THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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A STORM CLOUD IN SIGHT.

The Switchmen's Strike in Chicago Assuming a Dark and Serious Aspect.

TRAINS STOPPED BY THE MOB.

Governor Oglesby Talks to the Strikers and is Applauded—He Will Call the Militia if Necessary.

The Strike in Chicago.

CHICAGO, April 20.—[Special Telegram.]—The situation in regard to the Lake Shore switchmen is a serious one, and it looks to-night as if the matter could not be settled without the calling out of the troops. Town of Lake officials have demonstrated their inability or unwillingness to afford the railway proper protection, and the strikers, for the past two days have been complete masters of the situation. Not a car of freight has been sent out or received. This morning the strikers, the curiosity seekers and the sympathizers were early distributed in groups about the Lake Shore tracks at Twelfth street, Fourth and Forty-third streets. This morning the strikers' safety committee, looking after the protection of the company's property, were also scattered along the line. The sun was scarcely up before the men began to crowd forth from box cars and shanties like cats in search of their morning meal. They had been on watch all night. Some time during the night a "scab" was hanged in effigy at the corner of Root street at the tracks. It bore this inscription: "The remains of a scab." The men came up at daylight and viewed it, uttering cries of derision. It was a very ragged, dirty effigy, and was suspended from a convenient lamp-post. It drew forth many gibes and jests. There was a futile attempt to pull together a train of refrigerator cars at 8:30 o'clock. Engineer Weaver pulled engine 532 out of the round house at Root street, and twenty armed police sat on the tender or walked on either side as guards. The engine slowly steamed up to Forty-fifth street, where a number of refrigerator cars and a caboose lay side-tracked. The strikers and their sympathizers gathered about the scene about a thousand strong, and several of the men remonstrated with Engineer Weaver, but without avail. Finding it impossible to influence the engineer, the strikers ran to the cars and quickly pulled the keys out of the draw-bars to disable them so that no train could be made up. The caboose sat on the opposite side of the track. It was uncoupled and pushed away by itself.

While the strikers were working like Hercules with their shoulders against the caboose pushing it away, a diminutive brakeman who was recognized as "a scab" appeared in the door and vehemently denounced the crowd. A stalwart striker stepped up and told him if he did not go about his business he would be roughly dealt with. The little brakeman refused to move on. The stalwart fellow hit him a gentle tap and left him unconscious on the track. Later he was revived with water and carried away.

In the midst of the trouble Conductor Geyer, who was to take charge of the train, appeared at the window of the caboose and brandished a pistol in the face of the crowd, threatening vengeance on any who attempted to molest him on the company's property. After waiting for a few minutes it was decided to run the engine back to the round house and make no further attempts to move trains. The strikers greeted this, which they call a victory, with lusty shouts and cheers.

Governor Oglesby has arrived in the city. It is rumored that he came here at the request of the sheriff and of the managers of the Lake Shore road, which expect serious trouble before the strike of switchmen is ended. He was closeted with Sheriff Hanchett and one or two other county officials from 9:30 a. m. until after 11 o'clock. Among those who were with him at the conference this morning were President Newell, of the Lake Shore, Marshal Field, N. K. Fairbanks and other prominent business men who have railroad interests. There was a rumor in circulation to the effect that the company will order conductors and brakmen to make up their own trains, and considerable anxiety is manifested by the train men, who do not want any trouble, but say that they will not do anything of the kind.

By Associate Press.

CHICAGO, Ill., April 20.—The Lake Shore railway made another unsuccessful attempt to move a freight train this morning, and were again prevented by the strikers. A train was started at Fourty-fourth street, and the crowd took possession of it and attempted to run the caboose, which was attached to the train, in which was the conductor and two brakemen, off the track. The brakemen and conductor rushed on to the platform and warned the crowd away. One of the men was about to throw a coupling-pin at the brakemen when the conductor drew a revolver. The crowd rushed at one of the brakemen and hustled him. Some one hit him upon the head, knocking him senseless. At this time the crowd left the caboose and went up to Forty-fifth street, where two cars standing on the side track were moved down and derailed in front of the engine. At Forty-third street General Superintendent Wright gave up the attempt to move a train. The crowd gave a cheer, lifted the car out of the track and moved it back to its former position, repaired several switches which had been broken, and the engine moved back to the round house.

THE OFFICIALS CONFERRING.

In a conference to-day between Governor Oglesby and public and railroad officials here the fact was revealed that Supervisor Shotford had communicated that he was unable with his police force to cope with the strikers. He had only forty men, and only a few could be spared, besides, they were of such a class as not to be the most efficient in a service of this kind. He could call in the special police, but he did not know the extent of his powers in this direction. This morning traffic was being impeded by strikers, and he was powerless to prevent it. Suggestions were offered as to the best course to pursue, the general opinion being that the sheriff should make up a posse to preserve the peace. All of the gentlemen seem apprehensive of serious trouble. The governor received a telegram from Brigadier Reece at East St. Louis. It reads as follows: "The situation is unchanged. The strikers are still defiant. They say they will hold out. A number of shots were fired at the sentries during the night. Two men of company seven, Eighth regiment were fired on, and returned the fire. One shot passed through the cap of one and another through the cape."

OGLESBY ADDRESSES THE STRIKERS.

Governor Oglesby visited the scene of the strike this afternoon in person. The governor arrived at Forty-first street in a special train at 3:35 p. m. General Superintendent Wright, Division Superintendent Amsden, Yardmaster Jones and General Freight Agent Blodgett, and other officials, were on the train. The governor got out on the platform and was soon surrounded by a crowd of 400 or more. He advised the men to preserve peace and endeavor to have wages advanced in a more quiet way. He said strikes were futile to effect any permanent change in the condition of affairs. He reminded them that the government was organized by the workingmen to protect property and lives, and it would use force if necessary to effect that purpose. He further said he was the instrument of the state to use that power, and while he deplored the necessity that would compel him to call out the militia, yet it might be his duty, and if it was his duty he would certainly do so. He then went on to picture the scenes of bloodshed which would follow such action, and called on the men to avoid the loss of a single life by using a little forbearance and returning to work. The speech was not received favorably at first, being interrupted by such cries as "You're wrong there, Uncle Dick; that ain't what we are driving at." But when the governor finished the crowd broke into cheers, which were kept up till the train pulled away. During the speech engine 119 steamed out from the round house, but after a conversation with the strikers the engineer took it back.

SHERIFF AND STRIKERS CONFER.

A conference lasting over an hour and a half was held this evening between the executive committee of the Switchmen's union, consisting of three persons, and Sheriff Hanchett. The committees stated in full detail their side of the case, and endeavored to show the sheriff that there was no reason why he should side with the railroad authorities or take active measures to assist the railroad companies in moving their trains. The sheriff on his part suggested measures toward a compromise, but nothing on that line was definitely settled excepting it was afterwards agreed that the sheriff should see the railroad officials to-morrow with a view of arriving at some basis for a settlement of the difficulties. The sheriff says that he was very much pleased with the conduct of the committee who conferred with him, but he felt unable to give any opinion as to whether his conference with the railroad officials will be likely or not to result in a final settlement of the strike. He was asked whether he would relieve the town of Lake authorities to-morrow from protection of railroad property, and answered positively that he would not do so under the present circumstances, but he did not know what he might do should the circumstances seem to justify it after to-morrow.

UNCLE DICK'S OPINION.

Governor Oglesby to-night said: "The only understanding arrived at thus far is to leave the work of preserving peace in the hands of the sheriff and police authorities of Chicago and the town of Lake. From what I have seen I am of the opinion that the strikers and their sympathizers can be controlled by civil powers. The railroad officials will to-morrow try again to run the blockade. In any event I shall remain in the city until to-morrow night at least."

TOLEDO, April 20.—The switchmen of the Lake Shore road here are quiet. There is no local cause for trouble, and if a strike occurs at this point it will go under orders from Chicago. About one hundred switchmen are in the Lake Shore employ. They avow a determination to go out in a body the moment orders are received.

THE STREET CAR STRIKE.

The General Tie-Up in New York Abandoned.

NEW YORK, April 20.—The railroad commissioners had a late session last night, which did not end until 2 o'clock this morning. Commissioner O'Donnell made an effort to bring about a proper understanding, and his endeavors were finally successful. A long consultation was held, in which the counsel for the Empire Protective association took part. The Third Avenue company again refused to submit to arbitration the points of difference which had been made manifest before the commissioners. The executive committee of the Empire association admitted that the other roads were not backing the Third Avenue line in the stand taken by the latter. As a result of this the commission agreed to countermand the order for a "tie-up," and they issued an order directing resumption of traffic on all surface lines except the Third Avenue at 4 o'clock this morning.

The tie-up on the street car lines has been partly unloosed to-day and cars on all roads are running, all but the Third avenue road sending out the regular number of cars. The latter road run a number of cars with new drivers and conductors, but the cars were filled with policemen. All along the route they were saluted by jeers and yells of the crowds which collected at different points. At Park Row, the end of the journey, the sidewalks were lined with people, but no one interfered to oppose the progress of cars. The railroad commissioners were at Murray Hill hotel this morning. At noon they went into session to consider the case of the Third avenue line. Commissioner O'Donnell was told the Third avenue company was running twenty-five cars to-day. He also stated that the road was willing to submit the matter to arbitration, and it was thought this would lead to a settlement of the difficulty, and the company's cars will be running before night.

Officials of the road refuse to bother with any conferences before the railroad commissioners. They say they will fight to the bitter end now. The situation is hourly growing critical. The men are becoming exasperated, but hope the railroad commissioners will be able to arbitrate. They say the struggle is for life or death now, and they are ready for peace or war.

After the conference with the state railroad commissioners and strikers committee to-night, Mr. Lauterbach said: "We refuse to discharge the 200 men we have employed since the strike began, and we refuse to take back any more strikers than will complete our necessary working force. As to hours and wages we will meet the demand.

The Knights Ignored.

AUGUSTA, Ga., April 20.—Two weeks ago the executive committee of the Knights of Labor presented a petition to the president of the cotton mills, setting forth certain concessions which they would like to have made, including the submission of charges to the board before the discharge of any Knights of Labor; also an advance of fifteen per cent in wages. There are eight mills, employing about 3,000 hands, most of whom are knights. The presidents to-day issued a circular to their employes, entirely ignoring the knights, in which they say, among other things: "We decline most positively to recognize any outside interference between our employes and ourselves. We shall, however, be glad to receive and fairly consider any communication from our employes as such, but we will not allow any outside parties to manage our affairs.

The knights met to-night and decided to notify the presidents that they would treat only through their executive board.

The St. Louis Strike.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., April 20.—It is generally conceded here that the Knights of Labor strike, so far as the business of the various roads centering in this city, and East St. Louis is concerned, is gradually losing its effect. The Missouri Pacific and Iron Mountain roads have fully resumed freight traffic.

Two sentinels patrolling the railroad yards in East St. Louis were fired upon before daylight this morning by unknown persons. Neither of them were hit. They returned the fire and proved as bad marksmen as their assailants, who escaped.

The Post-Dispatch's Little Rock special states that Deputy Sheriff Williams, who was assaulted and badly beaten by strikers while guarding the Iron Mountain railroad property, received a check for $500 from Jay Gould.

Tailors Strike for Higher Wages.

LYNCHBURG, Va., April 20.—The journeymen tailors of this city struck for higher wages to-day. Everything is quiet.

Two Reports Presented.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—The report of the majority of the house ways and means committee on the resolution to terminate the Hawaiian treaty begins with the statement that the object of the treaty was to secure closer commercial and political relations with the government of the Hawaiian islands, and ends by recommending the adoption of the resolution, as it does not prevent the administration from negotiating for such a modification of the existing treaty as will more equalize the benefits to be derived by two governments from their commercial relations. The report of the minority says, regretting they are unable to unite either in the recommendations or the report of the majority, content themselves by expressing their dissent from each side.

Rates Remain Unchanged.

CHICAGO, April 20.—A rumor was current to-day that the Burlington had called a meeting of the lines interested in northwestern freight traffic, but the report was not verified. Rates remain unchanged.

FOR PEACE AND GOOD ORDER.

The Objects of the Knights of Labor as Stated by Powderly.

THE STORY OF THE STRIKE TOLD.

The General Master Workman Frankly Answers Many Questions Propounded by the Congressional Committee.

Powderly as a Witness.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Grand Master Workman Powderly and Hayes and Turner, of the Knights of Labor, arrived in Washington this morning and were at the capitol at an early hour. Powderly repaired at once to the room of the appropriation committee, where he had a short chat with Randall.

The special committee of the house to inquire into the labor troubles of the southwest, held its first public session to-day. Among those present in attendance were Mr. Powderly and Hayes, Turner and McDowell, of the executive committee of the Knights of Labor. Major Swayne appeared as counsel for the railways. Powderly was the first witness. He repeated at length the story and history of the recent troubles in the southwest, but presented no new features in the matter.

"While I was in the west," said Powderly, "I heard from the men of little abuses which I do not think the manager of the Missouri Pacific road knows anything about. Along the Iron Mountain railroad they have a system of taking twenty-five cents a month from the wages of a man who receives a dollar a day, and fifty cents from the wages of a man who receives $2 a day, and so on in proportion, for what they call a hospital fund. Then the men claim that as soon as they are taken sick they are discharged and are denied the right of entering the hospital. Then there are instances which can be proved where the men have made contracts to buy land of the company on regular yearly installments, and where, having paid all but the last installment, they were discharged from employment. In that section of country it is different from the east. Men cannot go into the next town and get situations, and the consequence has been, in at least one particular, that a man have been obliged to remain idle so long that he lost his property. The men claim that there were several instances of that kind."

Chairman—Can you have witnesses called before the committee to show these facts.

Powderly—Undoubtedly, if I am correctly informed.

Buchanan—In your inquiries you have found that these causes of discontent existed?

Powderly—Yes.

Chairman—Will you state the purpose of the organization of the Knights of Labor. Whether its purposes are the protection of the interests of labor, and whether it is peaceful in all its actions?

Powderly—The aim of the organization of the Knights of Labor is to benefit the laborer and to secure a better feeling between him and his employer. All our methods are peaceful. We never counsel anything of a violent nature. Members of the organization may, once in a while, commit an act of violence. We can't help this. It is a matter beyond our control, because when the men feel that they have endured wrong there is no law which can properly restrain them.

Chairman—Do I understand that the Knights of Labor, as an organization, do protect labor, not only on the railroads but also in mines and factories?

Powderly—We attempt to do that. Our association is intended to be a national one. We aim at having our members study the conditions by which they are surrounded—not only their own conditions, but also those for whom they work.

Chairman—In order to pave the way for intelligent action?

Powderly—Yes, sir. I have claimed that it is no more than right for both to meet on equal terms and have a thorough understanding of the wants of each other. And it seems to me that until they do that they cannot properly fix up their differences.

Chairman—I do not ask you to divulge any of the secrets of the Knights of Labor, but you have stated that the obects of the society are to protect the labor of the country so far as possible against exactions of incorporated capital.

Powderly—To protect not only the labor of the country, but to protect the manufacturers as well. We desire that the manufacturers shall be in such a condition that they will be able to pay good wages. We have no quarrel with legitimate enterprise. If you discover that members of the Knights of Labor along the railroads have violated the law of the land, or violated our own laws—and the committee will discover that fact—we will be as ready to assist in punishing them as we are in upholding their rights. When I said I was willing to expose everything in connection with the organization of those who manage the railroads, or if one man in particular, would do the same thing, I spoke fairly and truthfully. I believe that the law of the land is higher than any organization, and when men violate the law of the land either as Knights of Labor, or as private citizens, or as members of corporations they should be punished for it, and that his connection with an organization should be no shield for him. And I have thought, on the other hand, that a man who violates the law, and is worth millions of dollars, should suffer the same as a poor man. I have made that statement, and the people have seen fit to see in it an invitation to anarchy. If that is anarchy, in the name of God, what is law?

Burns—The country generally, and I doubt not properly, seems to place a good deal of confidence in your integrity, your intelligence and your patriotism. Being disposed to consider the question practically, I ask if you have given thought to the question for legislative remedy for the evils to which you have alluded?

Powderly—I have never worked it up properly. I have thought it over, but have not followed it to its conclusion.

Burns—Will you be able, during the sittings of this committee, to give us your views on the question of the remedy for the wrong?

Powderly—How long is the committee likely to sit?

Chairman—About two months.

Powderly—I think I will be able, because in that time you will have an official declaration from the chief men of our organization on that point.

Burns—I would suggest further, that it may be well to consider what, in your judgment, can be constitutionally done, and what might be done, and what ought to be done by amendments to the constitution.

Powderly—I shall do so, and I thank you for the suggestion.

At this point the committee adjourned.

A Bank Fails.

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa., April 20.—The City National bank of Williamsport closed its doors this morning. A statement was placed on the door saying an examination of the affairs of the bank will be made and a statement of the condition published in a few days. The cause is said to be a defalcation amounting to about $20,000, together with a number of heavy losses. The stockholders are responsible persons and say its depositors will be paid in full.

New York Dry Goods Market.

NEW YORK, April 20.—The exports of domestic cottons for the past week have been 2,848 packages, and for the expired portion of the year 67,734 packages, against 57,491 packages for the same time last year. The market was quiet and the chief business with agents was reached through deliveries in execution orders.

Death of a Prominent Chicagoan.

CHICAGO, April 20.—Julian Rumsey, one of Chicago's oldest and most prominent citizens, died this morning, aged 62. Rumsey has been mayor of the city, treasurer of the county and president of the board of trade.

Nebraska Weather Indications.

For the State of Nebraska—Fair weather, stationary temperature.

THE SANTA FE SYSTEM.

Consolidation the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe and the Gulf, Santa Fe & Colorado Railroads.

NEW YORK, April 20.—[Special Telegram.]—The Tribune's Boston special says: George Sealey, president of the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe railroad company, who was recently elected director in the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe company, makes the following statement in regard to the consolidation of all interests of the two companies: The stockholders of the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe, have now constructed and have under construction in all 1,000 miles of main track road. When completed it will reach to a connection with the Atchison, Tokeka & Santa Fe company in Indian territory. These 1,000 miles of road, with all the landed interests in Texas, extensive wharf frontage and terminal facilities in Galveston, are to be put into the Atchison system as common property upon the basis of $8,000 stock per mile, or $8,000,000 stock, for which the stockholders of the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe take in exchange $8,000,000 stock in the Atchison company and become joint owners of the common property. An exchange of about $4,400,000 stock has been made and the remaining $3,600,000 will be delivered within the next twelve months, in which time the connection of two roads will be made. The total bonded debt of the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe is limited, not to exceed $12,000 first mortgage and $5,000 second mortgage bonds to each mile of main track. The consolidation will give the Atchison water connection from New York and the east via Galveston to the Pacific, as short as the Southern Pacific via New Orleans. The earnings of the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe for the fiscal year beginning January 1st to date have been $80,000 a month increase over the corresponding months of last year.

FORTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—The senate went into executive session at 12:45 p. m., and when the doors reopened the senate adjourned.

House.

Mr. Reed, of Maine, addressed his remarks to Mr. Tucker, inquiring when the Utah bill was to be reported by the judiciary committee.

Mr. Tucker replied that the bill was being considered by the committee, and when a determination was reached the bill would be reported adversely or favorably.

Mr. Reed suggested that the bill had been in the committee a long time and it was a measure in which the country was much interested. Could the gentleman give no other answer?

Mr. Tucker, (dryly)—"No other answer."

Mr. Reed, (with equal dryness)—"I am sorry for it."

The house went into committee of the whole, Mr. Wellborn in the chair, on the river and harbor bill. Smooth progress was made on the bill until an obstacle was reached in authorizing the secretary of war to accept for the United States from the Marine hospital at Erie, Pa., the title to the peninsular, Presque Isle, at Erie.

Against this proviso Mr. Hammond raised the point of order that it had no place in the river and harbor bill.

Arguments in support of the point were presented by Messrs. Hewitt and Springer, while Messrs. Bayne and Scott took a different view of the case.

The point was finally overruled by the chair, who was satisfied that the possession of the peninsular by the United States was an element in the work of improving the harbor of Erie, and the motion to strike out the proviso was rejected by the committee.

A number of amendments were offered and objected to, and the committee rose and the house adjourned.

THE EX-PRESIDENT'S ILLNESS.

The Statement Made That His Case is Positively Hopeless.

NEW YORK, April 20.—[Special Telegram]—The World says ex-President Chester A. Arthur is a very sick man. It may not be beyond the simple truth to say that his case is hopeless. It certainly is not to say that many of his most intimate friends never expect to see him out of his house alive again. This is startling news, but it cannot be gainsaid. For several weeks the inner circle of friends, at the earnest solicitation of the family, have been reticent regarding the ex-president's condition. The family physician and attaches of the house have been under strict command to decieve the public regarding General Arthur's health, and they have done so and continue to do so, against the better judgment of many friends, who secretly believe that the American public have the right to know the condition of the man who has been their president and who is one of the most popular citizens of New York. There seems to be little reason to doubt that the seat of General Arthur's trouble is in the kidneys instead of the liver. His friends say he is suffering either from Bright's disease or diabetes, the weight of information being on the side of the former malady.

A Damaging Flood.

PITTSFIELD, Mass., April 20.—At six o'clock this morning the village of East Lee was inundated and devastated by the breaking away of a dam at Mud Pond reservoir, Mountain lake, two and one-half miles from the village. The pond covered many acres of swamps and was increased from the original size by extensive dams built by a club of manufacturers as a storage place for water. The bodies thus far recovered and identified are Mr. White and wife and three young daughters; Mr. King and wife and their son and wife. Eleven bodies have thus far been found and several persons are missing.

East Lee village received its first news of the accident when the flood came pouring down the streets, the water being six feet deep and bringing with it trees, portions of houses, fences, wagons, and every form of movable property. The people fled to the slopes of the valley, along which the torrent rushed, and saw houses moved and toppled about like chips on a river. The flood passed East Lee and went on down the river, destroying gardens, lawns, fences and doing thousands of dollars' worth of damage. Much stock, besides property, is lost. The scene is one of terrible desolation, and the town of Lee is wild with excitement.

The disaster throws a great many hands out of employment and literally paralyzes all the East Lee industries. The loss on property is fully $200,000, while the expense of repairing roads and other costs that must fall on the town will reach $20,000 more. Charles King, before reported dead, is alive but badly injured, and it is thought he will recover.

The Montreal Flood.

MONTREAL, April 20.—The water kept going down all last night and to-day Craig street is almost free of water. On St. Francis Xavier street the flood has receded almost to St. Paul street and there is a fall of at least two feet in the level of water; 7,422 families were flooded out, making the total in the district affected 30,000 persons.

The following is a fair estimate of the damages: Wholesale dry goods, $250,000; retail dry goods, $75,000; wholesale groceries, $230,000; retail groceries, $200,000; wholesale hatters, $100,000; wholesale furriers, $150,000, and other losses aggregate a total of $1,685,000. The streets are now free from water and the flood is falling steadily.

A Sight to Drive One Mad.

WEBSTER, Dak., April 20—A prairie fire on Saturday consumed the dwelling and farm buildings of Mrs. Dollinger. When the buildings caught Mrs. Dollinger and her mother rushed to the barn to save the stock. The roof fell in and the mother was burned to death, and in attempting to save her the daughter was so badly burned that she will die. Her son came home at night, and the sight which greeted him endangers his reason.

MORE LABOR LEGISLATION.

A Proposition That an Inter-State Commerce Commission Investigate Strikes.

DETAILS OF THE AMENDMENT.

Weaver Loses Lots of Sleep Over Postmasters to Be Appointed, for He Has Promised Too Much—Capitol Notes.

The Inter-State Commerce Bills.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—[Special Telegram.]—It is probable that the house will take up the question of the regulation of inter-state commerce at an early day. There are four bills now before the house having this object in view. The first is the time-honored Reagan measure which the member from Texas has attempted to force through the house for years without success. It has been reported favorably from the commerce committee, but it is not likely to pass, for many reasons, the principal one of which is that members on both sides know it is impossible to secure the acquiescence of the senate in such radical legislation. The general impression seems to be that one of the other three will be substituted for the Reagan measure. They are known respectively as the Cullom bill (which has already passed the senate), the Baker bill and the Hepburn bill. They are identical in many features and differ only in detail. Each proposes a commission with advisory powers, to which shall be referred all misunderstandings between the railroads and shippers. The Cullom bill is most likely to be taken up because its endorsement by the house would be the most certain way in which to secure early legislation on this subject. Representative Baker, of New York, has prepared an amendment to the Cullom bill which he has submitted for approval to his associates, and which promises to meet with very general support. It is designed to be inserted in the bill after the clause defining the duties of the commission, and reads:

Said Commissioner May, in like manner, investigate any differences, disagreements, controversies or disputes that may at any time exist or arise between any railroad company or corporation and the employes thereof, and in case any differences or disagreement, involving the hours of or the compensation for labor by the employes of a railroad company or corporation, said commission shall, immediately upon the receipt by them from a duly recognized representative of such employes of any such railroad corporation or company if a statement in writing of the differences existing and of the demands or requests made, proceed to investigate and determine the same, exercising therefor all the powers conferred by section seven of this act; and the decision or award of such commission shall relate back to the date when such differences arose, provided such employes shall not, pending such investigation, by striking or otherwise, prevent the usual operation of such railroad and the prosecution of the business thereof as fully and freely as if no differences existed.

It is proposed to ask the opinion of the Knights of Labor on the amendment before submitting it to a vote of the house.

THINKING OF PROMISES UNKEPT.

General Weaver has been making his boast the past few days that he has a clear field in the Sixth Iowa district—that since Judge Cook moved out he has no opposition. He thinks the opposition have no other man competent for the position, and that he will have a "walk away." The postoffice question, however, troubles him, and he dreads to meet some of his betrayed supporters, whom he paid off with broken promises, and their name is legion. There are several appointments yet to make, and he will allow the republican incumbents to hold on till after the election, if they will keep quiet and not get him into trouble. The Grinnell office has bothered him no little, and he has permitted the republican there to hold over since last December, when his commission expired, rather than face the storm he will bring about his ears by the selection of one of the number he has promised the office. The Newton appointment is another one in which he fears to make a choice, though a man named Flowers is booked as the lucky one. Other offices not yet filled are thorns in the flesh to him and loses him much sleep, and all because he has made a half dozen times as many promises as he has offices to fill them with.

NOTES ON OTHER IOWA MEMBERS.

Jerry Murphy's attempt to run the Hennepin canal by wind instead of water proved the death of it. You know Jerry never did take water when he could get anything else.

Ben Frederick looks dejected and woebegone since the new congressional apportionment in Iowa.

If the republicans of the First Iowa district will look up Ben Hall's vote with the rebel brigadiers, and for the big grabs that have already gone through the house and with others to follow, they can easily convince the people of his district that he is not the proper person to represent them. He is no good here.

WHITNEY'S ANGLO-PHOBIA.

It begins to look as though Secretary Whitney was not only bent on breaking down the American naval constructors, like John Roach, but that he was anxious to ignore American designers and American iron manufacturers. Some time ago it was stated that he had contracted with a British firm for rolling the iron plates with which the new American men-of-war now undergoing construction are to be sheathed. It is now stated that English naval designers have been employed to draft designs for the other war cruisers. In a word Mr. Whitney seems to constantly on the qui vive for opportunities to degrade and destroy all American constructors, and to depreciate them and their products in the eyes not only of our own people, but also in the eyes of other nations. Why Mr. Whitney takes this course, or what he expects to realize for himself personally, or for the country at large, no one here seems able to guess. One thing he is certainly doing, and that is he is bringing odium and wrath upon the administration. During the past few years there has been developing all over the country an intense feeling of Americanism—not political nor of a know-nothing nature, but an earnest determination that American interests of all kinds shall be preferred and fostered by the people and the government wherever and whenever it can be consistently done.

A NEBRASKA PETITION.

Senator Manderson presented in the senate to-day a petition signed largely by citizens of Estelle, Hayes county, Neb., asking congress to pass the Blair educational bill.

CAMPAIGN LITERATURE AT A DISCOUNT.

"There is the smallest variety of campaign speeches in congress this session that I've seen for many years," said a member of the house to-day. "Usually a great many different kinds of speeches are delivered during the first session of a congress for the purpose of flooding the districts with literature during the approaching campaigns, but silver has so far produced the text for nearly every speech. A few got out some political matters during the debate on Fitz John Porter, but they were all who departed from silver. I am told there will not be much interest in or debate on the tariff bill. That may be, though, because the understanding is that Mr. Randall intends to kill the bill when it first comes up by having the enacting clause stricken out."

THE LABOR INVESTIGATION.

The people here take no interest in the investigation that is to be made by a special committee of the house into the labor strikes in the west and southwest, as no one can see what is to be gained by a congressional inquiry. It is not proposed nor anticipated that any action will be taken by congress on the information procured by the committee, and many pronounce the investigation one of show and demagoguery only.

PATENTS TO WESTERN INVENTORS.

Patents were issued to-day to the following: Henry A. Adams, Cedar Rapids, Ia., hammock support; Charles B. Bird, assignor to E. S. Bird, Sioux City, Ia., two, suspender buckles; Benjamin C. Brownell, Center Junction, Ia., self-clearing breaking plow coulter; Stoddart N. J. Dobson, assignor to Dobson Patent Tanning Process company, Lincoln, Neb.; John S. Eberhart, La Porte City, Ia., combined chimney and ventilator; Andrew J. Grush and J. B. S. Case, Defiance, soot accumulator; Edwin G. Hastings, assignor of one half to J. A. King, Nevada, Ia., ditching and tile laying machine; Austin McNally, Cascade, Ia., wrench; Philip Meyer, Falls City, Neb., harrow; Paul Ramsey, Montezuma, Ia., holder for envelopes, etc.; Daniel Blanson, Monticello, gate.

A LUMBER SYNDICATE.

Information received here from Louisiana and Mississippi shows that a combination of lumbermen from the northwest have purchased about 1,500,000 acres of the best timber land of those states in the belief that a great profit can be made now in handling southern yellow pine as in white pine from the north, which they say is growing scarce.

AN IOWA NOMINATION REJECTED.

In the executive session of the senate this afternoon the nomination of the postmaster at Marshalltown, Iowa, was rejected. This makes two Iowa postmasters whose confirmations have lately been refused by the senate, the other one being at Webster City.

HIS CLAIM DISALLOWED.

The depredation claim of James Carolins, of Richardson county, amounting to $210, has been disallowed by the secretary of the interior.

Nominations and Confirmations

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Nominations: Postmasters—Frank Shields, Wilmington, Ill.; Barclay P. Smith, Deadwood, Dak.

Confirmations: Postmasters—J. A. Smith, Freeport, Ill.; C. G. Hagnauer, Highland, Ill.; S. D. Bardebaugh, Urbana, Ill.; J. D. Waterman, Rockford, Ill.; C. F. Collin, Homer, Ill.; J. M. Keyes, Richland Center, Wis.; S. Chamberlain, Waupun, Wis.; D. E. Craig, Fort Atkinson, Wis.

Surveyor of Customs—F. J. Phelps, Lacrosse, Wis.

Consuls—S. R. Miller, of Davenport, Iowa, at Leipsic; C. P. Kimball, of Chicago, at Stuttgart.

William Bayard to be register of the land office at Pueblo, Col.; J. H. Davis, Indian agent at Ouray, Utah; J. C. Breckenridge, surveyor general of Washington territory; J. Mueller, of Cleveland, consul general at Frankfort on the Main; F. S. Mansfield, of Texas, secretary of legation at Japan.

Collectors of internal revenue—O. A. Wells, Third district of Wisconsin, J. M. Morrow, Sixth Wisconsin; A. C. Parkinson, Second Wisconsin; E. C. Wall, First Wisconsin.

The nominations of John Warner, postmaster at Peoria, Ill., and William T. Hall, postmaster at Beloit, Wis., have been withdrawn at their own request.

Proceeding to the calendar of confirmations, the senate disposed of a considerable number of cases. Among the confirmed is Zach Montgomery, to be assistant attorney general for the interior department.

Of Interest to Whisky Men.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Congressman Ballerworth and Dr. Bush, of Chicago, vice-president of the Whisky Distillers' association, appeared before the senate committee on finance this morning to advocate the senate amendment to the bill relating to the taxation of fractional parts of a gallon of distilled spirits. Cushing, chief of the distilled spirits division of the internal revenue bureau, was also present and favored the passage of the house bill without amendment. The house bill places a tax upon any fractional part of a gallon of spirits, while the senate amendment exempts from taxation any fractional part of a gallon which does not exceed one per centum of the contents of the cask or package.

The Military Changes.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—The order will shortly be issued by the war department assigning Brigadier General Potter to the command of the department of the Missouri, with headquarters at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., vice Brigadier General Miles, transferred to the department of Arizona, and assigning Brigadier General Ruger to the command of the department of Dakota, with headquarters at Fort Snelling, vice Major General Terry, placed in command of the division of the Missouri.

The Army Bill Modified.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Mr. Logan reproduced in the senate his bill to increase the efficiency of the army with the sections stricken out which provide for the increase of the number of men, relating to the pay of chaplains, and authorizing commissioned officers to make deposits of money with paymasters.

A Call for Bonds.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—The house committee on foreign affairs to-day agreed to report favorably the Belmont Chinese indemnity resolution and the Morrow Chinese bill.

Favorable Reports Made.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—The secretary of the treasury this afternoon issued a call for $10,000 3 per cent bonds, the call to mature June 1.

Aid Sent Iowa Tornado Sufferers.

CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia., April 20.—This city sent $600 in money and supplies to the Coon Rapids tornado sufferers.

NEWS FROM ALL NEBRASKA.

The Bids Opened for Building York County's Court House and Jail.

CONTRACT TO BE LET TO-DAY.

An Oakdale Editor Arrested for Murder—Bohanan Secures a New Lease of Life—The Supreme Court's Work.

York's New County Building.

YORK, Neb., April 20.—[Special Telegram]—The bids for the erection of the new court house of York county were opened by the board of supervisors this afternoon and were considered in secret session. There were five complete bids filed: R. K. Allen, of St. Jo, $63,000; D. R. Howard, of Lincoln, $52,000; J. F. Causand, of Lincoln, $52,000; W. U. Patvin, of Lincoln, $57,700; Hutchinson & Collier, of this city, $56,000, and $51,000 without jail. All the above bids are for complete jail and court house, furnished throughout and steam heated. The board postponed action until to-morrow and allowed the bidders to make a separate bid on the court house, without jail or jail fixtures.

The building has four fronts and its size is 70x100 feet. From the ground to the base of the tower is 129 feet, and the tower including the statue is fifty-nine feet. Messrs. Placey & Gray, of Lincoln, are the architects. The first and basement floors are to be divided by two main corridors eleven feet wide, extending at right angles from the center out. In the basement the floor will be level with the grade line, the height of story ten feet and arranged as follows: Commencing at south entrance, the county judge's office will be at the left hand, with main office, private office and vault, each of the two apartments entered from the main office. Across the main corridor mentioned, is the county surveyor's, he being provided with a main office and vault. Adjoining the surveyor's office and accessible from and at the east end of the main, east and west corridor, the sheriff is provided with a neat office, which is directly opposite the jail. The latter is arranged with six double steel cells, basket entrance, etc., in the most approved manner. Opposite the jail, and on the northwest corner of the building, is located the boiler and fuel rooms, fresh water, cistern and closets, each of the latter occupying one-fourth of the floor space of the basement. At the south end of the main north and south corridor, there are two stone stairways leading to the main floor. There is also one broad stone stairway on each side of the building, leading to the main floor. The latter floor being occupied in full, by the following offices, viz: County clerk, circuit and district clerks, treasurer and recorder, each officer occupying one-fourth of the floor space of this floor, being provided for alike. Any of the last mentioned offices may be entered from either of the main corridors. At the south end of the main north and south corridor there is a large, double stairway leading to the second or court room floor, at the head of which are located the following rooms: Grand jury room, county superintendent's room, two petit jury rooms, circuit judge's private office, lawyer's consultation room, also witness room. Access to the latter four rooms is had only through a private hallway, leading from the bar to the last mentioned room. The main corridor on this floor is 11 feet wide, and leads to the large and commodious court room, 40x63 feet in the clear.

An Editor Under Arrest.

NORFOLK, Neb., April 20.—[Special Telegram.]—The town of Oakdale is excited over the arrest of a prominent citizen on a charge of murder, the prisoner being F. L. Putney, editor and proprietor of the Journal. The warrant was sworn out by a woman named Harriet Anderson, living near Neligh. Some time ago this woman gave birth to an illegitimate child, the body of which was afterwards found in the river. She charges that Putney was present at the birth of the child; that he agreed to place it on the doorstep of some one, and that instead it was thrown into the river. Putney denies all knowledge of the woman and cannot account for her motive in charging him with disposing of the infant. The firm of Holmes & White, of this city, has been selected to prosecute the case, which comes up for hearing to-morrow.

Bohanan's Attorney Victorious.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., April 20.—[Special Telegram.]—Bohanan has just received a message from his counsel that the United States supreme court had overruled Attorney General Leese's motion to throw Bohanan's case out of court, and have ordered the case to be argued on its merits. In an interview with Hon. J. C. Watson, one of the counsels of the state, the BEE reporter is informed that in all probability the next step taken by the prosecution will be the filing of a motion asking that the case be advanced on the docket. This no doubt will be done and the case argued some time this fall. Bohanan takes this new lease of life as but the forerunner of the good result he expects to obtain in this court.

Van Wyck Club in Gage County.

WYMORE, Neb., April 20.—[Special.]—The farmers of Sicily are wide awake, and they propose to be recognized in our next legislature. The farmers met at the school house April 17, for the purpose of organizing a Van Wyck club. The house was called to order, and J. W. Bridenthal was el