customs house at Manila report that trade in the city has received an impetus since American occupation. The receipts at the Manila custom house during November averaged \$29,609 a day in gold and the report states that shipping is on the increase and that the possibilities of commerce are unlimited.

Hearing Boundary Dispute.

Senator Andrade, the Venezuelan minister, has returned to Washington from a vacation in his own country. He expects to go to Paris to attend the meeting of the Venezuelan boundary commission January 25. It is understood, however, that this meeting will be purely formal for purposes of organization and in order to receive the briefs of the counsel on both sides.

The Omnibus Bill.

Congressman Stark, whose omnibus bill appropriating \$100,000 for public buildings in ten of the leading cities of the Fourth congressional district, has been adversely reported upon by Acting Secretary of the Treasury Spaulding, is after both Spaulding and Chairman Mercer of the public buildings and grounds committee, with a sharp stick.

Retirements in the Army.

Several important retirements in the army will occur during the current year. Brigadier General Stanton, paymaster general, will retire on the 30th inst.; Brigadier General Flieger, chief of ordnance, June 24; Brigadier General Sumner in August next and Brigadier General Shafter, October 16.

Don't think hard work kills as many people as worry does.

THE AUDITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cornell Gives Figures in Connection With His Work.

THE STATE'S FINANCES SET FORTH.

All Officials Have Worked in Unison—Recommendations that are Made—Enforcement of the Reciprocal Law.

Auditor Cornell, in his biennial report, says:

"The heads of the various departments of the state have worked in unison of limiting expenditures to the actual needs of the unimpaired government, they have been able to liquidate 738,750.59 of the state debt without increasing the burdens of taxation."

Fees from the insurance companies for the next two years that will be paid into the auditor's office are estimated at \$25,000 per year. The auditor's office is placed in the list of offices that are more than self-sustaining.

The report continues: "My predecessors estimated the expenses for the present biennium at \$3,564,373.87. The appropriations to cover the expenses of this period were \$2,566,842.40, or \$987,530.47 less than the amount asked for. The total available receipts for the two years just ended were \$2,292,960.70. The estimates for appropriations made by the heads of the various departments and institutions, are for the biennium commencing April 1, 1898, \$2,823,239.44. This includes \$210,660 for new buildings, \$125,000 bounty on sugar beets, \$50,000 bounty on wild animals, which have accumulated to the amount of \$50,000 or \$60,000."

"The depository law so far as the state is concerned has proven very satisfactory during the past two years. The accretions to the revenue under the law for said period have been \$28,999.97. I would recommend, however, that the law be so amended as to require the depository to report to the auditor at the end of each month, showing the amount of money held by it during the month, also the several daily balances, the amount of interests accrued, and to what funds credited."

The auditor recommends that telephone property be included in the property which the state board of equalization is required to value and assess. He recommends an amendment to the present law raising the limit of taxation levied by the state board of equalization for the general fund from 5 to 7 mills, thus enabling the board to raise sufficient revenue to cover appropriations. With a constantly decreasing valuation of property as fixed by assessors the state board cannot raise enough by taxation to cover the state's expenses.

The auditor states that he has endeavored to enforce the reciprocal law in relation to insurance companies of other states. All the companies doing business in this state paid an aggregate of \$42,750 in fees during the past two years. A law for the encouragement of home surety companies is recommended.

Attention is called to an unfairness in the reciprocal law. It applies only to companies of other states and not to companies of foreign countries. The law brings in from \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year.

A change in the law reducing sheriff's fees is noted by the auditor. For the two years ending November 1896, \$29,217.06 was paid out under the old law. Under the new law \$15,054.99 was paid out for similar services. This law relates to fees of officers for caring for and delivering criminals and juvenile offenders.

STATE FINANCES. At the close of business November 20, 1898, the liabilities of the state were as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Total \$1,727,389.64. Assets were as follows: Cash in treasury \$624,523.47; Uncollected taxes \$3,483,673.73; Suspended account \$695,240.47; Permanent educational fund investments \$3,580,030.21; Total \$8,523,867.11.

Speaker of the House. Paul F. Clark, the new speaker, was born near Green Lake, in Green Lake county, Wisconsin, thirty-seven years ago. He came from good New York stock. His father was a man of education and culture, and his mother was a niece of the famous novelist, J. Fenimore Cooper. His youth was spent in hard labor on a small rocky farm in the Wisconsin woods. His father died early and until he was nineteen the cares of life rested rather heavily upon him. His opportunities for education were meagre, but he read all of the books to be borrowed in the neighborhood. His tastes went to history and politics, and the people of the township were sure that they would hear from him later in public work. In 1880 his mother sold the old homestead and joined a colony bound for Platte county, Nebraska. The thoroughness with which the young man was transplanted to the new state may be judged from a declaration made last summer when he was visiting the old home that it was a most fortunate change. The free, rich soil of Nebraska was a revelation to the new settlers. As for the certainty of farming in the two states, he declared he had seen more crops "dried out" in Wisconsin than in Nebraska in the same number of seasons.

In 1882 Mr. Clark entered the university of Nebraska, graduating in 1887. During his college course he partially supported himself, but had time to make a good record and at the same time be a leader in all student movements. He studied law in Lincoln, was admitted in 1888, and has since been a member of the firm of Clark and Allen. He was married in 1889 to Miss May Roberts, daughter of a famous Nebraska pioneer Methodist preacher, a young woman of many intellectual accomplishments. Her literary work appears frequently in Youths' Companion and other high class journals. Mr. Clark's legislative experience began two years ago.