THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

W B Lambert

TWELFTH YEAR. OMAHA NEB THURSDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 8 1883 198

THE STATE CAPITOL.

The Law-Making Machine Again Moving After a Brief Rest,

Reynold's Regulation Bill Overlooked and Finally Killed in the Senate,

But the Antis Outwit the Monops by Substituting an Improved One.

Text of the Report of the Special Railroad Committee of the Senate.

The House Labors Long on Landlord Liens and Other Matters.

THE SENATE.

Special Correspondence of THE BEE.

RAILROAD REGULATION.

LINCOLN, February 7.—In the senate chamber yesterday the bill of Senator Reynolds to regulate the railroad traffic came up in the committee of the whole, and was roughly handled. It was loaded down with amendments by the friends of the corporations till it could hardly be recognized, but just when it was thought that the bill was virtually dead, Brown, of Clay, offered as a substitute a copy of S. F. No. 54, and the same was adopted by the committee, and the committee was ordered to report back with recommendation that it do pass. The substitute was subsequently ordered to a third reading by the senate. This is considered a victory for the anti-monopolists, as senate file No. 54 had previously been before the committee of the whole and loaded down with amendments which were calculated to kill it, but this brings it up in its original shape and places it where the senators will have to make a record on the question.

In the senate this morning three bills were introduced, one by Senator Brown, of Colfax, senate file No. 133, providing that all bridges costing over $5,000 shall be the property of the state. Senate file No. 134, by Senator Norris, granting the right of way to all telephone companies along public highways, and senate file No. 135, providing for the sale of wine by the raisers of grapes.

The penitentiary is to be investigated, and the following committee has been appointed for that purpose: Senators Butler, Brown (of Lancaster) and Case.

Senator Canfield was originally on this committee, but upon his own motion was excused.

The blind asylum is also to be investigated, according to a resolution of the senate, by the following named senators: Reynolds, Thatch and Harrison.

Senator Dunphy introduced the following, which, upon motion of Senator Connor, was ordered printed before any action was taken:

WHEREAS, No industry can be protected except at the expense of all others; and,

WHEREAS, The protective tariff on lumber is particularly adverse to the agricultural and manufacturing interests of Nebraska; and,

WHEREAS, Hon. Charles H. Van Wyck, the republican senator from Nebraska in the American congress, has manfully denounced the lumber tariff and fearlessly advocated the doctrine of free trade; therefore

RESOLVED, By the legislature of the state of Nebraska that the government of the United States has no constitutional or other right to impose taxes on the people except with the intent and result of getting money into the public treasury with which to pay the public debt, provide for the common defence and promote the general welfare; and all tariff taxes, called protection, laid for a different intent and result, ought to be utterly abolished.

Senator Conor introduced the following:

RESOLVED, That the state treasurer be respectfully requested to inform the senate at as early a day as possible the true amount of permanent school fund now on hand and not invested in bonds, and whether said school fund, if any not so invested in bonds, is now in the vaults of the treasury, and whether the same or any part thereof, is now, or at any time has been, loaned to banks, associations or individuals.

INVESTIGATING THE PEN.

The chief clerk of the house informed the senate that the house had passed H. R. Nos. 5 and 17.

Butler introduced the following resolution, which was adopted, the rules being suspended.

WHEAREAS, Rumors are in circulation derogatory to the management of the state prison, and grave suspicions are entertained in the public mind that undue severity of discipline and occassional acts of gross inhumanity are practiced by the warden and the officials under him upon the convicts in their charge,

RESOLVED, That a special committee of three be appointed to investigate the conduct of the officers of the state prison and the treatment of convicts, with power to hold sessions at the prison or elsewhere, to suit their convenience, and to send for persons and papers.

THE SPECIAL RAILROAD COMMITTEE.

Mr. Reynolds, from the special railroad committee, presented the following report:

Your committee appointed for the purpose of investigating the conduct, management, and relation of the railroads in all their bearings as regards theis interests and the interests of the people of this state, beg leave to report that we have examined a large number of witnesses, several of whom are persons holding high official positions of some kind under railroad corporations, the remainder being citizens of this state who are engaged in the different pursuits of industry and business of the country.

Your committee believe the proper and only legitimate relation of railroads and telegraphic companies to the people, is that of common carriers, whose only duty it is to receive and with all reasonable speed forward to their destination all persons, freight or messages entrusted to their care; provided a just and fair rate of freight, fare or fee is paid or secured for the service and risks attending such transportation.

And your committee recommends that laws to confine these corporations to the uses and purposes above stated be passed. We have found it impossible to draw out from the gentlemen who have the direction and management of the railroads in this state, any material facts of which the public are not well acquainted; and when pressed to a full and complete explanation of all their conduct and management, also the reasons for some objectionable features in their policy, they refused to make such explanations on the grounds that the states, as states, have no jurisdiction over them, and plainly declare that these are matters over which and to which congress alone has any right or power to control or inquire into.

We find, from the evidence adduced in the examination of witnesses, that many unjust and inexcusable abuses, and wanton exercise of powers, are exercised by railroad managers, which are subversive of that friendly feeling and good will which should exist between the people and railroad corporations.

Your committee finds facts in the testimony taken to warrant them in reporting that the corporations doing business in this state are continually using improper means to control the business of the state, by trying to dictate who shall ship grain or sell coal in the towns along the line of road, and by a classification of freight based upon the value of property in the markets where sold, and placing rates on such goods which deprive the dealers or first owners of due advantages of the laws of supply and demand which honestly belong to them, and not to the carriers of the property.

Your committee also finds that the railroad companies of the state, while professing to obey the law generally known as the Doane tub law, have by a change in classification of freights, evaded the true and just meaning of the said law, and while doing this have continually, by their officers and agents, endeavored to prejudice the business men of the state against said law as the cause of higher freights in the state, when really the cause of such higher rates was a change in the classification of freights made by these companies, apparently for the very purpose of evading the law.

Therefore, we would respectfully recommend that just, yet positive restrictive laws be enacted to the end that all the people should have equal and exact freights, one with another, and all the advantages and conveniences the public can derive by reason of the highways which are created by the people, and this being, or understood to be a government of the people, by the people and for the people, each and every one should be made secure in the enjoyment of every blessing, or convenience, on an exact equality. Your committee believes that by a conspiracy called pooling, the railroad companies owning and controlling competing lines are depriving the people of a proper business competition, which in many cases was paid for by the people by bonds voted to these companies to obtain such competition. They also deprive the people of these advantages, when the government gave them vest estates of land, that the people might have this proper competition.

Your committee recommend that congress be memorialized by this legislature to abate such pooling, if possible.

Your committee would further report that a system of free passes has grown up, by which the railroad companies, by giving free transportation to officers, jurors and members of political conventions, has led the people to believe that their officers and delegates are improperly influenced in favor of those corporations who furnish them with such passes. That these passes have been used as a means of seeking favor of their officers and law makers, there can, as we believe, be no honest doubt; and your committee recommends that any officer or other person accepting a position of trust, in which all persons, or any community, are interested in the result of their deliberations, should not be allowed to accept or use, while occupying such position or office, any pass or different rate than that given to the general public at the same time and place, to the end that confidence may be as perfect between officers and their constituents as possible.

Your committee would also recommend that a constitutional amendment be submitted to the people, so that a department can be created in the state government to supervise and enforce the obedience of large corporations to the laws within the state; and we also recommend that there be established under the present constitution a bureau, to hear and examine as to complaints against these corporations, and report to the proper authorities. And also, that said bureau may perfect and announce a just and proper rate of freight tariff to be paid by the people; and that said bureau may also collect all necessary information to enable future legislatures to legislate with all the facts before them, and feel assured that both and all sides of these questions are justly represented.

Your committee further recommends and respectfully asks that all the testimony taken, together with the proceedings of this committee, be printed, to the end that the people may know in what manner these corporations respond to an inquiry for information as to their manner of doing business

We further report that it is our firm conviction that through congress alone can the people receive complete relief; and we earnestly appeal that their power be invoked to the work of removing every barrier, to the end that justice may be done to the most humble citizen on perfect equality with the most exalted, in every respect, as relates to the benefits that may be derived from the existence and operation of these public highways.

Your committee ask to be discharged from further duty, as the committee representing the house of representatives has been heretofore discharged.

All of which is respectfully submitted. S. S. REYNOLDS,
W. H. DECH,
EBRA BROWN,
Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

We have further become satisfied that the railroads of the nation are of so indispensable a nature to every educational and civilizing influence that they must be controlled by the people instead of individuals for individuals; that the power of a consolidation of so vast an amount of individual capital as is represented in the railroads of this government is so contrary to every spirit of republicanism or democracy, and which must eventually destroy the last vestige of a people's government in the United States.

We therefore recommend that the legislature petition, by a joint memorial and resolution, our national legislature to formulate and enact such laws as will at the earliest possible time transfer the railroad system into the hands of the general government S S REYNOLDS,
W. H. DECH.

On motion, the report was accepted, the report and the evidence ordered printed, and the committee discharged.

THE HOUSE

Special Correspondence of THE BEE.

LANDLORDS' LIENS.

LINCOLN, February 7.—The house convened at 9:30 pursuant to adjournment.

Jensen of Butler offered a resolution that the house hold night sessions during the balance of the time alloted to the legislature. The resolution was placed on the table.

The house then resolved itself into committee of the whole to consider bills on general file with Mr. Howard of Clay as chairman.

After an hour and a half was consumed in the consideration of house roll No. 79, a bill to provide for a landlord's lien upon crops on leased lands, introduced by Mr. Tower of Adams.

Mr. Robberts, of Butler, made a motion that the bill be reported back with recommendation that it do not pass.

Mr. Tower, of Adams, moved an amendment that it do pass.

After a long and tedious discussion in which a number of members took part, Mr. Tower's amendment was carried.

Mr. Whedon, of Lancaster, moved that house roll No. 121, to provide for the appointment, compensation and duties of special deputy county treasurers in counties not under township organization, be reported back with a recommendation that it do pass. The motion was carried.

H. R No. 130, an act to grant honorable discharge to officers and members of company "C," First regiment, Second brigade of the Nebraska militia, was reported back with recommendation that it do pass.

H. R No. 131, making amendments in the act authorizing the issuance of county bonds, was reported back with recommendation that it do pass.

The clerk read a list of the officers and employes which showed that they numbered fifty-one this session, whereas at the previous session sixty-one persons were employed.

Adjourned until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

CHICAGO NOTES.

The Board of Trade Protest—Huge Swindling in Futures—Fears of a Flood.

Special Dispatch to THE BEE.

CHICAGO, February 7.—The board of trade passed resolutions against the transfer of the revenue marine, life saving and marine hospital services to control of the navy department and against establishing a maritime bureau in that department.

Evidences of the extent of the business done by Fleming & Meriam and other professed grain brokers here, the delivery of money letters to whom was stopped by the postal department a few days ago, accumulate from day to day. It appears they not only received money from farms, towns and villages all over the country, but also from Canada and some points in England and Scotland. The sum transmitted to them for investment in grain futures is estimated to reach into the millions, and it is intimated that certain respected and highly connected persons joined hands with the recognized gambling element in working the scheme.

The city authorities express fear of great damage by the flooding of basements in the city in case of a sudden thaw. The entire winter snow accumulated in the streets is piled above the sidewalks, and if a gorge forms in the river there will be no outlet for this vast volume of water.

Editor Medill's Health.

Special Dispatch to THE BEE.

CHICAGO, February 7.—The published reports concerning the condition of Samuel J. Medill, who for many years has been managing editor of The Chicago Tribune, are exaggerated. Mr. Medill had gone to Las Vegas for the winter and was slowly improving in health when the recent "norther" swept over Texas. There was a drop of 70 degrees in temperature within twenty-four hours, and Mr. Medill had a relapse. He was then taken to his father-in-law's home at Quincy, where he now is in a slightly improved condition.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

The Governor of Montana Goes For Rufus Hatch and the Park Grab.

A Scathing Review of the Plans for a Magnificent Cattle Range.

Reduction and Consolidation of the Customs Districts Recommended.

The Senate Grapples Successfully With the Mysteries of Millinery,

While the House Sits the Day Out on Cold Iron.

THE NATIONAL PARK.

Special Dispatch to THE BEE.

GOV. CROSBY'S LETTER.

WASHINGTON, February 7.—A communication from J. Schuyler Crosby, governor of Montana, was presented to the senate to-day by Senator Saunders, chairman of the senate committee on territories It relates generally to the preservation and management of the Yellowstone National park, but is devoted particularly to a caustic review of the schemes of Rufus Hatch, who, it is alleged, aims to secure for his own exclusive benefit the use of the park and turn the greater part of it into a vast private cattle ranch. Governor Crosby says: 'Mr. Hatch arraigns me by name for guarding the interests of the territory, which I have the honor to preside over, and accuses me of posing as a public reformer. I cannot refute the accusation. Mr. Hatch has achieved a national reputation as a monopolist and speculator, but it would be wrong to call these things 'reform. I am not unwilling to be called a reformer and I am attacked in good company, for General Sheridan, whose official report struck a damaging blow at the scheme of Hatch and his coadjutors, is also fiercely assailed by the speculator"

Crosby then says: "The real issue is national, not personal. It is whether the Yellowstone park shall be, in the language of the dedicatory statute, a public park and pleasure ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, or whether it shall be a cattle ranche for Rufus Hatch, who proposes to establish a vast cattle enterprise close to the park and secure unlimited forage and immunity from disturbance."

Crosby then reviews at great length and with much acrimony the plans and alleged purposes of Hatch and his associates, and closes by recommending absolute annulment of the authorized lease of any part of the park, for the reason that if Rufus Hatch and his associates are to be permitted to keep a hotel there, all abuses that have made Niagara a byword of disgust will attend such administration.

CAPITAL NOTES

Special Dispatches to THE BEE.

THE GARFIELD FAIR.

WASHINGTON, February 7. — The Garfield monument fair netted $7,500.

RAILROAD TIES.

The secretary of the interior has decided that railroads are not limited to lands immediately adjoining the roads in cutting ties or obtaining other construction material intended for the use of railroads.

PAYNE'S RAIDS.

Officials at the Indian bureau assert that Capt. Payne's raids upon Oklahoma lands in the Indian Territory already cost the government about $200 000, and this expenditure might have been saved if congress had adopted the repeated recommendations of the commissioner providing for the punishment of intruders on public lands.

SHUTTING OUT A RAILROAD.

The house committee on Indian affairs has decided to report adversely on Mr. Craven's bill authorizing the Mississippi, Albuquerque & Interocean railway company to construct a railway through Choctaw and Chickasaw nations.

A LIVELY "SPAT."

During the discussion of the tariff bill in the house to-day a brief but exciting "spat" occurred between Messrs. Horace Page and Anderson. The latter offered some amendments, which Mr. Page opposed, when Mr. Anderson became very much excited and said he would not be run by the gentleman from California.

CUSTOMS DISTRICTS.

Secretary Folger sent a letter to congress to-day, recommending consolidation of the customs districts in many instances in order to effect a saving of the salary of the officers at ports where business is very small and does not increase from year to year. The secretary's recommendations would in effect not only lessen the numbers of collection districts but in some cases reduce the number of officers at the port, which after reorganization, would comprise all consolidated ports and reduce the aggregate cost for salaries by $494,275. The greatest reduction of officers and employes will take place at the chief eastern ports.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Special Dispatch to THE BEE.

SENATE PROCEEDINGS.

WASHINGTON, February 7.—At the close of the morning business the senate held a brief executive session. When the doors reopened the tariff bill was called up. The subject was further discussed by Senators Morrill, Dawes and others.

Senator Aldaich criticised the tabular statement presented by Senator Beck in connection with duties on women's and children's dress goods as misleading. He said if prepared as Senator Beck had stated by a man familiar with the subject, it had been prepared with deliberate intentions to deceive the senate. Senator Aldrich, in concluding, said he could hardly trust himself to speak of the spectacle presented here of American manufacturers, honest and respectable, being compelled to plead in the senate for their lives, and assailed by means of anonymous communications in the interest of importers.

Mr. Allison said if the paragraph under discussion was intended to include only all-wool goods, the committee on finance had been unfortunate in the choice of phraseology, and he suggested such phrase be revised by the committee.

After some further discussion all the remainder of the wool schedule, except the paragraph embracing "webbings, gorings, beltings, etc.," was informally passed over in order to give the committee on finance an opportunity to consider it further. The paragraphs thus passed over embrace women's and children's dress goods, clothing, carpets, and endless belts or felts.

The silk schedule was read and left unchanged.

The next schedule (books, papers, etc.) was taken up.

Senator Ingalls said he would move to put books on the free list.

Senator Bayard moved to make the duty 15 per cent. Adopted—31 to 18.

Senator Vance then moved to strike out the paragraph so as to let books, pamphlets and other printed matter go on the free list. The motion was agreed to by a vote of 24 to 22

The motion to put pulp for making paper on the free list was lost—ayes 22, nays 27.

The sundries schedule was next taken up The paragraph embracing bonnets, hats and hoods, chip, grass, palm-leaf and materials for hats was passed over informally. The button paragraph was amended by adding "not including brass, gilt or silk buttons." The duty on candles and tapers of all kinds was made twenty per cent and on care clothing twenty per cent, advalorem.

On motion of Senator Davis (W. Va.) the duty on bituminous coal and shale was made 75 cents per ton—ayes 21, noes 20.

On motion of McPherson the clause imposing a duty of $5 per ton on emery ore was struck out.

Senator Bayard, under instructions of the committee on finance offered an amendment imposing a duty of 5 per cent advalorem on friction or lucifer matches of all descriptions. Agreed to.

Senator Aldrich, from the finance committee, offered an amendment imposing a duty of 50 cent a pair upon "gloves, kid or leather, cut to shape or otherwise partially manufactured," but at the suggestion of other senators, accepted an amendment, making the rate 50 per cent advalorem. Agreed to.

Senator Bayard offered an amendment to the paragraph embracing gunpowder and all explosive substances—the provision of the house tariff bill—levying a duty of 6 cents a pound on powder, etc., valued at 20 cents a pound or less, and 10 cents a pound on that valued above 20 cents. Agreed to—ayes 30, noes 15.

On motion of Senator Sewell, hatters' plush, composed of silk or silk and cotton, was inserted at 25 per cent advalorem.

The provision embracing calfskins was made to read "calfskins tanned or dressed, etc."

Senator Hawley moved to insert "garden seeds, except seeds of sugar beet, 20 per cent advalorem." Agreed to—ayes 22, noes 20

Senator Allison moved to make the duty on marble in block 60 cents per cubic foot and on marble slabs and paving tiles $1.10 per cubic foot. Agreed to.

Senator McPherson, from the committee on finance, offered amendments to "pencil paragraph, making the duty on pencils of wood or other material $1 per gross and on pencil leads not in wood 10 per cent ad valorem," but modified it so as to leave the present duty unchanged. Agreed to.

On motion of Senator Vance, pipes of wood were inserted at the same rate as those of clay—35 per cent advalorem.

Senator Vance moved to make the duty on diamonds, cut or uncut, and precious stones of all kinds 25 per cent advalorem. Agreed to—ayes 21, noes 18

When the free list was reached Senator Vance moved to adjourn. No quorum voting, the senate roll was called, when 52 senators answered.

Senator Cooke moved an executive session. Motion lost and the senate adjourned.

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

The house went into commitee of the whole on the tariff bill.

Mr. Carlisle offered an amendment imposing a duty of fifty cents per ton of ore, or pyrites, or sulphurets of iron containing more than forty-five per cent sulphur and more than three per cent copper. Amendment lost, 72 to 88.

At last, after consideration of the first item of the metal schedule for four hours and a half, the committee passed away from it without making any change in the rate of duty, which is left at fifty cents per ton.

Mr. Calkin moved to reduce the duty of steel ingots, cogged ingots, blooms and slabs weighing more than 500 pounds, made by any process except crucible process, from six-tenths to three-tenths of a cent per pound. Pending action the committee rose.

Mr. Bingham introduced a bill for the appointment of a commission to consist of seven members, three of whom may be members of the present house and two whom may be senators, to enquire into the condition and value of the plant of the various telegraph companies of the country and report to the next congress what methods are at present available reduce the cost of telenraph communication, and whether any legislation is necessary to carry out the power of congress to regulate commerce as applied to telegraph communication. Referred.

Also bill providing that "No owner, agent, master, or consignee of any ship or vessel shall by virtue of the laws of any state be compelled to take, employ or pay a pilot, not voluntarily employed, on entering or departing from any port or harbor, or passing through or leaving any channel or strait within the waters of the United States." Referred. Recess.

When the house met this evening only fifteen or twenty members were present, but in half an hour a quorum put in an appearance and the house went into committee of the whole on the tariff bill, the pending amendment being that reducing from six-tenths to three-tenths of one cent per pound the duty on steel ingots, etc., weighing over 500 pounds.

Mr. Butterworth moved an amendment by fixing the rates at four-tenths of one cent. Agreed to—ayes 95, noes 72.

Mr. Haskell then moved, amid derisive laughter on the democratic side, to fix the rate at forty-five per cent. advalorm. Agreed to—88 to 85.

Mr. Tucker moved to reduce the duty on steel railway bars weighing more than 25 pounds to the yard from eight-tenths to seven-tenths of one cent per pound.

Mr. Morrison moved to make the duty $15 per ton.

Pending action the committee rose and house adjourned.

TELEGRAPH NOTES.

Special Dispatches to THE BEE.

BOSTON, February 7.—The house, 80 to 107, voted not to make election day a legal holiday.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., February 7.—The police are looking for a gypsy band who fed a dead baby to a bear.

NEW YORK, February 7.—17,700 reichs marks, collected principally in Ohio, were to-day forwarded to the Rhine sufferers.

NEW YORK, February 7.—The Red Star line people say no information has been received regarding the steamer Nederland, and they do not believe any accident has befallen her.

MONTERREY, MEX., February 7.—Grading is actively pushed on the Mexico National road beyond Garcia. The road will probably be completed to Saltillo by June, notwithstanding 2,400 feet ascent to forty-five miles.

KANSAS CITY, February 7.—In the wrestling match, Greco-Roman, between Bauer and Whistler, for $500 a side, Whistler won, gaining the first fall in twenty-two minutes, and the second in eleven minutes.

PROVIDENCE, February 7.—The estate of Rev. Dr. Mercer, of Newport, soon after his death estimated at $200,000, is found to amount to over $1,000,000. It has been taxed at $10,000. There is great surprise at the revelation.

SPRINGFIELD, Ills., February 7.—Capt. Bogardus to-day gave an exhibition shoot at his home, at one hundred pigeons. He scored seventy-nine. He will give another before going to Louisville to shoot with Dr. Carver on the 22nd inst.

NEW YORK, February 6.—The United States circuit court to-day granted judgment for $1,843 against the government for excessive duties on "steel blooms." This was a test case. The government will be required to repay a large amount of money.

Out on the Ranges

Special Dispatch to THE BEE.

RAWLINS, Wyo., February 7.—Advices from the country state cattle had suffered seriously. Snow on the Sweetwater and Upper Platte was not as heavy as in eastern Wyoming. The losses so far are reported insignificant—cattle about one per cent and sheep perhaps two per cent. It the Bitter Creek valley the loss of sheep was heavier. A high wind is blowing from the west to-day, which will soon clear the ranges of snow. Cattle drifted badly during the storm last week and ranchmen have as yet no means of ascertaining positively the amount of damage done the herds. Not meeting with any dead stock upon their ranges they are feeling safe.

Trial of Neal and Craft.

Special Dispatch to THE BEE.

GRAYSON, Ky., February 6.—To-day the prisoners Neal and Craft were removed from Lexington here for trial, under the protection of four hundred state guards. Horses for the artillery and mounted infantry were sent across the country. The prisoners and part of the soldiers are quartered at the jail; others in a train of nine cars.

Corn Juice Turned Loose.

Special Dispatch to THE BEE.

LOUISVILLE, February 7.—It is estimated that a quarter of a million gallons of whiskey go out of bond in this district under the law requiring the payment of taxes on this date. There is no excitement whatever about the matter as it was apprehended, and no failures are reported yet.

A heavy sleet fell here last night turning into rain this morning and continuing to-night. There is no apprehension of floods however.

A Distinguished Jury.

Special Dispatch to THE BEE.

NEW YORK, February 7.—Ex-Mayors Hall, Ely Grace, Cooper and Wickham, General Grant, ex-Senator Conkling, Wm. H. Vanderbilt and Jay Gould were summoned as a coroner's jury in the case of George Mahon, who killed a fellow patient in the hospital Sunday.

The American Agricultural association resolved to hold the national fair in the place offering the most inducements.

Six Persons Drowned in the Flood.

Special Dispatch to THE BEE.

INDIANAPOLIS, February 7.—The streams in this vicinity are falling and no further damage is expected About 100 families were driven from their homes. It has been raining since noon at Peru, and thirty families are flooded and are losing largely. It is reported to-night that a family of six persons were drowned at Keller's station,

FOREIGN.

Special Dispatch to THE BEE.

THEY NEED TIME TO CALM.

ST. PETERSBURG, January 7.—The czar's manifesto on his coronation says: "We are determined in our heart not to perform this sacred rite unless the feelings excited by the crime which the benefactor of the people fell a victim had time to calm.

WORTHLESS WORK.

A Harvest of Barren Regrets for the Taxpayers of Nebraska.

The Reform Legislature Providing Positions for Political Fossils.

Piling Up the Pay Roll the Main Ambition of the Monops.

The Ponderous Grout of Otoe Serves His Master Well,

Special Dispatch to THE BEE.

LINCOLN, February 7.—The legislature has now resumed wore in earnest. So far the legislative mill has ground out nothing but chaff. It now looks as if the taxpayers of Nebraska would not only have to settle a big tax bill, but this legislature, from which so much economy and wholesome law-making was expected, would saddle upon them a hoard of supernumerary salary grabbers in the shape of state geologists, state chemists, emigration secretaries, railroad secretaries, medical examiners, and other pensioners of high and low degree. In spite of the general demand for retrenchment there is a disposition on all hands

TO ENLARGE THE STATE PAY ROLL

by the creation of all sorts of needless officers, under various pretexts urged by an active lobby of political barnacles who are out of meat. The legitimate state expenses necessarily grow from year to year as our penitentiary, reform schools, asylums, charitable and educational institutions are enlarged and the numbers dependent on the state for support and education increase. To this must be added the demand for and consequent expense of additional district judges and district attorneys, together with the expense incident to numerical increase of the legislature by nineteen members. All this will make the state tax levy

MUCH HEAVIER FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS

than on any former period. In the face of all this the legislature keeps on framing and recommending bills that will pile up the agony mountains high and make the taxpayers fairly groan. On the other hand, so far, not a thing has been done to relieve the people by equalizing railroad taxes or by passing any bill reducing the passenger or freight rates. The main feature of the proceeding in the house to-day was the debate over a number of bills that were considered in committee of the whole. The most exciting discussion was over Mr. Tower's

LANDLORDS' LIEN BILL

on crops. Robberts opposed this measure with a great deal of ability vigor as calculated to put the poor tenant farmer under the heel of money lenders and land sharks. Wheedon asked whether there was not a mechanics lien on the state books, and Roberts retorted, "That was for protecting mechanics and securing them their wages." Tower argued in favor of the bill on the ground of justice, and the bill was finally recommended although its passage is very doubtful. A good part of the afternoon session was wasted in debating half a dozen unimportant bills that ought to have gone in the waste basket, and finally quite a breeze was stired up by Bierbower's bill for

A GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The bill creates a geological corps of three salaried officials; a geologist at $2,000 a year; assistant geologist at $1,000; chemist $1,800 a year each. An appropriation of $4,000 is also made for surveying expenses and chemicals. The governor is to fill the position with competent scientists and experts of known integrity. The geological corps is required to make the entire survey of the sixty-five counties and the unorganized territory within eighteen months, and deposit the specimens of minerals, soils and bones in the state university. The collection of natural curiosities would be more costly than rare. If the governor can find a renowned geologist for $2,000 a year to make personal inspection and survey of seventy-six thousand square miles in eighteen months, he will accomplish a feat greater than Sampson when he slew a thousand Philistines with the jaw bone of an ass.

FOUR YEARS AGO

a wonderous man from Otoe county, Capt. Mitchell, as chairman of the railroad committee of the house, disposed effectively of all the railroad bills of that session by reporting back "That no railroad legislation whatever was needed." To-day, another ponderous son of Otoe, Mr. Grout, as chairman of the railroad committee, performed a similar feat by recommending to the house that all the bills pending in the committee be shelved, and that in their place the house should substitute a bill, which, if enacted, would be a dead letter. The bill, as outlined by Mr. Grout, creates a board of commissioners, composed of state officers, who are to be empowered to regulate the railroad traffic. Mr. Grout and a majority of the committee have doubtless taken their cue from the railroad managers, who want simply to defeat all regulation by

A BILL THAT WOULD NOT HOLD WATER

before the courts. Grout's report says the committee have consulted eminent counsel—meaning, of course, John M. Thurston or Citizen Mason. Had they consulted the constitution of Nebraska they would have discovered that the power to regulate railroad tariffs is vested by it in the legislature and that body cannot delegate its power to any board of commissioners, whether composed of state officers or outsiders. Grout and his committee have either fallen into a trap or else they are playing stool pigeon. Their report was accepted and the bill held over for further consideration.