THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

SIXTEENTH YEAR. OMAHA, WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 1, 1886. NUMBER 166.

ENGLAND'S AMERICAN MAILS.

Troubles Between the Government and the Liverpool Steamship Companies.

BEGINNING THE NEW CONTRACT.

Talks With Postoffice Officials and Representatives of the Lines of Vessels That Are Out of the Service.

Changing the Mail Boats.

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LONDON, Nov. 30.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—I called at the general postoffice to-day to make inquiries about the American mails—the new arrangement beginning to-day. I was shown along a stone corridor amid the tinkling of electric bells, the blowing of speaking trumpets and whistles, the ringing of telephones and slamming of doors, into the presence of Mr. E. H. Rea, foreign and colonial secretary of the general postoffice. This gentleman was deputed by S. A. Blackwood, general secretary of the postoffice, to give your correspondent a full official explanation of the new contract. Mr. Rea is a man of about fifty, with snowy-white hair, scanty whiskers and mustache, wearing glasses and bearing the appearance of a hale and hearty English gentleman. After shaking hands warmly he said:

WHAT THE TROUBLE IS.

The difference between the Cunard and the White Star lines and the general postoffice is simply that we intend to break down their monopoly. When we sought to renew the old contracts, expiring to-day, they insisted on the new contract being for two years, but would only give two boats a week, unless we consented to accept the Cunard's Boston boat to carry our third mail. This arrangement we objected to. Under what might now be called the old contracts we were debarred from making up a mail bag for any but the contracting lines, unless the letters were marked with the name of the vessel. Oh, yes, the German-Lloyds have heretofore carried a mail, but only a mere handful. If any letters were posted marked "private ship letter" only, without mentioning the vessel, we could send them only by the ordinary mail. But now, by the new contract, we are not bound at all. The Saturday mails will be carried by the Guion's two fast steamers, Arizona and Alaska, and their second class boats, the Nevada, Wyoming and Wisconsin. But we intend making up mail bags for the fast Cunarders, especially the Umbria. It is possible, but not probable, they may refuse to take mails, but we intend insisting on our right and will fine them £200 should they refuse.

This new contract will place us almost in the same position as the American postoffice, as by not being bound we shall send by the fastest steamers.

A BIG SAVING.

What is the saving by the new contracts to the postoffice exchequer? Well, we pay so much for each pound weight. For mails costing altogether as much as last year without any increase we save exactly 25 per cent. We at present send on an average 365 bags of mail composed as follows: From London, only 145, from Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow, 120; Ireland, 60; and the continent, 40 bags.

A NEWSPAPER AGITATION.

The great agitation the papers here are making has been caused by the Cunard and White Star people, led by John Burns, chairman of the former company, who first started the agitation by setting Ireland against us when he said: My ships shall not now call at Queenstown. Of course all their statements have been freely colored to suit their own purposes. The conservative papers especially are bitterly attacking us for being radical, but as a matter of fact Mr. Blackwood and myself, who have almost the whole arranging of this matter, are the greatest conservatives in the general postoffice.

ONLY FOR THREE MONTHS.

Yes, the new contracts are only for three months, when we shall again accept the best tenders. The advertisements will be published in about a fortnight, so that the aggrieved companies can again bid. But our great anxiety is to remain, as by the new arrangements, unfettered. But of course we don't know what combination may be made against us. Mr. W. L. Jackson, financial secretary of the treasury, Mr. Blackwood and the postmaster-general have been in close consultation together about this matter for some time. The former took the opportunity on Saturday night, at the dinner of the Leeds Association of Foremen Engineers, in acknowledging the health of the borough members, of which he is one, to tell to the world the same story as to the new contracts that I am telling you now, only he used other words.

Talks With the Companies.

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LIVERPOOL, Nov. 30.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—I interviewed this afternoon representatives of the Cunard, White, Star and Guion companies respecting the carriage of the American mails. The two first companies are acting in concert, but the Guion is for itself alone. Said one of the heads of the White Star company: The point upon which we broke with the postmaster general was the question of a tri-weekly service to New York. We offered service on Thursday and Saturday to New York and Tuesday service to Boston. This was in the face of the opinion expressed in commercial circles that a Wednesday and Saturday service would suffice for all purposes, and give a better service. We offered to reduce our former rate of 4s 4d per pound to 3s 6d per pound, and no exception was taken to this by the postoffice, but they wanted to stick to the tri-weekly service.

A NEW DISPUTE.

Is this an old or new dispute?

It is quite a new dispute. It did not originate with us in the first instance. It was suggested that the White Star line would deliver mails in New York earlier than by the Tuesday service. Our boats are faster than the Inman boats. This would have been an advantage to the commercial community because the Wednesday service would have delivered letters in New York in time to reply by the Cunard Saturday boats. The government, it seems, made up its mind to send the mail by Southampton.

WHERE IT ORIGINATED.

Did Mr. Gladstone's postmaster general originate this dispute?

Yes; Lord Walverton gave notice in the ordinary course to terminate the contract. This was undoubtedly according to a prearranged policy of the postoffice. Mr. Parkes, who succeeded Lord Walverton, has had to continue the policy of his predecessor. The postoffice wanted to introduce the American system of monthly contracts. They have been aiming at this for some years. It was through their insufficient knowledge of the requirements of our efficient steamers' service.

NO SAVING MADE.

Will there be any saving to the postoffice exchequer under the new arrangement?

That is a matter which it would be difficult to compute. We think they will effect no saving at all. We offered to do the service at a sum ranging from £12,000 to £15,000 a year less and run our fast boat during the winter, which practically would have been increasing the efficiency of the service. The service would not have been less efficient under a weekly system. We argued it would have been more efficient, and the Liverpool chamber of commerce agreed with us.

THE GOVERNMENT'S OFFER.

What does the postoffice offer? They offered for vessels calling at Queenstown and waiting there for the mails, 3 shillings per pound for letters and 3 pence per pound for printed matter, as against 4 shillings hitherto paid. For ships not calling at Queenstown they offer the ordinary 1 shilling and 8 pence per pound for letters and 3½ pence per pound for printed matter.

THE RELATIVE SPEED.

What do I think is the difference in average speed of the Cunard over the Guion for Saturday? Well, that would be difficult to say, except in the case of the Alaska and Arizona. It might run to three days. But let me say this: The contracting lines have frequently run their fast steamers during the winter in order to conform with their contracts, at an absolute loss, and it cannot be expected that they will continue this, unless they have some compensating advance, and that can only be given by their having a contract throughout the year. The North German Lloyd's boats are very slightly quicker than the White Star, being newly built. But this slight difference is more than compensated for by the White Star boats calling at Queenstown.

THE BEST LEAVING POINT.

Ought not the Cunard and White Star steamers to go to some port nearer London than Liverpool?

Well, no. Queenstown has been demonstrated to be the very best point of departure for British mails. It offers telegraphical advantages no other port in the United Kingdom can offer. Since 1880 the North German Lloyds have been able to take letters if marked "Private ship letter for Fulda," etc., so that London had its port of call always for the Thursday service if desired. We have been advertising for months past that letters marked for the Alaska, Rome, etc., would be dispatched by them. There is a very strong feeling against the mails being carried by foreign ships. The vessels of the Cunard and White Star companies have been constructed at an enormous cost in order to be of use to the admiralty as transports or armed cruisers in case of need, and they have been specially classified by the admiralty as to fitness for such purpose. They must have some recognition or naturally enough companies will cease to go to such expense in the construction of vessels. The North German Loyds ships are subsidized to the extent of £22,000 per year for fifteen years, equal to a subsidy of £30,000,000, and the Messageries Maritimes receive 12,750,000 francs per annum. If those foreign ships are allowed to enter into competition with British companies as mail carriers, it means that the British companies must pass out of the race. We have carried the mails fully ten years.

NO MONOPOLY.

It is nonsense to talk about a monopoly. There is no such thing. Only the posoffice itself is a gigantic monopoly which will not brook competition from any quarter. There can be no monopoly when any person can send his letters by any steamer he selects by simply putting the name of the steamer in the superscription. The White Star will make no appeal to parliament. We should like to contemplate building new steamers, but how can we under the present circumstances? This week we have no vessel sailing to New York and the crew ashore doing nothing. If this policy is persisted in it means the beginning of a policy under which you will see the end at no distant date of the large passenger steamers between Liverpool and America, and it is a very poor reward for the heavy sums we have spent in building boats to meet the government requirements. If there were an American company in existence no doubt they would be highly subsidized. The argument in favor of the American system does not apply at all.

THE CUNARD'S REASONS.

At the Cunard offices very similar reasons were urged against the government schemes. Said one of the leading officials of the company: Yes, it is the old dispute revived. The Umbria and Etruria, in the winter months, can make the passage in something like five days from Queenstown. It is true that the Cunard takes only consignee letters now. This is our intention. In our offer we specifically mentioned this. The Wednesday's service would have allowed of replies to letters by the Saturday's mail, and given satisfaction to the commercial community, for our vessels will beat anything afloat. No new steamers can be built under such circumstances.

WHAT THE GUION LINE SAYS.

The manager of the Guion line said: Our company has now helped the government three times out of their difficulties, The Arizona and Alaska land mailt and goods in time for Monday's business. I will admit that the Etruria and Umbria land their passengers on Sundays. The English government has hitherto been forced into long contracts. I think the American system the most satisfactory. The Cunard and White Star lines have refused to make terms and the Alaska and Arizona are to be continued in their position. The other companies will be treated on the same terms for Thursdays and Saturdays, otherwise the German boats will be continued in the service. There is no patriotism in this question at all. The outcry in Liverpool is in support of their own ships. No one sympathizes with them except Ireland who wishes to retain three sailings from Queenstown per week.

Praising the American System.

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LONDON, Dec. 1, 4 a. m.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—Postmaster-General Raikes himself last night defended his action in the American mail contracts at the conservative banquet at Alnwick, Northumberland, in which he claimed the cabinet was behind him. He paid many compliments to the American government system of carrying the mails. In the course of his speech, he remarked:

Under the old system of forwarding letters to America this country was placed at considerable disadvantage as compared with the United States. The United States are able to carry out the practice of sending as many mails as they like to this country by any vessel which crosses the Atlantic. I believe that they frequently send as many as five mails per week to this country and they are able to do so at a very much lower cost than we were able to do in consequence of the contracts which hitherto subsisted but which terminated today. The result of this was that we paid much more for sending our letters to America and had only the opportunity of sending them three times per week, whereas the United States had the opportunity of sending them at least five or six times per week to this country. I dare say a great many people have noticed the great increase in the sale of articles of American manufacture in this country, and I am afraid those who are acquainted with the commerce of this country have chronicled a corresponding decrease in the sale of English articles in the United States. I think you will not be very far wrong if you connect the postal facilities which the Americans enjoy with this overabundance of American articles in the English market, and the falling off or standing still of English commerce in the United States. The late government determined to put an end to that state of things by a new arrangement. We shall obtain the same free hand in forwarding our mails to America as the United States had in sending them to us, that by not committing ourselves too far in advance by any particular tender, we could avail ourselves of the fastest ships on the Atlantic whenever faster ships came into existence.

Postmaster General Raikes concluded amid loud cheers that he contemplated a time not far distant when there would be daily American mails going and coming.

Dillon's Case Postponed.

DUBLIN, Nov. 30.—The case of the government against John Dillon came up for hearing to-day before the court of queen's bench. Dillon appeared accompanied by Lord Mayor Sullivan and Healy and Sexton. A great crowd surrounded the building and court room and corridors were packed. Dillon was greeted with tremendous cheering by the people when he arrived and the passage into the court room was amid enthusiastic applause. Healy, on behalf of Dillon, applied for adjournment of the hearing. He said he had only been instructed as to the nature of the crown's complaint last night, and as the crown's affidavits were exceedingly voluminous the defense would require time to properly study them. The hearing was adjourned until December 11 next.

A Prize Fighter Croaks.

LONDON, Nov. 30.—Knifton, who was to have fought a prize fight to a finish with bare knuckles in Paris to-day, for the heavyweight championship of England and heavy stakes, backed out at the last moment and refused to go to the battle ground. The men have been active and in close training for the encounter for several weeks, and the interest taken in the event was widespread and intense.

The amount of money up in wagers was large. Last evening a train load of prominent sporting men and aristocrats went to Paris to witness the battle. The only reason Knifton gave for his conduct was that he found the number of Smith's adherents was so much greater than the number of his own friends, who would be present, that he feared he would be unable to obtain fair play and concluded to abandon the contest, which he felt convinced to be hopeless for him under the circumstances.

Buller to Return.

LONDON, Nov. 30.—It is semi-officially announced that General Redvers Buller, who has accepted the office of under secretary for Ireland, will return to the war office the early part of March and resume his duties as deputy adjutant general. His services will be required in Ireland only while the department is being reorganized. The under secretary will in future occupy a seat in the commons.

The French ambassador has asked Iddleseigh, foreign secretary, for a definite reply to France's interrogatory respecting the Suez canal.

The British Home Rule associaton and Home Rule league of the United Kingdom will amalgamate under the name of the Home Rule union and support a single ticket in future elections for the purpose of assisting the Irish people in obtaining the rights of social self-government. A conference of the two associations is called for December 9.

Socialism in Berlin.

BERLIN, Nov. 30.—The annual report on the siege of Berlin describes the socialistic movement among workingmen as still lively, and tending more and more in a radical and extreme direction, which gives it a very provocative character. Hamburg and Altona are the chief cities of the movement.

They Want a Yankee King.

LONDON, Nov. 30.—The Standard says it is seriously proposed in Sofia to nominate an American as a candidate for the Bulgarian throne.

The Fasting Maniacs.

PARIS, Nov. 30.—The municipal council has dispatched Dr. Chassaing to visit the Italian faster, Merlatti, for the purpose of ascertaining if abstinence from food endangers his life.

The Bulgarian Throne.

PARIS, Nov. 30.—It is announced here that Russia does not insist upon the selection of Prince Nicholas of Mingrelia, as a candidate for the Bulgarian throne.

A Treaty of Commerce.

PARIS, Nov. 30.—France and Mexico have concluded a treaty of commerce.

HILL DISAPPEARS.

Chicago's Phenomenal Grain Plunger Much Sought After.

CHICAGO, Nov. 30.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Fred. A. Hill, the phenomenal grain plunger, who used to stand in the wheat pit and sell 2,000,000 bushels of wheat as nonchalantly as Ream or Cudahy or Armour might have done, has disappeared from view. His disappearance was marked, for there were a hundred people looking for him. For days and days he has stood in the wheat pit and sold all the wheat that anybody wanted to buy. It did not make any difference whether it was 100,000 bushels, or 500,000 or 1,500,000. He filled the bulls up—solid, substantial bulls who had money to pay for what they bought. Yesterday wheat went up 2 cents a bushel. Hill is supposed to have been short about 1,000,000 bushels. "Calls" on which he had relied heretofore he was without and so he went broke. It is presumed that the $20,000 or so which he had was wiped out in the advance of yesterday. Official notice was given from the gallery before the opening this morning to close out all his open trades. Hills failure temporarily closes the most remarkable career of this long season of depression. He was everywhere suspected of being weak financially, and numbers of conservative operators refused either to trade with him at all or limited their business with him to small figures, yet he openly operated on a larger scale than any other person in the wheat pit, and for days and days, protected by puts and calls, actually controlled the price of wheat for this region by selling millions of wind to all who desired to buy.

Congressional Committees at Work.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—The conferees on the inter-state commerce bills, with the exception of Representative Crisp, who has not yet arrived, assembled to-day and spent some time in reading over the testimony taken upon the subject of inter-state commerce, preparatory to entering upon the discussion of the merits of the house and senate bills.

The house sub-committee on appropriations has made such progress on the sundry civil bill that no doubt is entertained that the measure will be ready for the consideration of the full committee next Monday morning.

The sub-committee on the District of Columbia is expected to have its bill ready for submission as soon as the sundry civil bill is reported to the house.

A Suburban Blaze.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 30.—At midnight last night Chief O'Connor received a message from Bay St. Louis, stating that the town was on fire and requesting that two engines be sent there. At 1:20 another message was received saying that the fire was under control. No particulars have been received.

Cutting Down Expenses.

BROOKLYN, Nov. 30.—Two hundred and sixty men were discharged from the department of construction and repair in the Brooklyn navy yard to-day.

DAKOTA DEMOCRATS FOR DAY

The Territory's "Trooly Loil" Unite on the Honorable Mike.

A BIG CHANGE IN SENTIMENT.

Cleveland's Action at Best Uncertain—Omaha's Delegation to Be Heard on the Supply Depot Scheme—Washington News.

The Dakota Governorship.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—There are a great many Dakota politicians in town this week and each one seems to be loaded with views on the governorship. There are very few, however, who are willing to say what they think and little news can be gained from any of the party. The impression is quite general here that the president will act upon Governor Pierce's resignation within a week. It is the almost universal belief among those who know anything at all about the subject that a brand new democratic governor will be nominated to the senate before that body shall have been in session one week. Upon one subject all parties seem agreed, that is, that a bona fide resident of the territory is to be chosen to administer its affairs. There is, too, a somewhat suprising unanimity of opinion as to who that man will be. Among those willing to say a word upon the subject, M. H. Day seems to be the man upon whom the democrats have united. "Squatter Governor" Ziebach is out of the race. His name has not been mentioned in connection with the office since he received the appointment of receiver of public moneys at the Yankton land office a year ago. Colonel Hughes East, register of land office, is here to-night. He is reticent about the governorship, but is willing to say that Ziebach has formally withdrawn and that he has transferred his strength and support to Mr. Day. It is rumored that Judge Church, of Huron, who was a member of the New York assembly while Cleveland was governor, and who received his present judicial appointment a few months ago, is Mr. Cleveland's first choice for the place. Church, however, seems to prefer judicial to gubernatorial honors, and has recommended Day for the appointment. Chief Justice Bartlett Tripp, a warm personal and political friend of Mr. Cleveland, is also among Day's backers, and he, too, is understood to have written a very vigorous and complimentary letter in support of Mr. Day's candidacy. A year ago, when Day was pegging away vigorously securing appointments for the faithful followers of the democratic standard, considerable opposition was developed to him. A delegation of the "trooly loil" visited Washington and made vigorous attempts to down the honorable Mike. But the attempt was a dead failure. The delegation left in disgust and Day remained to advise the appointing power of the desires of the Dakota democracy. To-day it is said all Day's former opponents are found among his supporters and he practically has the unanimous support of the Dakota democrats, both north and south of the proposed dividing line. Under ordinary circumstances Day might be pointed out as a sure winner in the present race. He certainly shows up well, but Cleveland delights to disappoint those who predict his probable action, and it is quite likely that he may select an Albany negro for governor of Dakota just to show the hated newspapers that they know nothing about his intentions.

PATENTS TO WESTERN INVENTORS.

Patents were issued for the following today: Peter C. Carstensen and I. A. Carstensen, Walnut, Ia., harrow; Charles C. Gilman, fire-proof compound, producing building material and making porous earthenware; Ashel Green, Norwich, Ia., fruit picker; Charles Ludwig, Reinbeck, Ia., windmill; Otto E. Weber, Burlington, Ia., thimble; Leander W. Wood, Fontanelle, Ia., faster for lacings; John A. Yarger, New Hampton, Ia., satchel strap.

THE INDIAN SUPPLY DEPOT.

Senator Van Wyck this morning received a telegram asking for delay in locating the Indian supply depot until the arrival of the Omaha delegation. He at once visited the interior department, and saw the commissioner of Indian affairs, who stated that the department is anxious to close the matter up at once, but will give the Omaha board of trade delegation a chance to be heard.

THE COMING NATIONAL DRILL.

Iowa's military companies are evincing a keen interest in the national drill to be held here in May next. General H. H. Wright, commanding the second brigade of the Iowa National guards, has written another letter to the secretary of the drill, and confirms his previously expressed intents mentioned in a BEE special to bring a picked batallion of Iowa companies and names the following as part of them: Davenport, Ottumwa, Muscatine, Des Moines, Shenandoah and Washington. The famous brigade band will accompany them and the champion Dubuque drum corps yesterday wrote, deciding to be present.

POSTAL CHANGES.

The following Iowa postmasters were appointed to-day: Thomas Stevenson, Delon, Cherokee county, vice S. Powell, resigned; Charles W. Shinman, Keystone, Benton county, vice C. W. Weldicke, resigned; James A. Harman, Shelby county, vice E. J. Trowbridge resigned; James F. Jordan, Monterey, Davis county, vice Mrs. Emma Hale, resigned; Michael Carney, sr., Peach, Buena Vista county, vice M. L. Cochran, resigned.

Also the following Nebraska postmasters: Henry C. Miller, Horton, Brown county, vice Henry L. Miller, to correct name: E. A. Heath, Nonpareil, Dawes county, vice John Bowen, resigned; Mrs. Lizzie Overholt, Ortello, Custer county, vice Mrs. Harriet A. Cooper, resigned; William McFate, Stop, Custer county, vice Frank Fechtman, resigned.

A postoffice has been established at Jericho, Chickasaw county, Iowa, and Judd E. Landon has been appointed postmaster.

William M. Dunham has been commissioned postmaster at Roca, Neb.: William E. Boyer, at Tracy, Ia., and Egbert B. Hill, at Latimer, Ia.

ARMY AFFAIRS.

Lieutenant Charles H. Cochrane, Seventh infantry, has been relieved from special duty at Omaha and ordered to his station at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming.

Army leaves granted: First Lieutenant John Conline, Ninth cavalry, Fort Niobrara, Nebraska, eleven days; First Lieutenant James Allen, Third cavalry, four months; First Lieutenant Wilber E. Wilden, Fourth cavalry, twenty days; Lieutenant James A. Goodin, Seventh infantry, four months' sick leave.

Army furloughs authorized: Private Peter Lux, troop G, Seventh cavalry, Fort Keogh, Montana, two months' extension; Private George W. Calvin, company I, Seventeenth infantry, Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming, four months' to go abroad.

PERSONAL MENTION.

This evening's Critic says: "Senator Van Wyck says he will continue the warfare on District monopolies this winter, and expects to accomplish something."

Senator Allison has failed to get his special committee on customs abuses together, and has given it up.

Senator Manderson arrived here to-day, and went on to New York.

G. L. Godfrey, of Des Moines, and Representative Hepburn, of Iowa, are in the city.

Some Appointments.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—The president made the following appointments to-day: Edward Cushing, to be collector of customs for the district of Belfast, Me.; Joseph E. Moore, collector of customs for the district of Waldoborough, Me.; Phillip W. Downes, general appraiser of merchandize for the port of Baltimore; William M. Neal, of Franklin, Ind., to be agent for the Indians of Lemhi agency in Idaho.

The Session Closed.

PESTH, Nov. 30.—The Hungarian delegation to-day finally passed all the items of the imperial budget and closed the session.

A GIGANTIC MONOPOLY.

A Combination to Advance the Price of Bituminous Coal.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The Herald this morning prints the following: There is to be an advance of 25 to 30 per cent in the price of bituminous coal. The price is to be put at a higher figure than it has reached in over three years. Two great combinations have been formed to control the entire soft coal output of the country. They have rules as rigid as cast iron and they have sent forth the edict "higher prices," and they have not only advanced prices, but they will say how much coal shall be mined, who will mine it, what railroad shall carry it and in what quantities and what the freight charges are to be. Every railroad and every manufacturer in the country will be affected by this gigantic scheme, meaning as it does an advance of 60 cents per ton in the price of all soft coal hereafter to be used in every furnace and engine in the United States. There are to be two new pools controlling the soft coal production. One—the Ohio pool—has just been formed. It will direct absolutely the output from the great coal fields of Ohio. The syndicate consists of the four coal-carrying railroads which control the transportation from that section—the Hocking Valley railroad, the Wheeling & Lake Erie railroad, the Toledo & Ohio Central railroad and the Panhandle division of the Pennsylvania system. These four companies are named in the order of their importance as coal carriers. Being in a position to dictate they called the big coal operators together last week and formed a combination. The railroads advanced freight rates on coal about 25 per cent., and said to the operators: "You must put up your price 30 cents a ton all around at once. Later, by about the 1st of January, you must advance another 30 cents. Then we will stop and consider whether consumers will stand a further raise. You must also restrict your mining so as not to over stock the market. We will carry so much coal for you and no more." Each of the four companies has fixed upon the amount of coal which it is estimated the market will stand, and the operators along its line have been notified that they must agree among themselves as to the relative percentage of the total allotment allowed by the company, for so strict have the railroads been in fixing allotments and the amounts which each operator can be permitted to mine, that the operators must prove how much coal they can sell by exhibiting their order books and their contracts. The headquarters of the Ohio pool are in Columbus, O. All the details of the programme have been arranged, and the first advance of 30 cents per ton has already been made. The other soft coal pool is known as the Buffalo pool. It consists of the three railroads which, like those in Ohio, control all the product which comes to Buffalo for a market—the Rochester & Pittsburg railroad, the Buffalo, New York & Philadelphia railroad, and the Erie railroad.

Business Failures.

CINCINNATI, O., Nov. 30.—Shipley, Dorsey & Co., wholesale dealers in dry goods at Fourth and Elm streets, assigned to-day to Sam C. Tatum. Murray Shipley, the senior partner, also made an individual assignment to the same person. The firm a month ago applied for an extension of time, and it was given them by the large majority of their creditors. A few, however, held out, and it was at last thought advisable to take this course. It is said their liabilities are about $800,000, with assets somewhat larger. The attorney of the firm says the assignment is a mere formality to enable the firm to arrange its affairs. Business will not be interrupted. The firm had become embarrassed by increasing its stock very considerably, and by slow collections. The bond of the assignee was fixed at $800,000, and for Shipley's property $50,000. Murray Shipley stated that he had been trying to form a joint stock company, so as to put the business on a new basis, but he failed, and the assignment was the next best thing. Creditors are mainly in New York, Philadelphia and Boston.

CHICAGO, Nov. 30.—The firm of F. A. Hill & Co., members of the Chicago board of trade, failed this morning. Attachments were taken out in the superior court against the firm amounting to $5,000, and garnishees to the amount of $2,000 were served on the Continental bank, where Hill & Co. had money on deposit.

MILWAUKEE, Nov. 30.—The wholesale millinery house of William Swale & Co., the oldest in the city, made an assignment this afternoon to Thomas Beecher. Assets estimated at $50,000; liabilities unknown.

Important Political Move.

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 30.—Green Smith, president pro tem. of the state senate and hold-over senator from Jennings county, today filed in the office of the clerk of the Marion circuit court a petition for an injunction to restrain the secretary of state from transmitting to the speaker of the house of representatives the result of the vote cast for lieutenant-governor at the recent election in this state. Smith is a democrat and temporary presiding officer of the senate, of which body he will become the actual presiding officer in case the courts hold that an election of lieutenant-governor was unnecessary to fill the vacancy caused by General Mason accepting a federal position. Robertson, republican, was elected lieutenant-governor at the recent election. The suit and its result will have an important bearing in the coming senatorial contest.

Estimating the Public Debt.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—It is estimated at the treasury department that the public debt statement to be issued to-morrow will show a decrease in the debt for the month of November of a little over $1,000,000. The small amount of the reduction is principally due to the fact that nearly $14,000,000 were paid during the month for pensions alone. The receipts during the month were about $27,000,000, and the disbursements about $24,000,000. In November last year the receipts were about $25,000,000 and the expenditures about $23,000,000. There was an advance of about $4,000,000 in the debt in November, 1885.

Damages for False Arrest.

MILWAUKEE, Nov. 30.—A sealed verdict in the case of William Kuhl vs. ex-Sheriff John Rugee and ex-Deputy Sheriff Greding was opened in court this morning, the plaintiff being awarded $5,000 damages. The award was made on the ground that Kuhl was detained in jail an unreasonable length of time before a warrant was issued against him and because he was not treated properly. Kuhl was arrested in the fall of 1881 on the supposition that he was the notorious Lou Williams. The arrest was made by Greding, at that time deputy sheriff. The verdict causes general surprise.

A Congressional Contest.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 30.—Hon. John M. Glover arrived this morning from Washington, and was immediately served with a copy of the notice and petition of Nathan Franks' contest for his seat in the fiftieth congress. The face of the returns from the district which Glover and Franks contested, gave the former a majority of 100. In the notice of contest Franks claims that he was actually elected by a majority of over 500 votes, and would have received the certificate of election had it not been for frauds committed on election day.

Discussing the Message.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—The president's message again formed the only subject of discussion at the meeting of the cabinet council to-day. All the members were present. It is understood that the message is complete with the single exception of that portion relating to naval establishments.

Fancy Stock Cremated.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Nov. 30.—Several barns on the stock farm of J. W. Allen, at East Syracuse, burned this morning. Fifty-seven head of fancy cattle were burned to death and a large amount of grain, hay and farming implements destroyed. Loss, $40,000.

MASON'S DISASTROUS FIRE.

Three Young Men Burned to Death in a Little Nebraska Town.

DUKE SIMPSON DEPARTS.

Otoe County's Defaulting Treasurer Starts for Nobesville—Shellenberger on Trial For Murder—A Bridge Washed Away.

Fatal Fire at Mason.

MASON, Neb., Nov. 30.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—This town is in mourning over a terrible catastrophe which occurred here last night and by which three lives were lost. Mackenderoff's large store building was discovered on fire during the night, but the fire gained such rapid headway that before it was possible to arouse the occupants or save the contents the whole structure was one mass of flames. On the second floor of the building were sleeping rooms occupied by Mr. Mackenderoff, proprietor of the store, his son, and J. J. Hoagland and Malcolm Miller. Mr. Mackenderoff was awakened in time to find all means of escape cut off except through the window, and only saved himself by jumping. In the fall he sustained severe injuries, having one of his legs broken. The other occupants of the building evidently did not awaken until surrounded by the flames and miserably perished without any assistance being able to reach them. The entire stock of merchandise was also completely destroyed, but the aggregate loss is not yet known. A. R. Londen's butcher shop, next to the ill-fated building, was also destroyed. The loss on the latter will reach $1,000, on which there is no insurance.

A terrible gloom has pervaded this little town all day over the frightful disaster. The three young men who perished were all well known, and their untimely death has caused deep-felt sorrow in every heart.

The Duke's Farewell.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., Nov. 30.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Sheriff McCallum took Duke W. Simpson to the penitentiary this morning, where he will put in the next four years of his life at hard labor. The parting scene between him and his wife and his little boy this morning is said to have been very affecting, by those who witnessed it. A choking sob, a last embrace, and Simpson was hurried from his cell to a hack in waiting, and driven rapidly to the depot. At the depot he again broke down, as his eyes met the gaze of many old acquaintances, and despite his efforts to control the tears came trickling down his cheeks as he walked to his seat in the car, using his best endeavors to conceal the steel bracelets that encircled his wrists. Permission from the sheriff, after he had been called upon by a large delegation of some of our prominent men, was granted to Mrs. Simpson and her little boy to stay last night in her husband's cell. It had been thought by some that Judge Pound would fix sentence at a lesser period, but to a BEE reporter yesterday evening he said he decided not to do anything more in the case and the public's opinion is that he acted wisely. The sheriff had not intended taking Simpson before Saturday next, and it was at Simpson's request that he left this morning, Simpson stating that he would feel safer in the penitentiary than here.

A statement, signed by Duke Simpson, appears in one of the evening papers tonight, in which Simpson claims his innocence, and says he thinks he knows the guilty parties, but has not sufficient proofs as yet to prove it. In conclusion he says he will shorten his sentence by good behavior, and when he returns he hopes to enjoy the same confidence and respect he once had. The statement by many is looked upon as rather gauzy as far as other parties being implicated in the embezzlement.

Boys With a Gun.

WILBER, Neb., Nov. 30.—The body of little Jimmie Mager, a nine year old, who disappeared from his home on Brush creek, nine miles west of this city, October 24, was found Sunday by a large party of searchers in a ditch on the farm of Mike Fittle, a few miles from his home. On the day of his disappearance the two Fittle boys, aged twelve and ten, with Jimmy, went hunting, and while standing near each other in a thicket the gun was discharged, the contents entering the heart of the Mager boy, killing him instantly. The Fittle boys, fearing punishment from their parents, carried the body and threw it in the ditch where it was found. Opinion is divided as to whether the shooting was accidental or intentional. The parents of the dead boy are crazed with grief.

The Shellenberger Trial.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., Nov. 30.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The case of the state vs. Lee Shellenberger, charged with the murder of his little daughter, was called in court this morning, Judge Pound presiding. The court room was densely packed, many ladies being present. The counsel for the defendant filed a motion for a change of venue, which was overruled by the court, and the work of impanelling a jury was commenced. It looks now as though a jury will not be got before to-morrow night. Over one hundred men summoned as jurors have been challenged for cause and the challenge sustained. The case is being hotly fought on both sides and is attracting large crowds. Court adjourned this evening at 6 o'clock until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Norfolk's Board of Trade.

NORFOLK, Neb., Nov. 30.—[Special to the BEE.]—The citizens of this place perfected an organization to be known as the board of trade at a late hour last night. Its object will be to promote and strengthen the material interests of the city. The following were elected as officers: President, N. A. Rainbolt; vice-president, J. L. Pierce; secretary, Wm. Gereck; treasurer, D. R. Daniel; executive committee: J. L. McClary, Dr. A. Bear, A. P. Pilzer, Herman Gerecke, or P. Schwenk, H. C. Brown, W. H. Widaman, together with president and secretary. The organization starts out with a membership of over one hundred.

Proud of Her Water Works.

COLUMBUS, Neb., Nov. 30.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The water works here are a grand success. The stand pipe was filled, holding 90,000 gallons. The water was turned into the mains and a test by gravitation had. Two streams were thrown and proved satisfactory. A further test was had by direct pressure of 125 pounds to the inch without a single flaw in the mains or hydrants being discovered. The citizens and contractors are jubilant at the prospect of escape from annoying law suits that have characterized so many of our neighbors who have invested in water works this season.

The Last Rites Performed.

KEARNEY, Neb., Nov. 30.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—To-day occurred the funeral of John East, oldest son of Judge East, who died Monday morning. The fire department was out in full force, headed by the band, and marched in procession to the grave. The large Presbyterian church was filled with sympathising friends to pay the last tribute to this young man so full of promise. He had just turned his twenty-first year, but during the fall campaign was one of the most gifted orators sent out here by the democratic party. He was preparing to enter the Michigan law school at an early date.

Fremont Will Bore For Coal.

FREMONT, Neb., Nov. 30.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—At a meeting of the board of trade last night a project for prospecting for coal was set on foot. A committee of five was selected to solicit stock for the company. Three thousand dollars have been raised to-day and the company will be organized at once. There is a good deal of enthusiasm among the business men and boring will be commenced in a few days. The machinery is now on the ground.

Urged to Raise Funds for Ireland.

LINCOLN, Neb., Nov. 30.—In view of the recent prosecution of Irish national leaders in Ireland President Fitzgerald, of the Irish National League of America, has addressed a circular to the state delegates of the league, urging them to proceed at once to the work of extending the league in every possible way throughout the states and provinces, and to devise means to promptly raise a fund in behalf of the cause.

A Bridge Carried Away.

COLUMBUS, Neb. Nov. 30.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The melting snow of yesterday had swollen the Loup Fork river, breaking up the ice, and to the dismay of our business men, the bridge across the Loup went out this morning, leaving only two spans. There were forty teams loaded with hogs on the other side when the bridge went out.

A Six-Year Old's Sad Death.

AUBURN, Neb., Nov. 30.—[Special to the BEE.]—George Whalen, a six-year old son of the section boss, was accidently killed by a Missouri Pacific freight train last night at 8 o'clock. He had his right arm and left leg cut off. The coroner's inquest this morning brought in a verdict of accidentally killing, and attached the blame to no one.

Kearney's Weather Station.

KEARNEY, Neb., Nov. 30.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—All citizens of Kearney rejoice over the fact that General Superintendent Smith, of the Union Pacific, makes this city one of the principal stations in the weather service bureau. It will be of great benefit to all and is highly appreciated.

A GREAT ENTERPRISE.

Forming Another Syndicate For the Atlantic & Mexican Canal.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—The Post says: A syndicate is in process of formation to carry out the plans of the Atlantic & Mexican Gulf Canal company, which received fresh charters this year from the legislatures of Georgia and Florida, together with grants of valuable lands and water power. The charters were issued to Governor George A. Drew, of Florida, and his associates, among whom are General Finlay, Florida; Judge H. H. Tompkins, Georgia, and Colonel Rogers, of the Georgia Central railway. Alexander Curtis, of Georgia, secretary, is now in this city on business connected with the composition of the syndicate. Curtis to-day gave an account of the company's project to the following effect: The route of the proposed canal has been surveyed by General Quincy A. Gillmore and assistant officers of the United States engineers, under a resolution of congress directing measures "to ascertain the cost of a water line for transportation from the mouth of St. Mary's river on the Atlantic coast, through Okeefenokee swamp and the state of Florida to the gulf of Mexico." The importance of the proposed canal as a national work was urged by President Grant in two messages to congress, in which he declared that, valuable as the opening of this great internal waterway would be in time of peace, its existence and custody in time of war would be absolutely of incalculable value to the nation. The surveys made by General Gillmore extended over two