THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

A Synopsis of Proceedings in Both Branches of the Twenty-Eighth General Assembly.

SENATE.

The senate, with eighteen members in sight and twenty-seven marked present, held a thirty-minute session on the 14th, beginning at 9 o'clock. This early was chosen so that those who had not gone home would be able to get out of town and the entire thirty-three members would draw pay for a full day. The reading of the journal was cut short. The committee on enrolled and engrossed bills reported that H. R. No. 69, appropriating $28,600 for incidental expenses of the legislature, was taken to the governor Thursday evening at 4 o'clock. Three bills were introduced and read by title, and two senate bills and three house bills were read a second time, and an adjournment was taken until Monday at 2 o'clock. One of the house bills advanced to second reading is to prevent the docking of horses' tails and the others were of little more importance. The following were the bills introduced: S. F. No. 186, by Hall of Douglas, to legalize illegal special assessments levied in the city of Omaha.

S. F. No. 187, by Cox, by request, relating to the removal of guardians.

Jennings of Thayer introduced in the senate on the 16th a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of three to investigate the management of the office of the commissioner of labor and to report finding within ten days. The resolution went over one day. S. F. 65, relating to marks and brands, ordered engrossed. S. F. 98, to prevent mutilation of horses, recommended for passage. H. R. 16, to provide for township organization, recommitted. S. F. 49, providing for school districts in metropolitan cities paying for bond of treasurer. Committee asked leave to sit again. S. F. 120, relating to school lands and funds. H. R. 32, to make five years' contract for purchase of textbooks, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

In the senate on the 17th, senate file No. 169, repealing the free text book law, was reported back from the committee for indefinite postponement. S. F. 142, relating to insurance, and S. F. 85, also relating to insurance, were reported back and placed on general file. Senator Jennings' resolution, asking for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the affairs of the office of the commissioner of labor, was adopted. The chair appointed the following committee to act under the resolution: Senators Jennings, Hasty and O'Neill. The following bill was introduced and read the first time: To provide for and establish a state accountant and to fix a salary therefor, and to define his duties and to declare an emergency existing. Providing that no person shall be considered a qualified teacher who has not reached the age of 17 years, was considered in committee of the whole and reported back for indefinite postponement. Providing that petitioners who ask for more than one special election in one year shall deposit the cost of such election with the city or village clerk, to be forfeited if they fail to carry the proposition which they favor. Repealing the law providing for the payment of bounties for the destruction of wild animals, was reported back with the recommendation that it be indefinitely postponed. Providing the amount of fees to be colected by the secretary of the state board of irrigation, and S. F. 138, relating to the storage of water for irrigation purposes, were considered and reported back to be engrossed for third reading.

In the senate on the 18th S. F. 137—Water rights and irrigation passed. S. F. 49, providing that city treasurer shall be ex-officio treasurer of school board and providing for boards, passed. S. F. 65, relating to marks and brands, passed. S. F. 126, providing that state superintendents shall prescribe general course of study, which school boards may follow. Amended that no change in text books be required. Bill passed. Senate went into a committee of the whole with Sloan of Fillmore in the chair. S. F. 120, realting to school lands, and providing when they shall revert to the state upon non-payment of taxes or interest, amended and ordered engrossed. S. F. 191, by Young (by request)—Joint resolution fixing the amount to be set apart for the erection of a sodhouse and modern farm buildings, showing the progress of Nebraska, as an exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase exposition. Mrs. Louise Bowser wants the state to give her $2,000 out of Louisiana exposition appropriation. She agrees to erect a two-story sodhouse, with a restaurant in lower story, upper story to be open and public, all to cost $20,000. S. F. 192, by Sloan of Fillmore (by request)—Re-enacting representative feature in fraternal societies. S. F. 193, by Marshall of Otoe (by request)—Defining the name and purpose and providing for the government and maintenance of the Nebraska School for the Blind. S. F. 194, by Marshall of Otoe (by request)—Defining the name and purpose and providing for the government and maintenance of the Nebraska School for the

S. F. 142, by Howell of Douglas, had rough sailing in the senate on the 19th and after a long discussion in the committee of the whole no action was taken, the bill to retain its place on general file. The bill provides that before unincorporated mutual companies shall have power to insure outside of the members of the company or to pay officers more than $3 per day or to employ solicitors, the company shall deposit with the state a surety bond for $100,000. Standing committees reported the following bills for general file: Defining desertion of wife, husband or minor child; regarding game and fish commission and season for killing game; no claim for subscription to newspaper or magazine shall be valid except for time ordered; providing that courts may order judgments paid in installments; providing for the supersedeas of cases appealed to supreme court; providing for bonds to be given by parties selling liquor; H. R. 114, providing for the printing of the report of state superintendent, amended that printing be let by state printing board—recommended for passage; H. R. 48, providing for cost of bonds of school board treasurers to be paid by districts—recommended for passage.

HOUSE.

The house convened on the 14th with a bare quorum present. Because of the small attendance, Spurlock of Cass moved to adjourn when the order of bills on third reading should be reached. This prevailed. Rouse of Hall was very anxious to compel the members to labor in committee of the whole, and though many demurred, they were finally compelled to do a little work. H. R. No. 183, by Gregg, was first considered. The measure was amended by Speaker Mockett so it related only to Lincoln reducing the number of members of the school board. The bill was passed over till the amendment might be printed. H. R. No. 143, by Gregg, specifying qualifications for county superintendents, was next on general file. The committee rose without taking action on the bill. Mr. Gregg endeavored to amend the report of the committee by ordering H. R. No. 143 to a third reading. A parliamentary struggle resulted over the attempt to adjourn without acting on Mr. Gregg's motion. A motion to adjourn by Wilson of Pawnee finally prevailed by a vote of 26 to 22. The following bills were introduced in the house on the 14th: H. R. No. 216, by Keetter of Douglas, to amend section 215 of chapter 21 of the criminal code. Relates to the statute concerning keeping gaming fixtures. H. R. No. 217, by Bacon of Dawson, to amend section 59 of article 1, chapter 18, of the statutes of 1901. Relates to the duties of chairmen of board of county commissioners. H. R. No. 218, by Mockett of Lancaster, to provide for the appointment of a board of commissioners to be known as "commissioners of inspection and weighing for the state of Nebraska," and prescribing their compensation, duties and regulations pertaining thereto. H. R. No. 219, by Jones of Otoe, by request, to prevent shooting and injury to pigeons and other birds.

H. R. 202, by Good of Nemaha, appropriating $2,000 out of the state library fund for a library at the Peru Normal, was passed in the house on the 17th, as was also H. R. 37, by McClay of Lancaster, providing for state burial grounds for inmates of Lincoln charitable institutions. H. R. 135, by Tooley of Custer, providing that one-fourth of the school apportionments to the various counties by distribution among them on the basis of the number of school districts instead of pupils, as now, was defeated by a vote of 48 to 41. H. R. 103, by Jones of Otoe, providing for district nominations and election by the people at large of all the county commissioners, was recommended for passage. Bills were introduced as follows: To require street car companies in cities of the metropolitan class and of the first class to operate cars during certain times after midnight, prescribing maximum fares and prohibiting the collection of any fare from any passenger who is not provided with a seat. Requires one car hourly from midnight to 6 a. m. and fixes maximum fare at 3 cents. Fine of $50 to $100 for violation. To entitle registered pharmacists of five years' experience to a renewal of registration without examination. To repeal the law requiring constructors of street railways to obtain the consent of the voters of the municipality before building, without which franchises may not be granted, and to repeal provisions requiring precise route and termini to be named in articles of incorporation, the route not to exceed length of five miles. To authorize the organization of mutual insurance companies to insure property against loss or damage from tornadoes, cyclones and wind storms.

In the house on the 18th H. R. 265, by Burgess of Lancaster, providing for an appropriation of $85,000 to erect a museum and library building by the State Historical society in Lincoln, was recommended for indefinite postponement, as was also H. R. 237, by Gilbert of Douglas, providing for a commission of engine and boiler inspectors. The house took up a special order, the report of the committee on public lands and buildings that the Girls' Industrial home at Geneva be closed, on the plea that there are not enough inmates to justify its maintenance, and that he inmates be removed to the Boys' Industrial school at Kearney. After discussion the report of the committee was tabled. Sweezy moved that two items in the bill approved by the committee be stricken out. These items were $450 for blue books furnished by the State Journal company and $437.50 for bills furnished by Harry Porter. Sweezy claimed that in the first place, the contracts for these supplies ought to be made by the house instead of the secretary of state. He disputed the fairness and justice of both bills, and declared as to the files that, while they cost the house $1.75 each, they were worth not more than 30 cents. The motion was carried. New bills were introduced as follows: To license and provide against the extortion of pawnbrokers and to fix the maximum rate of interest charged by them at 10 per cent per annum, and to provide that pledged articles must be advertised in a newspaper of general circulation for four consecutive weeks before they can be sold. Penalties from $50 to $500. To declare void sales, trades or other disposition of entire stock of goods or merchandise, wholesale or retail, or portions theref, in bulk or otherwise than in the ordinary course of the vendor's business.

The house convened at 2 o'clock on the 19th and immediately went into committee of the whole, considering bills on general file. Among the important bills acted on was H. R. 126, by Davis of Buffalo, providing for a decrease of interest rate on county funds in banks from 3 to 2 per cent and that counties may deposit money within 50 per cent of the capital stock of the bank instead of 30 per cent, as now, and that where banks located in the county refuse or neglect to bid on said money or where there are no banks in the county or none having sufficient capital stock, then any surplus over the 50 per cent that the county may receive shall be deposited in banks outside of the county having sufficient capital stock. This bill was recommended for passage, as was also H. R. 7, by Jahnel of Washington, changing the method of appraising the damages in condemnation proceedings by railroads, and H. R. 51 by Cassel of Otoe, compelling road overseers to open ditches in April and October, and H. R. 148 by Perry of Furnas, allowing uniform fees for sheriffs for service in justice, district and county courts. H. R. 96, by Warner of Lancaster, precipitated the house into a brisk discussion in which Douglas county members, especially Kennedy, figured prominently. It provides that the county supervisor shall be made the county engineer and have charge of all the work devolving upon the latter. It likewise brought up the old bridge bill discussion and Kennedy opposed the bill, and finally secured the adoption of an amendment excluding Dougals county from the operation of the measure, which in its amended form, was recommended for passage.

TELEPHONE INVESTIGATION.

The meeting of the telephone investigation committee developed some excitement. Representative Morsman of Douglas insisted on the right of cross-examination by Morsman. The effect of City Telephone company, who had been brought from Minenapolis by the so-called independent telephone people to testify as to rates. Senator Warner of Dakota, chairman of the committee, denied this right, and then Senators O'Neill, Gibbs and Meredith sided with Morsman and the result was that Judson was subjected to a rigid cross-examination by Morsman. The effect of the cross-examination was not encouraging to the independents, but rather favorable to the Nebraska Telephone side of the controversy. At the conclusion of the meeting Senator Howell of Douglas took occasion to resent a statement made by President Yost of the Nebraska Telephone company that he had come to Lincoln as representative of the Omaha Commercial club.

REAPPORTIONMENT OF JUDGES.

Warner of Dakota is out in a bill to reapportion the state into judicial districts. According to the bill introduced the state will have four less judges than at present, the Omaha district losing one judge. The Lancasted district gains one county. Following are the districts as apportioned under the bill:

First—Johnson, Richardson, Nemaha.
Second—Otoe, Cass, Sarpy.
Third—Douglas, Washington, Burt.
Fourth—Jefferson, Gage.
Fifth—Lancaster, Saunders.
Sixth—Platte, Colfax, Dodge.
Seventh—Boone, Madison, Stanton, Cuming, Thurston, Dakota, Antelope, Pierce, Knox, Cedar, Dixon, Wayne.
Eighth—York, Seward, Polk, Butler.
Ninth—Clay, Fillmore, Saline, Nuckolls, Thayer.
Tenth—Franklin, Webster, Phelps, Kearney, Adams.
Eleventh—Hamilton, Hall, Howard, Merrick, Nance.
Twelfth—Dawson, Buffalo, Sherman, Custer.
Thirteenth—Cherry, Brown, Rock, Holt, Keya Paha, Boyd, Wheeeir, Garfield, Dawes, Box Butte, Sheridan, Sioux, Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Valley, Greeley, Blaine, Loup.
Fourteenth—Scotts Bluff, Banner, Kimball, Cheyenne, Deuel, Logan, McPherson, Lincoln, Keith.
Fifteenth—Chase, Hayes, Hitchcock, Dundy, Red Willow, Furnas, Harlan, Frontier, Gosper.

In the third district there shall be six judges, in the fifth district three judges, in the seventh and thirteenth districts two judges each and in all other districts one judge each.

FOR STATE ACCOUNTANT.

Senator Warner's, S. F. 190, introduced on the 19th, provides that a state accountant shall be appointed by the governor within thirty days after the passage of the act. The appointment shall be confirmed by the board of public lands and buildings. The appointee shall serve two years and draw a salary of $2,000 per year. His duties will be the general supervision of all books, records and accounts of state institutions under the direction of the board of public lands and buildings. All such books and accounts shall be checked at least once a month and a report made to the board. In addition to this he will check and examine all accounts of state officers, boards and bureaus at least once every six months and shall make a report to the governor. He will also look after such other work as may be assigned to him by the governor.

AFTER LABOR COMMISSIONER.

The request of the office of the labor commissioner for an appropriation of $10,430 with which to conduct the affairs of the office for the next two years will likely result in an effort to abolish the office. While very little talk has been indulged in by the senators so far, the following resolution, introduced by Jennings of Thayer, is creating some discussion:

Whereas: There is now, and has been for sixteen years last past, what is known as the office of commissioner of labor in this state; and

Whereas, There is now on file with the committee on finance, ways and means of the senate, a request for an appropriation of $10,430 for the maintenance of said office for the next biennium; and

Whereas, After a hasty investigation by some of the members of said committee into the management of said office as to the amount of money expended and results derived therefrom, the information obtained is far from satisfactory; and

Whereas, Doubt has been expressed by senators and others of the expediency of appropriating money for the further maintenance of said office; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to investigate the management of the office of said commissioner of labor and to report its findings to the senate within ten days.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

Governor Mickey, unless the legislature acts within a few days, will renew his recommendation that provision be made for submitting constitutional amendments to the voters of Nebraska at the next general election. He urged this in his message which he delivered before the legislature at the opening of the session.

A resolution has already passed the senate providing for the calling of a constitutional convention, but even this has not reached the house. The governor, however, is not in favor of a constitutional convention. He will not, therefore, be guided in his actions by this resolution.

Governor Mickey, imbued with the necessity for providing for amendments to the constitution at this session of the legislature, pointed out that but twelve days remain in which a bill or resolution of this character could be introduced, hence his desire for action. Twenty-eight of the forty legislative days in which bills can be introduced are passed. In discussing this matter the governor said:

"There is no question but that we need some amendments to our state constitution. Neither is there any question but that provisions for those amendments should be made by this legislature. It is not my desire or purpose, however, to prod the legislators. They know their business and have the desire and ability to attend to it. I made my recommendations in my message, yet I shall deem it my place to again lay this matter before them if some action is not taken within a few days. I have had the matter under consideration." The governor thinks it would be a mistake for the legislature to provide for a constitutional convention rather than the submission of prosed amendments to be voted on at the next general eceltion."

The house renewed consideration of H. R. 143, by Gregg of Wayne, providing that no one shall be eligible to hold the office of county superintendent of schools who does not hold a first grade teacher's certificate. Mr. Gregg moved that his bill be engrossed for the third reading. Douglas of Rock opposed the bill, arguing that many of the counties in the western part of the state were without first grade certificate teachers and therefore, if this bill was passed, it would impose the necessity of importing persons for county superintendent. Bartow of Valley thought this was an argument for the bill. Spurlock of Cass made a forcible speech in favor of the bill, urging the importance of raising the educational standard. Gregg's motion finally carried by a vote of 50 to 25. These bills were passed: Appropriating $10,000 from the unexpended board and colthing fund of the Norfolk asylum to the maintenance of patients removed from that to the Lincoln asylum. Permitting the small printer to bid on any state work in separate items he can furnish, instead of as at present, letting the printing out in bulk. This is the so-called anti-printing trust bill. Strengthening the powers of county commissioners and supervisors in the suppression of contagious and infectious diseases. To provide county treasurers with a seal. Providing the school teachers, principals and superintendents shall not receive their full term's pay until they shall have made the full report required by law.

NELSON'S BILL DOOMED.

It is said that Representative Nelson's negotiable instrument bill is doomed to postponement. The measure is a long one codifying the laws relating to paper of this character. It is a copy of the Ohio law and in many ways is a good measure It is meeting the objections made against all radical changes. The members have not time to study it carefully, and besides the citizens are against innovations no matter how good they may be. Representative Jouvenat of the committee on banks and currency is in doubt whether to give the measure his support and others have so indicated. The measure is on the statutes of twenty-two states of the union at the present time.

Glory has't any credit at the bank.

Campfire Tales

Our Boys.

Whether they wore the Union Blue, in the deadly civil fray;
Or gave their lives in the grand old fight, when the nation was born in a day;
Wherever they wait the angel's trump to time's remotest hours,
They are love of our love, our loved and our own,
Our boys, eternally ours.

Whether the palms of far Luzon whisper above their graves;
Or their ceaseless requiem is sung by the sunny Cuban waves;
Wherever they wait the reveille however the future lowers,
We will never forget, we will claim them yet,
Our boys, eternally ours.

Whether they pillow weary heads on the homeland's faithful breast;
Or in unknown caves of the stormy deep they have laid them down to rest;
Wherever they sleep on land or sea, desert or shady bowers,
While the old flag waves we will garland their graves,
Our boys, eternally ours.

And who shall say they have died in vain? O, traitors and faint of heart!
Poor curs who snarl at heroic deeds where they dare not take a part;
'Tis Godlike to give up life for right, richest of human dowers,
And to all earth's days they have won our praise,
Our boys, eternally ours.

Wither the hand that seeks to pluck one leaf of their laurels won;
Palsy the tongue that lisps a word to dim the deeds they have done;
For we swear by the flag to which they died, and by all God's given powers
We will cherish each name, we will guard their fame,
Our boys, eternally ours.

Indianans at Chickamauga.

At Chickamauga, one of the most fearful fields of all the war, Indiana raised her starry banners high. She had thirty-nine organizations represented; she opened the battle; she fired the last shot; she captured and held the only Confederate battery that met that fate; she at one point saved the Union army; she gave of her most distinguished sons and many went to their last rest upon this field; she lost 3 per cent of her troops engaged and she bore one-fifth the entire Federal loss.

A roster of her sons almost writes Chickamauga's history, John T. Wilder, Jefferson C. Davis, John M. Brannan, E. M. McCook, Benjamin F. Scribner, William Grose, Joseph J. Reynolds, August Willich, Morton E.

Monument to the Seventy-fifth.

Hunter, Edward A. King, James A. Mount, Philemon Baldwin, George P. Buell, George F. Dick, H. V. Lawton, Charles Cruft Robinson, Joseph B. Dodge—these are but a few names graven on Indiana's shield.

And fittingly has the state paid tribute to her heroes. Upon Chickamauga's slopes there are thirty-nine monuments and seventy-six markers to show the positions held by her gallant regiments. In every part of the field may be seen her distinctive stone.

The Seventy-fifth Regiment, Indiana Infantry, was of King's Brigade, and its monument stands in the Poe field. Col. Milton S. Robinson and Lieut.-Col. William O'Brien were in command.—Indianapolis News.

All's Fair in War.

"My conscience has always hurt me just a bit about a little thing that happened at Helena, Ark., during the war," said a white-haired veteran, while musing over some of the sidelights of the '60s, "and I do not mind telling you in a confidential way that I have prayed over it a good many times. Price was skirmishing round in the hills back of Helena at the time. The Confederate lines were in bad shape. They needed provisions, clothing and a few other things. There was a certain merchant in Helena who had been doing a deal of smuggling, and I had been keeping pretty well up with him. Here was my chance. I told him he could sell some goods down below town if he could get out of Helena with them, and I offered to help him do it. He had a large yawl which he has pressed into service before, and it did not take me a great length of time to convince him that we could use this yawl to advantage. He fell right into the plan. One night we loaded the boat down with an assorted cargo, clothing, food, and other things which the merchant had in stock. At that time you couldn't hardly get away from the soldiers, but we managed to get out into the river without making much noise. It was a very dark night.

When we had reached the current of the stream I suggested to the merchant that we lay down in the boat until we had drifted down below the city. We allowed the current to drive us several miles below the city, in fact, as far down as I wanted to go, for I knew exactly where the Confederate soldiers were camped. We pulled into a small bayou and started to tie up. Suddenly a squad of men swooped down on us and placed us under arrest. Then they began to unload the boat. The merchant did not seem to care so much about the $2,000 worth of goods he had in the yawl and which the soldiers had confiscated. He told me we were in great danger of being shot, but I consoled him by saying that I would fix up a scheme to escape. That night a squad was named to watch us until daylight. About 3 a. m. I nudged the merchant and told him the soldiers were asleep and we could get away. At first he was afraid of being shot, but I persuaded him that it was safe, and we skedaddled. I never saw a man run so in my life, and I was so tickled all the while that I could scarcely keep from letting the cat out of the bag.

"Up to this day that fellow feels that he owes his life very largely to me, when I had deliberately laid the scheme to rob him of a boatload of goods for the benefit of the Confederacy, and I have often debated the moral aspect of the question in my own mind. But I suppose all things are fair in war. Besides, the motive was to help the suffering Confederate soldiers and not to hurt and harm the merchant.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

The Park of Chickamauga.

From the observation tower on Snodgrass Hill (its upper platform seventy feet high) the entire park of Chickamauga may be seen, and an excellent idea gained of a battle, which has not an equal in the annals of war; though now tourists in tallyhos and citizens in carriages and traps of every description ride where cavalry charged and cannon roared. The bugle's sound breaks again upon the ear, but it is the blue uniform only that answers, not Joe Wheeler's gray-clad men nor A. P. Stewart's invincible riders. The troops of the Seventh ride and drill. The regimental band makes martial music. On the great parade the scene is now all life and beauty in lieu of death and desolation.

Chickamauga presents interesting features to the student of military history. No battle field in the world is so accurately marked, yet no battle field in the world ever presented or ever will present the confusion of such swaying, fighting lines, the face to face, hand to hand conflict of its ground. This absolute accuracy is due to the careful co-operation of the participants on both sides. North and South have united in preserving a correct history of the encounter. And to the skill and ability of the courteous Everard E. Betts, engineer in charge, much is also due.

Leaving the park you may take Rosecran's route to Chattanooga, where he entrenched himself after the battle, and where Grant succeeded to the command of the army. Fine old trees in different parts of the town shade the homes marked "headquarters" of the various officers. With this exception the foliage all over town and suburbs is of new growth. For this we are indebted to the soldier boys. They swept town and forests clean in that bitter cold two months between the battles of Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge.

Cries "Let Me In."

In the village cemetery at Tylerville, Conn., civil war veterans have year by year on Memorial Day placed a wreath to the memory of Private George Waterhouse. The records show that he was shot in 1864 while fighting for the Stars and Stripes in Louisiana.

He left an aged father and mother and a younger brother, Frank, when he went to the front with the Twenty-fourth Connecticut volunteers in 1863. The regiment was assigned to Gen. Bank's command and was in the Red river campaign. Frank Waterhouse, since the death of his parents, has kept up the old homestead. He was aroused by a knock at the door one night last week.

"Frank Waterhouse, let me in!" called a voice, shaking with emotion. "I am your brother George."

Frank opened wide the door. Despite the silvered hair of the man who entered Frank recognized the big brother to whom he had waved good-by thirty-eight years ago, and their hands clasped. George said that he had been left for dead on a Louisiana battlefield, but some negroes found him, and, observing that life was not extinct, they changed his uniform for one of gray, took him to a cabin, and nursed him back to health. He changed his name and drifted to Texas, where he started a cattle ranch and became prosperous.

Later he settled in Pennsylvania. There came to him recently a longing to see his old home. He will spend several weeks with his brother, and will then return to Texas to inspect his ranch.

Wearing Gen. Lee's Socks.

The discipline of Gen. Lee's socks was an "institution" peculiar to our hospital. Mrs. Lee, it is well known, spent most of her time in making gloves and socks for the soldiers. And she gave me, at one time, several pairs of Gen. Lee's old socks so darned that we saw they had been well worn by our hero. We kept these socks to apply to the feet of those laggard "old soldiers" who were suspected of preferring the "luxury" of hospital life to the activity of the field. And such was the effect of the application of these warlike socks that even a threat of it had the result of sending a man to his regiment who had lingered months in inactivity. It came to be a standing joke in the hospital, infinitely enjoyed by the men. If a poor wretch was out of his bed over a week he would be threatened with "Gen. Lee's socks;" and through this means some most obstinate cases were cured. Four of the most determined rheumatic patients, who had resisted scarifying of the limbs, and what was worse, the smallest and thinnest of diets, were sent to their regiments and did good service afterward. With these men the socks had to be left on several hours, amid shouts of laughter from the 'assistants," showing that though men may withstand pain and starvation they succumb to ridicule.—Emily V. Mason in Atlantic.

Strange Battle Experiences.

"Governor Tod," said the colonel, "organized as many new regiments in his two years in office as any other state executive. He contributed greatly to the good of the service by appointing to the new regiments officers who had seen service in older regiments. For example, Capt. Opdycke of the 41st Ohio was made colonel of the 125th Ohio, which became known in our division as Opdycke's Tigers. And they were good fighters. That reminds me that one of the Tigers received what he called a jolt, that put him out of the Tiger business for half an hour.

"This was at Buzzard's Roost, May 11, 1864. The Tiger had just raised his Springfield rifle to his shoulder, and after taking aim was just ready to pull the trigger when a musket ball fired from a rebel gun entered the muzzle of his own rifle. The effect was to paralyze his arms and his rifle dropped to the ground. On the same day Julius Byers of Co. K, 52d Ohio, was struck by a musket ball which passed through both elbow joints, the shock to the brain producing instant death. The doctors regarded the case as one of the strangest in their experience."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Bird That Traps Bees.

A remarkable bird found in Mexico is the bee-martin, which has a trick of ruffling up the feathers on the top of its head into the exact semblance of a beautiful flower, and when a bee comes along to sip honey from the supposed flower it is snapped up by the bird.

Horticulture

Pear Trees and Blight.

A non-blighting pear tree is a thing greatly to be desired. Blight is more common on the pear tree than on any other tree bearing large fruits. So destructive has it been that in many states farmers and orchardists have almost despaired of raising pears profitably. This is particularly the case in Illinois, Wisconsin and adjacent states. Some of the pear growers in the states named declare that every bushel of pears they have sold has cost far more than they were able to get for it. At every meeting in which pear-growing is discussed the question of blight is the most engrossing one. If some one will find a preventive for pear blight he will revolutionize the pear-growing business in the United States.

There are a good many experimenters at work on the problem. Some are attempting to develop seedling pear trees that shall be blightless. Others are endeavoring to find seedling pear trees that have been able to resist the blight till old age, which is considered a good promise of blight resistant properties in trees developed from their scions. Among pears that have held out great promise of being blight resistant are the Seckel, the Lincoln and the Sudduth. It was for a long time believed that the Seckel was absolutely blight proof. A man in Indiana some years ago told the writer that he was about to set out 50,000 Seckel pear trees, as he knew they were absolutely blight proof. He expected to make a fortune off them. Though this immunity was claimed for the Lincoln pear tree, it is reported to have blighted quite badly in some localities. The Sudduth yet remains to be tested, over wide areas. It has proved to be blight proof in its native location, in Sangamon county, Illinois, where the parent tree has stood for upward of 80 years. Some of the trees developed from its scions have stood the test for about 60 years. We have strong hopes that this pear may prove to be absolutely blight proof. Up to the present time we have heard no bad reports concerning it. If demonstrated to be absolutely blight proof it will prove a great boon to pear growers.

The work of producing seedlings should also be carried on extensively. Out of the millions of seedlings grown may come at least one that will be hardy enough to resist all attacks of fungi.—Farmers' Review.

The Peach Orchard.

H. L. Doan of Jacksonville, Illinois, read a paper at the Illinois State Horticultural Convention in which he said:

Peach trees are set when not more than one year from bud. The distance apart varies with different growers. The usual distance is twenty feet apart each way. Trees planted this distance are easily cultivated and heading in may not be necessary. Some growers plant closer and by giving extra tillage and fertilizing, force trees to bear young and by the time the trees begin to crowd the orchard has paid for itself and some of the trees may be removed. I would not advise this plan for general purposes. Peach orchards should not be cropped after the third year. Very frequent stirring of the ground from May until August is the best general plan of tillage. Never seed down a peach orchard or sow it to grain. It is easy to produce an overgrowth on strong lands. These trees bear tardily and in some cases are not productive. They run to wood. Peaches which overgrow are likely to suffer in winter. The best results we had last year were from peach trees set in moderately rich ground planted to potatoes the first year, and after that given clean culture with spading disk without being cropped. The peach responds most kindly to good culture, and makes rapid growth. We have not used any fertilizer on our trees, as growth has been very satisfactory. I notice last year that some trees planted on ground which had been manured heavily before planting bore very little fruit; they had made too strong a growth and had devoted all their energy to making wood; very few fruit buds showing up on these trees, which were the most flourishing looking on the place, whilst all other trees on the place were too full. Some trees planted near the house and seeded down to grass after the first year had to be fertilized before they came into bearing; the fertilizer used was droppings from the henhouse which proved very satisfactory and gave good results.

Wisconsin Horticultural Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Association will be held in the capitol at Madison February 3 to 6. That the convention will be a good one is assured by the program which contains the following:

New varieties of apples—F. H. Chappel; Apples Safe to Plant in Wisconsin, A. C. Tuttle; Crab Seedlings for Apple Root Grafts, A. D. Barnes; Commercial Orcharding in Wisconsin, J. G. Buehler; Commercial Orcharding, Geo. T. Tippin; Failure of Apples, A. J. Phillips; Seedlings to Grow and Test, F. K. Phoenix; Pollination, C. L. Miller; Vegetable Growing Under Glass, A. C. McLean; Care of the Farm Orchard, J. C. Shottier; Starting a Young Orchard, Bonzelet; Our Native Plums, Frank Stark; Blight, Frederick Cranefield; Plant Breeding, A. T. Irwin; Tree Digging, M. S. Kellogg; Growing Vegetables, John Vanloon; Strawberry Culture, J. P. Reasoner; How to Grow Pears, J. L. Schultz. We hope to see many readers of the Farmers' Review present at the meeting.

F. W. Taylor Chief of Horticulture.

A communication from the Louisiana Purchase Exposition says: Announcement is made by the Executive Committee of the World's Fair to be held in St. Louis in 1904, that Mr. Frederic W. Taylor, who has been acting chief for the past year, is to be chief of the department of horticulture dating from January 1. This in addition to the appointment made more than a year ago by which Mr. Taylor has been and is to continue chief of the department of agriculture. It seems desirable to have these two great departments handled as a harmonious whole, since the buildings to house them are located upon and occupy exclusively a large and high hill in the most commanding position on the exposition grounds. The building devoted to horticulture will cover six acres and the one devoted to agriculture twenty acres. Surrounding these two buildings are forty-one acres of ground, the entire area of which has been placed in the hands of the chief for planting and treatment.

Agriculture

Canada Thistles.

Some of the earlier American botanists held the opinion that while the Canada thistle had doubtless been introduced into New England from Europe, it was probably indigenous in western Canada. It now appears very improbable that it is indigenous anywhere on the American continent. It was evidently introduced into the French settlements in Canada earlier than into the English and Dutch colonies of New England and the Middle States. It is reported to have been found about the residences of French missionaries in Canada early in the seventeenth century. There is a tradition that it was purposely introduced into Canada by the French for feeding swine; but there appears to be no just ground for this tradition, as there is no record that thistles were ever used to any considerable extent as food for swine in Europe. It is said to have been introduced into eastern New York with the hay and camp equipage of Burgoyne's army in 1777. It probably reached Vermont at the same time or previously, as it was recognized as a troublesome weed in that state earlier than in New York. The farmers of Vermont had become so greatly alarmed by its progress that a law was passed by the legislature in 1795 directing its destruction on all lands within the state. In 1813 the legislature of New York passed a law authorizing certain towns to pay rewards for its destruction. These laws were well enforced at first, as they were passed at the request of the farmers directly interested. But the farmers soon learned that the thistle could be controlled, and then their alarm ceased and with it their interest in the complete extermination of the plant.

Storing Seed Corn.

A communication from the Iowa Experiment Station says:

Owing to the extremely wet season followed in many sections by an early frost, the problem of seed corn for 1903 is of unusual importance. Those who save seed corn from their own fields should take unusual precautions to thoroughly dry and store in a well ventilated place. There are many different methods of storing seed corn, but the experiments which have been conducted by the station indicate:

1st. That it is not advisable to harvest immature corn and place in a warm room, as there is danger that the corn will begin to germinate as a result of the moisture and warmth.

2nd. That corn intended for seed should be allowed to thoroughy mature on the stalk or in the shock before husking.

3rd. That the best results are obtained when stored in a dry and thoroughly ventilated place.

4th. That cold does not injure the vitality of corn when it is thoroughly dried and kept dry, but on the other hand, if allowed to gather moisture, freezing will reduce the vitality and may destroy it entirely.

5th. That it is unwise to store seed corn in barrels or boxes,as it will gather moisture. Corn often contains a great deal of moisture, even though it appears to be thoroughly dry. This is especially true during the fall and early winter months.

The one thing that seems to be the most esential in the storing of seed corn is thorough ventilation.

Nitrogen Gatherers.

Bulletin 76 of the Illinois station says: The investigations of Atwater in America, Boussingault and Ville in France, Hellriegel, Willfarth and Nobbe in Germany, Lawes and Gilbert in England, et al., have fully established the scientific facts: (1) that leguminous plants, as the clovers, peas, beans, vetches, alfalfa, etc., have the power to gather or accumulate free nitrogen from the atmosphere; (2) that this fixation of free nitrogen is actually accomplished by microscopic organisms called bacteria which live in little nodules or tubercles, upon the roots of the legumes; and (3) that for different species of leguminous plants, there are also different species of "nitrogen gathering" bacteria. Many investigations have also been conducted to determine the amounts of nitrogen which can be fixed by different leguminous plants, but these experiments have actually been carried on in pure sand cultures under conditions which necessitate that all nitrogen which the legumes secures must be obtained from the air. There is abundance of evidence that leguminous plants secure some nitrogen from the air when grown in ordinary soil, if they are provided with the bacteria. Indeed, the presence of the tubercles upon the roots is one of the evidences that free nitrogen is being fixed, and another evidence of that fact is found in the beneficial effects of clover and other legumes in crop rotations.

National Crop Reports.

In accordance with a request of congress, the Secretary of Agriculture has submitted a report on the advisability of consolidating the Weather Bureau and the Bureau of Crop Statistics. In part he says: "I have examined in detail the workings of the Weather Bureau and of the Division of Statistics in this department, and as a result of such examination I have the honor to report that it is in advisable to consolidate with the Weather Bureau the work of this department relating to the gathering and compilation of crop reports and statistics. I find no duplication of the work of the Weather Bureau in the Division of Statistics nor of that of the Division of Statistics in the Weather Bureau. The work of the Weather Bureau is wholly meteorological and that of the Division of Statistics wholly statistical. The Weather Bureau has in its employ no statisticians or statistical experts, and the transfer of the statistical work of the department to that bureau would inevitably result in a subordination of that work to meteorology that would be mischievous in the extreme."

It has become an established fact in agriculture that the continued growth for successive years of the same kind or family of plants on the same soil is one of the surest and most speedy means of impairing, and, in many cases, rendering that particular soil unfit for bearing further crops of that kind.

Coal ashes have been known to benefit certain heavy soils by rendering them lighter and more porous, but do not in themselves possess much value for fertilizing purposes.

Turkeys are innocent birds; almost and silly woman can stuff them.

Dairy

Care of Skimmilk.

In the creamery the care of skimmilk by the farmers is of prime importance to the creamery managers. It is all very well for the patrons to say that is not the creamery managers' business to tell them how they should handle their skimmilk, but it is nevertheless his business to a very considerable extent. The manner of handling the skimmilk will directly affect the quality of the sweet and whole milk delivered to the creamery. This may be put down as a constant principle. When one hundred patrons haul home skimmilk in their cans some of them are morally certain to leave it in the cans for hours and to imperfectly wash out the cans after the skimmilk is removed. Unless this skimmilk has been pasteurized, it will be developing bacteria during all this time of waiting. If the cans are allowed to contain skimmilk ten or twelve hours the good and bad bacteria will be multiplied by the millions. The cans will be washed out, but indifferently, and will then be used to convey the new milk. On the way to the creamery this new milk will be given a "starter" from the seams of the cans where the sour, bitter or putrid milk bacteria had lodged. If out of the hundred patrons only two or three farmers thus handle their milk the damage is yet great. The milk of all is contaminated by the milk of the few careless ones. The bad flavors ripen in the cream and the flavor of the butter is "off."

So it is the business of the creamery manager to see that the skimmilk is properly taken care of. Some have suggested that at every creamery where whole milk is received there should be an arrangement for feeding the skimmilk to swine instead of sending it back to the farms. This is done in some places and that successfully. It eliminates one factor of milk contamination.—Farmers' Review.

After Separating.

J. W. Newman: Every butter maker should see that his separator runs smoothly and with regular speed, and that as near as possible to the speed intended for that particular machine, which is usually stamped on the bowl. It is not wise to run any separator much faster owing to the danger of injuring the bearings or bursting the bowl. As soon as separation is complete the separator should be thoroughly washed, getting every particle out of the crevices, and then have it thoroughly blown out with live steam, so that all parts coming in contact with milk or cream will be perfectly sterile. The heat absorbed by the bowl will then cause all dampness to vaporize, thus leaving all parts dry and free from danger of rusting.

Immediately after separation the cream should be cooled down to about 70 degrees. Always have ready a good pasteurised skim-milk starter to put into cream when separation is finished so as to set up the desired fermentation, and to overcome the evil eff