

BACOCK'S BANK BOOK.

How the State Auditor Dillied With the Funds Day Too Long.

GENERAL LINCOLN NEWS.

The Zimmerman Outrage—Money Mysteries in the Lancaster Treasury—Pillgrim Commissioners—Notes.

[FROM THE BEE'S LINCOLN BUREAU.]

Upon September 30 an article appeared in the Bee to the effect that one of the state officers was behind in his accounts about \$12,000, and that the amount had not been turned over to the state treasurer. The gentleman referred to was not named and no one but the officer himself and perhaps a few other persons knew who was meant. In its Sunday issue the State Journal, with the idiosyncrasy characteristic of that sheet, published the following item:

THE LINCOLN BUREAU'S ACCOUNTS.
The resolutions made in the Omaha Bee a day or two ago that State Auditor Babcock was short in his accounts to the amount of about \$12,000, proves on investigation to have been wholly unwarranted by the facts. A reporter called upon Governor Dawes yesterday and learned that Mr. Babcock made his semi-annual report to the governor on the 5th of July last, being for the period from January 1 to July 1, 1885, and at that time turned over every dollar of fees collected in his office during that period. Mr. Babcock is one of the most efficient and painstaking public officers this people of the state have ever elected to any position, and the senseless attack of the Bee upon his management of the affairs of the public is cowardly and absurd.

Mr. Babcock was the officer referred to, and that the Bee's item was substantially correct will be seen by the following facts. Under the law, state officials are required to render an account of the business of their offices semi-annually. The law which is found on page 24 of the compiled statutes of Nebraska, 1885, sec. 21, article 5 of the constitution reads as follows: "An account shall be kept by the officers of the state of the receipts and disbursements of all the public institutions of the state, of all monies received or disbursed by them severally from all sources, and for every service performed, and a semi-annual report thereof be made to the governor under oath, and any officer who makes a false report shall be guilty of perjury and punished accordingly."

It is true that Auditor Babcock on July 9, 1885, submitted to the governor the following report:

OFFICE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS, STATE OF NEBRASKA.
LINCOLN, July 9, 1885.—To His Excellency, Hon. J. W. Dawes, Governor.
Sir: Pursuant to the provisions of sec. 21, article 5 of the constitution of the state of Nebraska, I have the honor to submit herewith my report showing monies received by me during the period from January 1, 1885.

Fees received from insurance, \$10,619.40
Fees received from registration of funds, 346.65
Total, \$10,966.05

Thereby certify that the above statement is true and correct.
(Signed) H. A. BABCOCK.
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 5th day of July, A. D. 1885.
THOS. H. BENTON,
Notary Public.

But the auditor did not turn the money into the state treasury until October 1, 1885, one day after the statement of the auditor's delinquency was made in the Bee. Under the law as laid down by the supreme court of the state in the case of *Nebraska v. F. W. Leitch*, auditor of public accounts, 12 Neb. Reports, page 171, these fees paid by insurance companies should be paid directly to the treasurer. Justice Lusk in delivering the opinion says: "According to this provision, sec. 24 art. 5 of the constitution, strictly speaking all such fees should be paid in advance of the performance of the duties of the auditor to the state treasury, the treasurer giving proper vouchers therefor, to be retained by the auditor in his office as evidence of the required amounts having been paid." But Justice Leitch, in the respondent (Auditor Leitch) received the fees in question to himself and still retains the moneys he must be held to have taken and to hold them in trust for the use of the state and in duty bound to hand them over to the state treasurer, the lawful custodian thereof."

There is no law authorizing the auditor to receive the fees of the insurance companies on the books of the office. It was the duty of the auditor to have these parties pay the money to the state treasury. But instead of this he retained several thousand dollars of this kind of fees prior to July 9, 1884, the time of making his report to the governor, the least he could have done under the law would have been to turn the money into the treasury simultaneously with his report to the governor. This he did not do, and was still in possession of the amount at the time of the Bee's publication.

The Bee has no desire to do Auditor Babcock any injustice, and published the fact simply as a matter of news. The State Journal, however, seems always to get on the wrong side of the ledger, and nearly always endeavors to cast a suspicion on the motives of any paper which does not sit under its shadow. The statement made by the Journal that the auditor turned over the balance of his hands at the time of his report to the governor in July is absolutely false in every particular. The \$10,619.40 collected from the insurance companies was largely paid in prior to July 9, 1885, and according to the treasurer's statement the \$1,039.65 spoken of in the auditor's July report was paid to the treasurer October 1st as stated, and after the Bee's issue of September 30th. Either the Journal willfully misrepresented facts or it did not take the trouble to obtain them. The Bee does not wish it understood as placing Mr. Babcock in the light of a defaulter or creating any such impression.

THE ZIMMERMAN CASE.
H. M. Sinclair Esq., the district attorney for the Tenth judicial district of Nebraska, was in the city yesterday on business connected with the Zimmerman release. In a conversation with him it was learned that the feeling in the western part of the state is one of intense indignation and satisfaction for the hurried justice is emphatically demanded. It is in answer to this statement that Mr. Sinclair visits the capital. He says that most of the blame for the affair is laid against Saville, the commissioner, and Burr, the attorney. Saville has been arrested and now lies in the Buffalo county jail at Kearney. The next term of court for Buffalo county will convene at Kearney November 14, next, at which time Mr. Sinclair says that steps will be taken for the punishment of the persons aiding Zimmerman's escape. The district attorney declares that the release of Zimmerman is a disgrace to the state, and that the release of Zimmerman is a disgrace to the state, and that the release of Zimmerman is a disgrace to the state.

FEATS OF MODERN ALCHEMY.

How Unusually Dirt and Rock is Converted Into Shining Gold and Silver.

OMAHA AND GRANT SMELTER.

The Largest Concern of the Kind in the World—The Plant—The Process.

The Omaha and Grant smelter is not only one of the greatest elements of the city's pride and importance but the largest concern of the kind in the world. It is operated in conjunction with the Grant works near Denver, Colo., and gives steady employment to over four hundred hands, whose wages aggregate over \$250,000 a year. These works have been very materially enlarged during the past year, and \$75,000 more expended on additional buildings and improvements. The capital invested is \$2,500,000, and the value of the product, which includes gold, silver, antimony, lead and sulphate of copper, was over \$300,000 for the past year. The officers are: Guy C. Barton, president; J. R. Grant, vice president; E. W. Nash, secretary and treasurer; Edward Eddy, general manager; Charles Balbach and W. D. James, superintendents.

THE PLANT.
The smelter property covers an area of fourteen acres along the upper river bottom. The company's possession of its soil has long been disputed by the turbulent river that skirts its eastern front, and the works have stood the test of many a heavy and damaging overflow. Some several years ago the Missouri river, swollen with the spring tide and flooded the entire plant to a depth of eight feet. Within later years the increased quantity of the works has turned out quantities of slag and refuse and with this impervious substance the banks have been dyked and ripped under until already a wide roadway has been built outside the smelter. Under the law of riparian rights, this land which the company "makes" becomes their entitled property and as it does more than all the combined labor of the city, it is well to be at the task to protect the city's front, the public verdict will accord them double title.

Over these fourteen acres of ground are constructed more than a dozen large buildings, an elegant two-story residence building, smelting house proper, the foundry, the blacksmith shop, the roasting, the gold room and gold shop, the refinery, the separation shop, the electrolytic shop, store house and a number of minor buildings. The mechanical equipment is perfect in every detail and no similar establishment on the continent is more complete.

THE PROCESS.
It would be impossible within the scope of an issue of this journal to detail completely the long and intricate process by which the waste materials are converted from their virgin state to a free mineral condition. Nor is the public mind so preoccupied as to seek in a brief writing the learning which strong intellects by long and hard study have acquired, and for these reasons a running outline of the processes will alone be given.

The ore, fresh from the mines of Montana, Colorado, Idaho or Utah, reaches the works in its native condition. The greater part of the mineral earth is so foreign to the appearance of the treasures it contains as to be well imagined. Look through the smelter, and you will see like dirt, as you may, and the unpracticed eye cannot detect a mineral trace. Yet it is a notorious fact that this ugly substance is richer in its yield than the clear quartz which is the source of virgin silver. The bonanza carbonates of Leadville for instance, is a dried clay which will crumble between the fingers and was long overlooked by the pioneer miners of Colorado. The process of separating the ore from the waste is an enterprising "cat" assay "the worthless stuff."

The first step toward delivering the metals from their native disguises is the melting of the ore in a furnace. The furnace cupola is filled with ore, intermixed with broken rock and operated upon by fires burned to an almost incredible pitch of heat. When this mass becomes molten, the lead, silver and copper are drawn off and moulded into white leaden bars called bullion and containing usually lead, copper, antimony, silver and gold. The bullion is then melted, the lead removed and when cooled broken up and dumped along the river bank as above stated. The bullion is first passed through the cleaning or softening process, and the copper and antimony are taken out. The remaining lead, silver and gold goes then into large kettles and melted. Zinc is thrown in, and with its affinity for these metals it takes up the silver and gold, and the free lead. The lead is drawn out and after passing through a refining furnace is cast into bars for commercial use. The zinc amalgam of silver and gold is skimmed off, the little remaining silver is removed, and the zinc is thrown off and the silver and gold taken to the cupel shops for the removal of impurities. The gold and silver is separated by reducing the silver to a solution in sulphuric acid, through which the gold falls free in granular form to the bottom and then melted and cast into ingots. The silver is freed from its solution by precipitation and cast into bricks, and the process of producing the precious metals is complete.

Meanwhile the copper and antimony have been operated upon. The mass is melted and the antimony is removed by the forces of their relative specific gravity. The antimony is a white mineral commonly known as Babbitt metal. After the copper is thoroughly worked for or all the silver and gold is removed, it is converted into the chemical form of a sulphate or blue vitriol, in which condition alone it is shipped from these markets.

This lengthy and intricate process requires the large number of buildings which constitute the smelter and an inspection of the works is a most interesting diversion. All the refuse except the rough slag from the first furnaces, is submitted to repeated tests to thorough extraction of the metals and so much care is taken to save every precious particle that the fine dust and soot is collected periodically and melted.

Dr. Fuhke Explains.
Grand Island, Oct. 5.—[To the Editor.]—Some party put an article in your valuable paper which is a falsehood in every respect, and I would like you to correct the same. The negro Hubbard has stolen not only letters with money, but also some few suits of my clothing, and various other articles. I had him arrested for stealing the money letter, and will appear against him as prosecuting witness at the next term of the district court. If Mr. Rosicky wishes to do with him as he pleases, he can do so, and I shall furnish plenty of bonds. I left Omaha a few days after that occurred and settled down in Grand Island, where I have established myself and intend to remain.

Cataract.
Is a very prevalent and exceedingly disagreeable disease, liable, if neglected, to develop into serious consumption. The excruciating pain which it requires a constitutional remedy, like Hood's Sarsaparilla, which, acting through the blood, reaches every part of the system, effecting a radical and permanent cure of cataract in even its most severe forms. Made only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

THE LATE GEORGE WILKES.

One of the Human Links Connecting the Old With the New York of To-Day.

Love, Literature and Politics—The Friend of Paglits and President—Saved His Life.

New York Mercury: George Wilkes, who was buried yesterday, was one of the few human "links" which connect the New York of to-day with the "old New York"—the New York of the old-time paglits and criminals. Wilkes was himself a mixture of two men, the "tough" and the "gentleman," and passed through all stages of these opposite character during his eventful career. Like Fernando Wood, he began in low life, but constantly aspired to high life, though, unlike Fernando Wood, he never attained to the latter.

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This was the first of the drama. The second act was a fight on the streets about the French mutinies. Then came the third act with Wilkes' attack on Chamberlain in his paper and the avowed determination to drive John Chamberlain out of the country. Then came the fourth act, the fight, and a tremendous "strong" fourth act it was, in which John Chamberlain published his fearful attack in pamphlet form, against Wilkes and Stanley. And it was through the agency of Stanley, one of the very few men that Stanley put any confidence in, that John Chamberlain got the "points" which he published against Wilkes.

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Yet it was indirectly through Stanley that Wilkes got the hardest blow of his life in his quarrel with John Chamberlain. A man-drawn and more bitter quarrel than this never took place. Wilkes and Chamberlain started out the warmest of friends. Chamberlain was much pleased by the friendship of Wilkes and acted as a sort of a "go-between" between Wilkes and his house at Long Branch in the early days of Monmouth park.

At this time it was Wilkes, not Chamberlain, who really "ran" John Chamberlain's club house at Long Branch. Wilkes lived at the club house, kept his horses and held sort of a court there. And every night at Chamberlain's superb supper, George Wilkes would be found seated at the head of the table dispensing with the air of the host, the hospitalities of the place, while John Chamberlain himself sat by his side, or sometimes at the opposite end of the table, and let all Wilkes' jokes, applauding all Wilkes' speeches and echoing all Wilkes' sentiments.

This was the first of the drama. The second act was a fight on the streets about the French mutinies. Then came the third act with Wilkes' attack on Chamberlain in his paper and the avowed determination to drive John Chamberlain out of the country. Then came the fourth act, the fight, and a tremendous "strong" fourth act it was, in which John Chamberlain published his fearful attack in pamphlet form, against Wilkes and Stanley. And it was through the agency of Stanley, one of the very few men that Stanley put any confidence in, that John Chamberlain got the "points" which he published against Wilkes.

Stanley, in this matter, really kept faith with Wilkes, and it was through his agency that Chamberlain had got up his case against Wilkes, but it was really through Stanley's own man that John was enabled to put the red hot shot against Wilkes so effectively that the fight and the fight was the first of the drama. Wilkes was a sort of combined dandy and brute. He got intimate with the pugilists and sports of the day, and was a friend of Fier, Heenan, Cusick, Phehan and Billy Mulligan. Mulligan once saved Wilkes' life in a fight, or rather a secret attack in which Wilkes, however, late on the night, was set up by a lot of roughs, who were determined to "wipe him out." The attempt was vigorous and might have been successful had not Mulligan made his appearance. Wilkes fought like a tiger for Wilkes' defense.

As it was, the two men had all they could do to escape with their lives, and Wilkes was for a while unable to leave his home, during which period of sickness the big bully Mulligan nursed Wilkes as tenderly as if he and Wilkes both had been women. Wilkes never forgot this, and later on, when Mulligan was badly hurt, Wilkes was the first to offer him a personal and hearty welcome to his home. But just as in John Chamberlain's case afterwards, the two bosom friends, Wilkes and Mulligan, quarreled and broke up. Wilkes was a very kind hearted man, but he was not a very good man. Wilkes was a very kind hearted man, but he was not a very good man. Wilkes was a very kind hearted man, but he was not a very good man.

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THE LATE GEORGE WILKES.

One of the Human Links Connecting the Old With the New York of To-Day.

Love, Literature and Politics—The Friend of Paglits and President—Saved His Life.

New York Mercury: George Wilkes, who was buried yesterday, was one of the few human "links" which connect the New York of to-day