

# Lincoln Letter

Current Gossip from the  
STATE CAPITAL  
Legislative and Otherwise

H. R. 264, by McMullen of Gage, appropriating \$180,000 from the general fund of the state for the erection of a woman's building, a horticultural building and other structures at the agricultural farm, was placed on general file. Inasmuch as the committee is not favorable to the appropriation of \$100,000 for the erection of a wing at the Kearney normal school, there is liable to be a big fight on the appropriation for the university. It is said there will be less than 250 pupils enrolled at the agricultural farm next year, while there is liable to be 1,300 at the Kearney normal school. Inasmuch as there is over \$1,000,000 to be appropriated for the Lincoln institution, there is some feeling that an even distribution is not being made. Some contend that no appropriation for the university should be made out of the general fund, as the one mill levy will be sufficient under proper management to meet all the requirements of the institution.

The house on Friday recommended for passage the joint committee primary bill, rushed it through committee of the whole and then passed S. F. No. 5, by Gibson, the employers' liability bill. Indefinitely postponed Harvey's legislative annexation bill and recommended the Lev annexation bill for passage, while the senate side-tracked the joint committee anti-pass bill and recommended the King anti-pass bill, with amendments, for passage. They also submit to a vote the question of a constitutional convention.

After devoting two sessions of the committee of the whole to it the senate in committee recommended for passage King's anti-pass bill as a substitute for the joint committee bill recently passed by the house. As finally amended the bill is not quite as stringent as the house bill, but is much more severe than the King bill was originally. As it was introduced it was modeled after the national law on the subject, but as the senate finally recommended it, it is more stringent than the national law. The house measure was not considered.

The state conventions of next year probably will be confronted with the proposition of indorsing or turning down amendments to the constitution enlarging the membership of the supreme court to seven members, fixing the salaries at \$4,500 and of district judges at \$3,000, and to permit the legislature to designate methods of appeal to the supreme court. Since the decision of the supreme court that amendments may be voted on by straight party ballot the greatest difficulty of amending the constitution has been done away with.

Some objections have been raised to H. R. 422, a bill to impose a license fee on all corporations doing business in this state which are organized under the laws of Nebraska or under the laws of any other state. The annual license ranges from \$5 to \$200 and it is believed by the friends of the bill that it will raise \$150,000 annually to help pay the expenses of the state. The fee is based on capital stock of the corporation to be taxed. The bill was introduced in the senate by the senate judiciary committee and a duplicate was introduced in the house.

In the suit of the state against the State Journal company to recover \$85,000 alleged to represent the price of court reports which the defendant is charged with selling, the supreme court denied the motion of the state to amend its petition. Two former decisions were against the state in this suit, the court holding that the court reports were not the property of the state, that the reporter of the court sells copies of the opinions to various publications and that anyone is privileged to publish them.

After two hours of strenuous discussion the senate in committee of the whole recommended for passage the Burns pure food bill. The only attack on the measure was in the interests of the druggists, who were represented on the floor of the senate by Senator Luce of Harlan, who is in the business. The principal difficulty came in amending section 9, which originally required all patent and proprietary medicines containing poisonous substances to be labeled in large red letters.

Governor Sheldon has signed S. F. 114, by Thomas of Douglas, known as the bulk sales bill, an act to prevent merchants from selling their stocks of goods without notice to creditors. The bill has no emergency clause.

The employers' liability bill as introduced in the senate by Gibson and passed by that branch of the legislature was passed in the house and is ready for the governor's signature. There were three bills of almost identical wording on this subject in the legislature. They were by Gibson in the senate and by McMullen and Cone in the house. The Gibson bill departs from the provisions of the other two in that it applies only to railroad men engaged in the operation of trains. It is the fellow servant act almost the same as passed by congress.

The Quackenbush reciprocal demurrage bill with a number of railroad committee amendments will be made the special order of business for Tuesday of this week. Mr. Quackenbush asked for this privilege because of great importance of the measure.

Copies of the resolution adopted by the senate in commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the admission of Nebraska to the union are to be generally circulated by the legislature. The senate ordered 500 copies for distribution.

The 2-cent fare bill, signed by the governor and now in effect, was drafted by a joint committee comprising senators and members of the legislature. Senator Witse of Cedar was one who put in a great deal of time looking up the legality of the proposed measure. The bill is merely amendatory of the present statute, which fixes the passenger rates at 2 cents a mile. The bill changes the word "three" to "two." In addition, there is inserted a clause which states that no railroad shall be required to sell a ticket for less than 5 cents. This was put in to apply to interurban lines and to the sale of tickets on roads where stations are less than one mile apart. The bill changes the age at which half fare rates shall apply from children under 10 years to children under 12 years, which is now the rule in force on all roads in this state.

An argument which has been industriously circulated to defeat the terminal taxation bill has been the declaration that it would impose double taxation upon the railroads in counties under township organization, and therefore be unlawful, or else knock the townships out of their proper share of taxes. That statement is effectively met with a decision of the supreme court of Indiana, which will be offered by Clarke of Douglas in his fight for the passage of the terminal taxation bill. The court holds there with respect to a similar law that the fact that property is taxed in a township cannot release the railroad from paying its just share of taxes for municipal purposes to the town which may lie wholly within the precincts of that township.

The home insurance companies of the state won their battle in the senate when they succeeded in killing S. F. No. 212, a bill by Aldrich of Butler county, providing for an annual accounting and apportioning of the surplus of life insurance companies doing business in the state. The home companies contended throughout the insurance fight that this bill would bar them from competing with eastern companies in other states because of the reciprocal insurance laws which prevent an insurance company writing in any state a policy not permissible in the home state.

Without giving it a hearing before the committee of the whole the senate killed H. R. 175, which provided for the assessment of real estate mortgages as a part of the real estate and not as personal property, and fixed the statute of the mortgage for taxation purposes as the county within which the mortgage is located and not the residence of the owner. The revenue committee reported the bill for indefinite postponement, and McKesson, who has a similar bill in the senate, made a fight to have the bill placed on general file.

Efforts to revive the defunct provision of the Gibson anti-brewery bill and incorporate it in another measure pending in the senate were promptly set down upon by a majority of the senators. The provision was to limit the number of saloons to one for every 1,000. The bill under consideration was S. F. No. 295, by Patrick, to prevent the location of saloons within three miles of military reservations. The only amendments adopted were one to include Indian reservations and to exclude Fort Omaha from the provisions of the act.

Governor Sheldon permitted H. R. No. 116 to become a law without his signature. The bill provides that reporters in district courts shall receive 10 cents a page for making transcripts in criminal cases where the defendant makes an affidavit of poverty.

The senate in committee of the whole recommended for passage Senator Sackett's bill relating to the transportation of coal in transit by railroads. The bill requires the roads to pay the value of the coal within sixty days.

The senate indefinitely postponed S. F. No. 403, by Hamer of Cherry, an act to regulate precincts, townships, cities or villages to issue bonds in aid of steam railroads.

A bill by Marsh of Seward to compel Christian scientist healers to report contagious diseases to health authorities was recommended to pass after a sharp contest in the house.

Patrick's bill providing a new trial shall not be granted in criminal cases for error of the court where it is shown there has been no miscarriage of justice was recommended for passage in the senate after a lively fight against it led by King of Polk. The bill is intended to prevent the reversal of cases for mere technicalities which do not affect the merits of the case. King spoke against it declaring it was prejudicial to the interests of the defendant in criminal cases and virtually allowed the judges to say whether justice had been done or not.

A prohibition amendment to the constitution will not be submitted to the people for ratification at the polls next year. The prohibitionists were unsuccessful in their efforts to resuscitate S. F. No. 399, previously postponed.

Forcible annexation of South Omaha and Omaha died without a struggle in the house. At the same time the bill to put the question to a vote of the people of both cities was advanced by the committee of the whole to third reading and will probably pass.

Following is the senate sifting committee, who will get busy at once in weeding out unimportant measures: First district, Root of Cass; second, Thomas of Douglas; third, Witse of Cedar; fourth, Aldrich of Butler; fifth, Epperson of Clay; sixth, Phillips of Holt; at large, Clarke of Adams.

The Adams delegation to instruct the Nebraska delegation to get busy for the purpose of saving for Nebraska Fort Robinson and to have it changed to a brigade post was unanimously carried in the house.

# Mayor McClellan of Gotham



The right of Hon. George E. McClellan to the majority of Greater New York has been under litigation for over two years, but he still occupies the seat.

# HARD COAL CENTENARY

TO BE CELEBRATED BY WILKESBARRE, PA., NEXT YEAR.

Anthracite First Burned in Open Grate on February 11, 1808—Supposed Original Fireplace Found to Be a Duplicate.

Wilkesbarre, Pa.—On February 11, 1908, Wilkesbarre is to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the day on which anthracite coal was first burned in an open grate. Incidentally the ruthless searcher after facts has shown that what was supposed to be history was merely tradition, for it has been ascertained that the original grate is not now in existence and that the grate now carefully preserved in the Fell House in Wilkesbarre as the original is a duplicate which was placed in the original fireplace in 1878.

Before the experiment made by Judge Jesse Fell in his tavern in Wilkesbarre and Easton turnpike,

now Northampton street, anthracite coal was held to be of little value, for it was thought that it would not burn, except under forced draught. By burning anthracite in an open grate Judge Fell opened the way to an industry which now gives employment to 168,000 men, who produced 60,000,000 tons of anthracite annually, and which has given millions of dollars in royalties to the owners of the lands.

Just 50 years after his experiment four young men were traveling toward Wilkesbarre. One of them was a grandson of Judge Fell. He had that day been reading in an old copy of a well known Masonic book an account of the experiment made by his grandfather. When he mentioned it one of the members of the party recalled that the experiment had been made just 50 years before. The young men determined that something must be done to celebrate the occasion.

When they arrived in Wilkesbarre they called a public meeting, to be held in the same old tavern in which

Judge Fell made his experiment. The four young men were James Flater Dennis, a grandson of Judge Fell; Henry Martyn Hoyt, afterward governor of Pennsylvania; John Butler Conyngham and Stanley Woodward, afterward a leading lawyer of the state.

Thus they became the founders of the Wyoming Historical and Geological society. It is this organization that now proposes to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the experiment of Judge Fell.

It was at a meeting of the society that the facts concerning the old Jesse Fell grate were learned. A paper on "Where is the grate on which Jesse Fell made his successful experiment of burning anthracite coal?" was read before the meeting by Rev. H. E. Hayden.

Mr. Hayden has come to the conclusion that the original grate is not now in existence, and that "the only well authenticated grate extant belonging to Judge Fell" is that heretofore known as the Kierman or Eick grate and now in the possession of the society.

Concerning the original grate as many as six statements are made. The first is that the grate was made of hickory withes. Mr. Hayden declares this untrue.

Next comes the Marble grate, so called because its claims were first put forth by Col. J. M. C. Marble, president of the First National bank of Los Angeles. He states that while visiting his grandfather at Wyoming he was told the story of Judge Fell's experiment.

According to this story some iron bars were set in the old chimney, which is still in existence in the Fell house, bricks were piled in front and on the sides and on the iron bars a fire of hickory wood was built. Coal was then procured and placed on the fire, and it burned nicely.

Judge Fell was so pleased, the story continues, that he took out this grate and had another more substantial one made on the following day. This, then, disposes of the original grate.

In 1838 there was no grate in the fireplace. The projectors of the historical society secured from a Mr. Carpenter an old grate which had been used by Judge Fell and placed it in the fireplace for this celebration. The old grate was worn out, and whether it was the one made by Judge Fell after his first experiment or what became of it afterward is not known.

Later in Judge Fell's life he married a widow named Culver. When in 1830 they moved from the old Fell house they took the grate with them, and this is the grate now in the possession of the Historical society.

The old grate now in the original fireplace at the Fell house, was, according to Capt. Calvin Parsons placed in the fireplace by him in 1878 when a centennial celebration was held for the Wyoming massacre.

When in 1906 the original tavern was torn down the old fireplace and chimney were preserved intact and now occupy a place of honor in the new building.

# MAIL-ORDER WAYS

A BAD ADVERTISEMENT FOR CATALOGUE HOUSES.

# AT SCHOOL OF EXPERIENCE

Sooner or Later It Teaches Every Mail Order Patron the Error of Sending His Money from Home.

The methods of the mail-order houses are their worst advertisement. Sooner or later there will come a time in the experience of every purchaser of their goods when he will wish "he hadn't done it," when he will wish he had spent his money with his home merchants. This is not only because he will see the ruin wrought in his own community by the nefarious practice of sending the money of the community to the city, but also because of the practices of the mail order concerns.

The story in the catalogue sounds well. It sounds like you would get the identical thing you wanted and at a much lower price than you had imagined it could be bought for, and you order it. The purchase arrives and when opened you feel that some mistake has been made, that the concern has sent you the wrong goods; it is not what you ordered.

Ah, but it is! The difference is between the way it actually looks and the way it sounds in the catalogue. You explain that the goods you received is not what you ordered and ask for an accounting, and are told that it is you that is in error, that you got just what you ordered, and then if you are wise you buy of the



The one sure method of curbing the mail-order giant is to bind him with the thoughts of home patronage. Are you helping in this work? Are you spending your money at home and helping your town to grow, or are you sending it to the city to swell the fortunes of the mail-order man?

home merchant next time, and know what you get when you pass over the money for it. He may not be able to sell you what you thought you were buying from the mail-order house at the catalogue price, but he can sell you, if he has it, the same goods you get from the mail-order houses at an equal or less price than they ask for it, and what is more, he can sell you what you really want at as reasonable a price as you can get it for elsewhere.

The following letter, written by a Michigan farmer, explains in a clear and unmistakable way the danger of buying of mail-order concerns. It was addressed to one of the largest of this class of institution in this country: Baldwin, Mich., Jan. 12, 1907. Gentlemen:

I have your favor of recent date, and also your catalogues and accompanying circulars offering premiums for distribution of the same among my friends. I have no doubt that, as you say, I will thereby confer a great favor upon you, but I am compelled to take issue with you on the statement that I will also confer a favor upon my friends.

In my dealings with you, extending over some time past, I have received no favors from you—I paid for all I got, and the length of time I traded with you, instead of establishing friendly relations and gaining me additional favor as it would in a home store, gave you the opinion that, unlike a new customer, to whom you give your very best, so they will come again, I was a steady comer and any old thing would do for me.

Our last deal opened my eyes and convinced me of your policy. Your catalogues offer some apparently great bargains. But let us draw up our chairs and see if there are not a few things very essential to the rural citizen that are not mentioned within its voluminous bulk.

For instance, there is no reference to paying cash or exchanging goods for wheat, oats, corn, beans, butter, eggs and hay.

How much will you pay for cattle, sheep and hogs, for example? How much will you pay to support the Lake county schools and educate our children? How much for improving our roads and bridges? For supporting the poor? For the general public expense?

On what page do you offer to contribute money to the support of our churches? What line of credit will you extend to me when my money is low because of sickness, or poor crops? What do you provide in the way of entertainment for the public and in the way of providing those things that make a town desirable and thus keep up the value of my property?

As a matter of fact, do you do anything to help locally, or do you merely take the money out of a community, returning nothing whatever, beyond the value of the goods bought? Thinking it over carefully, I believe it is better to call upon our local dealer and look over his stock where we can see the goods before buying. There are then no errors in change or refunds to be haggle over across a 300-mile stretch.

Yes, it is better to trade at home. Our home merchant's guarantee upon an article means something, as he wants our good will. Keeping the money at home benefits home industries and thus, indirectly, us. We cannot expect to sell our products to the local merchant and do our trading in Chicago. It is all one-sided and some

time we would have no local merchant to do our buying.

Catalogue houses, I have found from bitter experience, are tricky. If those who are dealing with them will watch their purchases, they will find it no sooner or later. Our last deal had it occurred here at home, would have been straightened out in five minutes and without feeling, but with you it takes me all winter to get my money back when the goods are not satisfactory, and even then I get only a credit card which is lost through studied carelessness upon the part of someone in your concern so that I have nothing to show for my claim.

Every man should trade at home if conditions admit of purchasing a good article at reasonable prices. If not, then he had better trade at the next town or city that his money may go to build up the country around him. He sends it to Chicago that it may go into profits of some big mail-order house until there is enough sucker money to build and endow some great charitable institution as a monument to the greatness of the mail-order man and the guillibility of the easy public.

I have already asked that you adjust the matter of our last deal. I want my money returned without further dicker and unless I get it I shall certainly get its equivalent in advertising you and your methods among the people of Lake county.

Awaiting your reply, I am, Yours truly, CARL SCHULTZ, Wolf Lake, Michigan. P. O. Baldwin, Mich.

Can you, Mr. Purchaser, not profit by the experience of others and turn your money into home channels by trading with home merchants where you will get a dollar's worth for a dollar, or must you follow the mail-order

# CACTUS IS GOOD FODDER.

Scientists Prove Value of Burbank's Latest Plant Development.

Berkshire, Cal.—Experiments just completed by M. E. Jaffa, head of the department of nutrition and foods at the university, show that a new species of thornless cactus has properties as fodder for cattle which will equal many of the desert grasses. The tests were made at the request of Luther Burbank, the originator of the new species of plant, and have proved to the full the great importance of the new plant as a fodder for cattle in the waste lands. Prof. Jaffa's report on the experiment has just been completed, and will be forwarded to Burbank in a few days.

A short time ago five species of the plant were sent to the agricultural station here to determine the food value. The series of experiments carried on by Prof. Jaffa show that the new plant carries nutritive powers equal to three-quarters that of alfalfa.

Hair to Vast Mexican Wealth. Helena applicant to \$200,000,000. Senora Creel, wife of the Mexican ambassador, is the richest woman of the diplomatic set in Washington, where many are rich. Enrique C. Creel, the ambassador, is far from poor, but his \$24,000,000 dwindles to paltry insignificance when ranged beside his wife's huge fortune. She is the daughter of Gen. Luis Terrazas of Chihuahua, owner of gold mines and other acres.

Whiskers Burned; Gets \$101. Wellston, O.—Samuel Beatty, 76 years old, has been awarded damages of \$101 by the circuit court against the Southern Ohio Gas company for the loss of a luxuriant growth of whiskers, burned off in a gas explosion in this city two years ago. E. S. Gilliland received \$6,000 for injuries received in the same explosion.

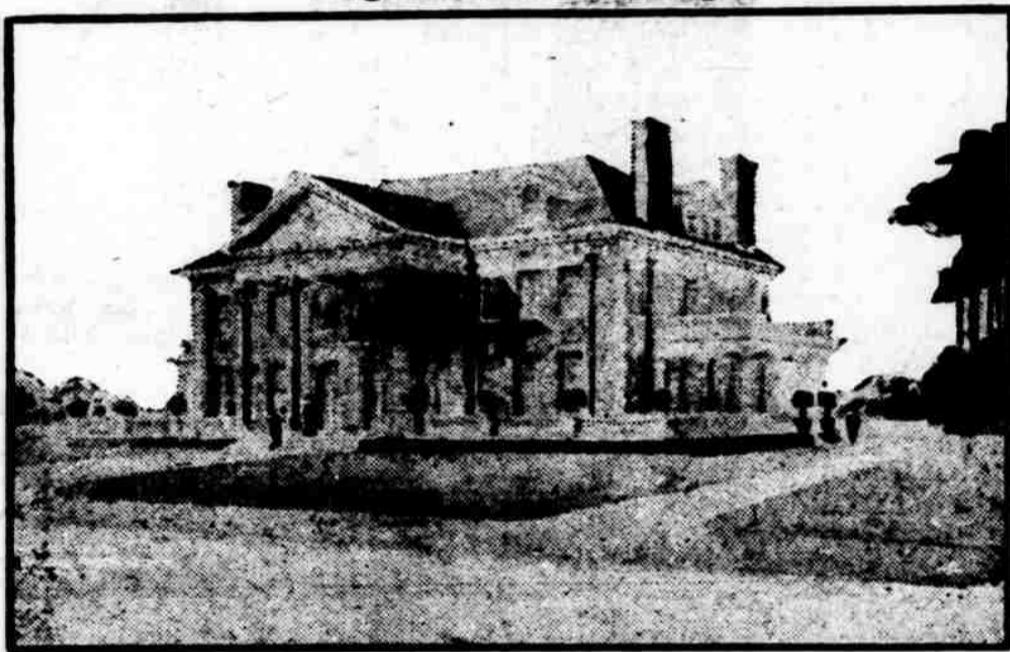
# Pretty Girls Hunt Solons.

Using New Methods to Secure Woman Suffrage in Iowa.

Des Moines, Ia.—Satisfied now that arguments will do no good, Iowa women are determined to try blandishments in order to get a law through the legislature giving them the right to vote. Petitions, submitted annually for 20 years, have been met with refusals. Last year the women came nearest to success since the beginning of the agitation—the house passed it, and it might have passed in the senate if the legislature hadn't adjourned before the bill was reached.

This year the women have enlisted the aid of all the pretty girls and women in the state. They have used up all the argument and logic they possessed in a pamphlet which has been placed in the hands of every member. Now they have something better. A series of banquets have been arranged for all the doubtful members of the legislature, and already innumerable little dinners and

# Virginia State Building



At the Jamestown exposition soon to be opened.

# MICE TERRORIZE A HORSE.

Cats Protect Pet Equine of Kansas City Fire Department.

Kansas City, Mo.—"Why do you keep so many cats around the station?" John McNarrey, chief of the fire department in the west side, was asked recently.

"So that Ben can sleep soundly," replied Chief McNarrey. Ben is one of the fire horses. He is a big bay, kind and gentle. One great trouble Ben has is a constant fear of rats and mice. The instant a rat pokes its head up through a crack in the floor or ventures up too near Ben he throws his front feet on top of a railing, which stands two feet from the floor, and there he stands until the mouse or rat disappears.

"Talk about a woman making a fuss over a mouse, but a woman isn't in it compared with Ben," Chief McNarrey said recently. "That horse can make more fuss over a mouse than a

room full of women. He climbs on top of that railing with his front feet and stamps on the floor with his hind feet. That horse dreams about rats. But Ben is the best horse in the department, and we humor him."

Ben and the cats work together. When the horse begins climbing on the railing and making all kinds of noise the cats have learned that there is a mouse in Ben's corner. They come from all parts of the station and the frightened horse is soon at peace again.

# Send Music by Wireless.

New York.—Through a slight accident to an electrician in the employ of the De Forrest Wireless Telegraph company on the roof of the Yale club it became known that Dr. De Forrest is attempting to transmit music through the air without the use of wires as he now transmits messages. He is working in connection with the Cahill Teleharmonic company, which sends music by wire to any point.

# George Washington's Double.

John Willoughby, a citizen of Minneapolis, is almost the exact counterpart of George Washington as the father of his country is shown in portraits. He is a pioneer of Minnesota, having lived in St. Anthony as early as 1844. His grandfather fought in 1776 and was on terms of intimacy with Washington. Mr. Willoughby, who is 88 years old, never fought for his country, never engaged in politics and never required the services of a doctor or lawyer.

# Spirit of the Modern Girl.

Miss Ethel Foraker, daughter of Attorney James R. Foraker of Cincinnati, and niece of Senator Joseph Benson Foraker, has accepted a position as cashier in one of the hotels there. Miss Foraker is a social favorite and well known as an expert tennis. Withing to assert her independence, she applied for the management of the hotel for the position, after consulting her mother, and was at once given the place on the hotel staff.

# Duel Between Partridges.

The mating season is a time of great excitement among the partridges, and generally extends over a fortnight or three weeks, according to the size of the stock and the proportion of the sexes, says the Country Gentleman. Should cocks preponderate to an excessive degree, the business will not be settled till many a pitched battle has been fought to the bitter end, and the weaker males of their driven away or actually killed.

A cock partridge is so poorly armed for the fray that it is a matter for surprise he should be able to kill one of his own kind, but if a battle is watched there will no longer be cause for wonder, once a bird recognizes itself beaten it appears to make no further attempt at defense, and tamely submits to be scalped by its successful rival.

There is nothing in the whole animal world quite so craven as a beaten partridge, for it seldom makes an effort even to escape.

# A Turkish Health Report.

The French government, wishing to obtain definite statistics on points relating to certain Turkish provinces, recently sent blanks with questions relating to certain Turkish provinces, to be answered to the Provincial governors. The replies received from the Pasha of Damascus are worth quoting:

Question. What is the death rate in your province?

Answer. In Damascus it is the will of Allah that all should die. Some die young and some die old.

Q. What is the annual number of births?

A. God alone can say—I do not know, and hesitate to inquire.

Q. Are the supplies of water sufficient and of good quality?

A. From the remotest period no one has died in Damascus of thirst.

General remarks as to the local sanitation: Man should not bother himself or his brother with questions that concern only God.

# A Squeecher.

"I gave that odious Mrs. Doughpore something to think of this afternoon," says Mrs. Bankfull to her husband, who was amusing himself by tossing \$20 gold pieces into the artificial lake in the drawing room for the pleasure of hearing the gold pieces plunk as they sunk.

"Whajja say to her?" asked Mr. Bankfull, rolling himself a cigarette in a hundred-dollar bill.

"She was boasting about the solid-gold radiators they are having put into their new house, and I told her we thought steam heat was so old-fashioned that we were going to heat our house with radium hereafter."—Judge.

# Minister Discovers Comet.

Ministerial duties do not prevent the Rev. Joel H. Metcalf, of Taunton, Mass., from pursuing astronomical investigations. His study of the stars has resulted in the discovery of a new comet, which is now being closely observed by astronomers throughout the world. It has been named Metcalf's comet.