

"THE BACKBONE."

Senators Van Wyck and Teller Cross Swords.

Van Wyck Details the History of the Backbone Road.

Also the Mystery Connected with the Undue Haste

Of the Interior Department in Issuing the Patents.

Senator Teller Replies, Defending His Action in the Matter,

And Recites Various Precedents Which He Considers as Justifying His Action.

VAN WYCK AND TELLER. Special Telegram to THE BEE.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—He said that it was a matter of sincere regret that the last act of the late administration should have been performed at the dictation and in the interest of corporate wealth.

He detailed the history of the "backbone" road and its "mysterious record," which, he said, formed the most remarkable chapter in recent annals.

He declared, however, that he was not in this matter as they were with Scott and the Texas Pacific, using the same tactics and the same influences.

He would not consent that congress should forfeit this grant, unless it should at the same time convey it to them. The proposition was so infamous that congress, though manipulated as Huntington delectates, would not consent.

It was claimed there was a special meeting of the cabinet to legalize this fraud. Did actual settlers on this land have any advocate there, and were their rights protected?

The laws secured the rights of the company or the land grant corporations and the decrees of the department in obedience thereto.

But when the demand was too exacting an opinion of the attorney general was called for, which to escape until the storm of public indignation passed by.

In this case the attorney general was equal to the occasion and sustained the rights of the public in that direction. Very learned arguments by Judge Dillon, Green and Pierpont on behalf of Gould and Huntington were made before the attorney general.

He held in his hand a list of grants issued for road completion, and he said that he had not done more for the settlers or the public than he had done in his lifetime in the public service.

In the course of his speech Teller, referring to Van Wyck's remarks concerning Huntington and Gould in connection with the matter under discussion, said he had no reason why these parties should be discriminated against simply because they were unpopular with the masses.

He insisted that by the rules of law and justice the railroad company was entitled to the lands, and it was on that fact he rested.

Visible Supply of Grain in the United States and Canada. CHICAGO, March 9.—The following is the visible supply of grain in the United States and Canada on Saturday, as reported by the secretary of the Chicago board of trade, to be posted on 'change to-morrow:

Wheat, 48,185,075 bushels, an increase of 144,738 bushels compared with the Saturday preceding; corn, 5,417,912 bushels, an increase of 576,277 bushels; oats, 1,382,938 bushels, an increase of 109,019 bushels; rye, 1,321,938 bushels, an increase of 109,019 bushels; barley, 1,321,938 bushels, an increase of 109,019 bushels; clover, 1,321,938 bushels, an increase of 109,019 bushels; timothy, 1,321,938 bushels, an increase of 109,019 bushels; other, 1,321,938 bushels, an increase of 109,019 bushels.

Pittsburg's 1,500 Anarchists. Special telegram to THE BEE. PITTSBURG, March 9.—The Chronicle-Telegraph publishes a long article confirming its former statement in regard to the anarchists. It shows that of the 1,500 in the city all except about a dozen are foreigners, driven to this country, who do not work except when compelled, and are on the watch for a public turn to give them a chance to blow up things.

Their places of meeting are given, and the places where explosives are stored. Among them are two women who sing songs and make inflammatory speeches. Their names are Reno and Molke.

Well Pleased With Gen. Black's Appointment. DANVILLE, Ill., March 9.—Gen. J. C. Black, the new commissioner of pensions, left for Washington to-night to assume the duties of his office. That the appointment is received with great favor throughout the union, and especially the northwest, is evidenced by the large number of letters of hearty congratulation received by him. These have poured in from members of congress and from grand army men from all over the union. Hundreds of his townsmen called on him to-day.

Pugilistic. CHICAGO, March 9.—Paddy Ryan and Jack Burke, pugilists, met to-day and "Parson" Davies, as Burke's backer, covered Ryan's deposit of \$520 for a fight for \$2,500 a side. The time and place was not agreed on, though Butte, Montana, was suggested. In reply to Richard K. Fox of New York, Ryan to-day sent a dispatch that he would fight John J. Sullivan after his match with Burke. He stipulates that the fight shall be for \$5,000 with hard gloves, light to the finish, under the new London rules, the winner take the championship belt as his property.

Six Children Cremated. PEARLTON, Miss., March 4.—The residence of Mrs. Jane Snopace was burned last night while that lady was at church. Three boys, the oldest 11 years, perished in the flames.

Three colored children were burned at Durant on Saturday. The parents locked them in the house while they attended a log-rolling. Two white boys were badly burned while trying to release the burning children.

Dakota Capital Conspirators Arrested. BISMARCK, March 9.—The Hon. George W. Pierce, William S. Wallis, and E. V. Prentiss, were arrested and held to bail in \$3,000 each to-day on the charge of bribery in connection with the capital removal from Bismarck to Pierre.

TELEGRAPH NOTES. Gen. George B. McClellan has accepted an invitation to deliver the Decoration Day oration at Antietam.

The fishing schooner Solomon Poole, from Gloucester, Mass., is lost with all aboard, fifty men.

CAPITAL NEWS.

Col. Lamont Determined to Simplify and Systemize Matters.

An Unprecedented Number of Applications for Post Offices.

The Department Has to Employ an Extra Force

In Order to Attend to All of the Aspirants.

First Assistant Postmaster General Crosby Has Resigned.

Thurman and McDonald Left Out to Make Room for the Boys—Western Democrats Having Mad.

WASHINGTON NOTES. COL. LAMONT SIMPLIFYING MATTERS.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Col. Lamont intends to do away with the present system of keeping a full and elaborate record of all the business brought to the attention of the president, and to confine the record to such matters only as require his individual attention.

All other documents will be referred to the department to which they relate, and a simple record kept of their reference.

THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR POSTMASTERSHIPS received to-day at the postoffice department have never been equalled in any previous day.

Thurman and McDonald left out to make room for the boys—Western Democrats Having Mad.

THE OFFICESEEKERS. THE HUNGRY AND THIRSTY GANG AT WASHINGTON STEADILY INCREASING.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 8.—The office-seekers have come to town, "some in rags, and some in tags, and some in velvet gowns," and are letting the administration know that they will accept whatever they can get.

At present they prefer a foreign mission or an assistant secretaryship. By June they may decide to take a clerical position, if they can have one without the terrors of a competitive examination.

The greatest struggle is for the positions of assistant secretaries of the different departments. The first assistant secretary of the treasury is fixed by the selection of ex-State Attorney General Fairchild of New York.

He is Tilden's right-hand man and helps to complete the Tilden ring, which is to control the administration. Bissell, Cleveland's law partner, has been mentioned for the other place.

He does not want it. He prefers to represent the department of the interior, and to make fortune practicing law before the departments. He doubts as to do it.

THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION. The president has now announced that he will not grant interviews with office-seekers or candidates for office.

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RAILROAD RACKET. MILWAUKEE, March 9.—The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway company's annual report for 1884 was made public to-day.

The gross earnings are \$23,470,998. The gross expenses, including taxes, \$13,550,628; the decrease of the gross earnings as compared with 1883, \$188,225. The operating expenses were increased \$81,590.

The average number of miles of road operated during the year was 4,780, which is an increase of 231 miles over the previous year. The total bonded debt of the road is \$102,541,000, which is an increase of nearly \$4,000,000 during the year.

The total stock is \$47,445,244, of which \$16,540,983 is preferred. The road's capitalization, stock and bonds is at the rate of \$80.74 per mile. The company now having 4,804 miles in operation.

In addition to the rolling stock made to cost \$240,000, the purchase of real estate, depot grounds, etc., over \$205,000 was expended, of which amount \$228,000 was in Chicago. The total extraordinary expenses were \$1,457,633. But for four miles of new road were constructed during the year, forty in Iowa and four in Wisconsin. No part of the company's mileage is held upon leases which rents are reduced, and the property is only encumbered by the bonded debt above mentioned, and since the last report miles of steel rails has been laid. The report says: "The great depression in commercial affairs during the past year has prevented the increase of earnings which was expected. A return of general prosperity will bring largely increased earnings and an increase may be expected from the new lines of the company in Dakota as the result of the natural improvement of the country tributary to those lines."

THE BRITISH GRAIN MARKET. LONDON, March 9.—The British grain trade for the past week says: "The unsettled weather prevented material progress to spring sowing. Native wheats are 6d 1/2 dearer; dry samples very scarce. Sales of English wheat for the week, 60,028 quarters, at 31s 8d, against 54,560 quarters at 31s 7d the corresponding week of last year. Flour, 6d lower. Foreign wheat is being imported, although sellers are making somewhat firm ground, owing to war rumors. Foreign flour is irregular and cheaper. Little doing in cargo off the coast.

FOUR CARGOES ARRIVED. Four cargoes were sold, two withdrawn and one removed forward. Trade is at a standstill, both buyers and sellers waiting to see whether there is to be peace or war. It was believed that wheat will probably rise by 1/2 cent and bonds, 1/4 cent, despite the warlike rumors, the wheat trade disappointed the sellers. Foreign wheat is more firmly held. Our steels, Mair's quiet, Barley very dull. Oats 3d dearer.

DEAD OR ALIVE? MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich., March 8.—A week ago Mrs. Charles Rollinson, a woman of 70, suddenly expired, it was supposed, of heart disease. Her death was announced and the funeral took place Tuesday. The life-like appearance of the body excited much comment, which increased rather than diminished after burial. Finally the interest grew so intense that it was thought best to disinter the body. This was accomplished Thursday afternoon, the body having been in the grave two days and two nights. It still bore the same life-like appearance. It was placed in a room in which the temperature has been kept steadily at 75 degrees. Not the slightest indication of decomposition is apparent, and physicians declare themselves unable to determine whether Mrs. Rollinson is dead or alive. The case has created much excitement.

PROHIBITION IN KANSAS. TOPKA, Kan., March 9.—Gov. Martin has signed house bill No. 367, known as the temperance bill, which passed the house and senate last week. This bill contains a provision investing the county attorney with all the power of a grand jury, whereby citizens are required to appear before him and testify on oath in regard to their knowledge of the purchase and sale of liquor. Upon refusal to do so he may cause the county attorney to be held in contempt. He becomes both the judge and the prosecuting attorney, and is allowed a fee of \$25 for conviction. The provision is unequalled in this emergency, and excites the bitterest opposition of the anti-prohibitionists.

ILLINOIS AND HER JANITORS. Special telegram to THE BEE. SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 9.—During the first sixty days of the session, ending on Saturday last, the expenses of the Illinois general assembly fell upon, according to the report to \$168,575. There is to show for this expense the passage of the bill appropriating \$5,000 for the contingent expenses of the session and \$5,000 for the improvement of the Illinois display at New Orleans, with the remainder of the pay roll they will pull down the surplus in the state treasury \$89,120 per month.

A Wise Railroad Superintendent. ARCHONK, Kas., March 9.—The Missouri Pacific strikers have been refusing to let more than an engine and a mail car go through. To-day Superintendent Fagan took a bold stand that the company is not required under the federal law to carry the mails on other than the regular passenger trains with the full complement of coaches, and gave positive orders that the mail car should not go out without the regular coaches attached. The strikers refused to let the mail car go through hereafter and they are now moving regularly.

THE DAVENPORT POSTOFFICE. DAVENPORT, Iowa, March 9.—The post-office contest here is beginning to grow interesting. Petitions have been circulated for the retention of Edward Russell, who has been postmaster for sixteen years, and it is said that the names of four or five democrats appear on the lists. In the call for the democratic city convention, which will appear in print to-morrow, a statement is made that the convention will take action looking to the appointment of a democrat, and that measures will be inaugurated to get an expression of the wish of the party on the candidates.

General Grant's Financial Resources. Special telegram to THE BEE. NEW YORK, March 9.—An old and well known friend of General Grant said this morning: "In respect to the general's financial position I can say that he possesses, first, the income from the Grant fund, amounting to \$5,000 a year, which is guaranteed in perpetuity; next, his retired pay of some \$15,000. These are his principal sources of income, for his house in Sixty-third street is mortgaged, and he considers his collections of trica-brac and relics as pledged for his debts."

The B. & O. Telegraph Company. ST. LOUIS, March 9.—In the case of the Baltimore & Ohio Telegraph company against the St. Louis Bridge and Tunnel company, Judge Latham in the circuit court to-day decided that the telegraph company has the right of way over the bridge for its wires so long as it does not interfere with the rights of the public to the use of the bridge.

The Weather. WASHINGTON, March 10.—Upper Mississippi: Fair, generally colder weather, northwesterly winds, northern portion variable winds, southern portion rising barometer. Missouri valley: Fair weather, northwesterly wind, colder, followed in northern portion by rising temperature, higher barometer.

Pleuro Pneumonia. JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., March 9.—In pursuance of a resolution adopted by the house to-day, a committee of five have been appointed to visit the Fulton asylum farm, where the pleuro pneumonia exists among the cattle, and report what legislation is advisable to prevent the spread of the disease.

Alexandria, Iowa, Inundated. KROOKER, Iowa, March 9.—The town of Alexandria, now has three feet of water above it and the people there have taken to the upper levels of their houses. A similar condition of affairs prevails all through the bottom lands and the Eddyville wagon bridge has been washed out.

A Garland for the Supreme Court. WASHINGTON, March 9.—The new attorney general, Garland, was presented to the supreme court by ex-Attorney General Brewster this morning.

TRADE AND TRAFFIC.

British Consols Were the Controlling Element in the Market.

The Wheat Market was Nervous and Fairly Active.

Corn was the Strongest Article on the List.

A Very Small Number of Cattle on the Market.

The Hog Trade was Active, Strong and Higher.

Provisions Ruled Fairly Active and Strong—May Pork Took a Down Turn.

CHICAGO MARKETS. Special telegram to THE BEE.

CHICAGO, March 9.—British consols were the controlling element in the market on change this morning. They were quoted three-sixteenths of a cent lower than at the close on Saturday, and in consequence May, which opened at 80 1/2, quiet by sold up to 81 1/2.

Cable dispatches indicated that the bloody combat opened between England and Russia showed no signs of being bridged over, and the crowd took advantage of this. There is not much wheat to sell, and those that had it held off. There were no heavy deals, and the scalpers had all their own way. It was a nervous and fairly active market. The boys tried to keep up the price, but it was no go, and after some of the shots had filled up, May option fell back to 80 1/2. It closed at 80 1/2.

CORN. May corn was the strongest article on the list, and there was a good trade in it. Options opened at 41 1/2, the same figure at which it closed on Saturday, and it sold up during the morning to 42 1/2. Lightly legated beans, a large trader remarked that he thought May corn would sell at about 42 for a little while and then go higher.

PROVISIONS. Ruled fairly active and strong in the early part of the session. It was said that Armour put up the price of pork on Saturday and is engaged in holding it up, May option went up to \$12 1/2, but fell off and closed 1/2 lower. At the afternoon session May wheat dropped to 79 1/2, closing at that figure. May corn closed steady at 41 1/2, and May pork went down to \$12 1/2, closing weak.

CATTLE. The very small number on sale was rather a surprise to all concerned. Values are 20 to 30 cents higher than the lowest of last week. The best sale this morning was a couple of lots of good 1,300-pound and upwards steers at \$25.00; 5-63 Light, little steers that a week ago were unobtainable sold at big figures this morning. Butchers' stock was steady. Stockers and feeders were in light supply, but firm, and more weighing. The clover price was 20c sold for \$4.25; 4-100; 1,200 to 1,350 pounds, \$4.25; 5-50; 1,350 to 1,600 pounds, \$5.00; 6-00; Cows and heifers, \$3.50; good, \$3.00; 1-25; stockers, \$3.50; 4-00; feeders, \$4.25; 4-10; Texas, \$4.00; 4-75.

HOGS. Market active and strong and 10c higher on light and medium, but heavy sorts were rather neglected and only 5c higher; light and medium are 30c/40c higher than a week ago. Common and rough packing sold at \$4.50; 60; fat, \$4.75; 60; light, \$4.50; 60; best heavy at \$4.90; 60; light \$4.50; 60; and assorted light \$4.75; 60; packing and shipping, 250 to 400 lbs., \$4.80; 60; light, 140 to 210 lbs., \$4.30; 65.

TEXAS TRADES. AUSTIN, Tex., March 9.—The senate committee of internal improvements to-night favorably considered the bill providing that the railroads shall give thirty days' notice before reducing wages, also making it a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$500 and imprisonment for six months for any person to molest the movements of trains or to intimidate persons from working on the railroad.

THE ILLINOIS CONTENT. SPRINGFIELD, March 9.—There was no quorum voting in either house or senate this morning, and no business done. At 12 noon, in joint convention, fifteen senators and fifty-eight representatives answered. Senator Streeter voted for John C. Black, and Sharp, Waresaw, voted for Wm. L. Morrison. The house and senate both then adjourned.

GEN. GRANT IMPROVING. NEW YORK, March 9.—Gen. Grant's condition showed continued improvement to-day. Col. Grant said when his father awoke this morning he felt much refreshed and was in a more cheerful frame of mind for some days past.

THE ELGIN DAIRY MARKET. CHICAGO, March 9.—The Inter Ocean's Elgin special says: Butter was slow 65c 30 cents. Regular sales, 28,000 pounds. Cheese was in fair demand at 5 cents. Regular sales, 1,000 pounds.

POWDER CHIPS. NEWBERG, N. Y., March 9.—Three mills at the Basin & Sand powder works, four miles west of Newburg, exploded this morning, killing two men and severely injuring another.

DISTRIBUTING THE SPILLS. WASHINGTON, March 9.—Nominations: Charles S. Fairbairn, New York, assistant secretary of the treasury; John C. Black, commissioner of pensions.

A GARLAND FOR THE SUPREME COURT. WASHINGTON, March 9.—The new attorney general, Garland, was presented to the supreme court by ex-Attorney General Brewster this morning.

Advertisement for Marlboro cigarettes. Text: "Seen everywhere, because every where recognized as indispensable to Dealer and Consumer. Line, and store it up." Includes an illustration of a man smoking a pipe and a pack of Marlboro cigarettes.