THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

SIXTEENTH YEAR. OMAHA, TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 8, 1887. NUMBER 235.

BUT LITTLE BUSINESS DONE.

A Very Brief Session of the Lower House of the Legislature.

THE SNELL-M'KENNA CONTEST.

The Committee Favor Seating the Former, But the House Will Hear Testimony—Discussion on Keckley's Grain Bill.

Doings in the House.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 7.—[Special to the BEE.]—The house held a brief session this afternoon, demonstrating once more the impracticability of attempting a Monday session after an adjournment which permits members to go home. They cannot or will not return in time on Monday for serious consideration of business. About seventy members only answered to roll call, and when the order of final reading and passage of bills was reached all of the friends and opponents of measures upon which the house is closely divided were afraid to risk proceeding.

The speaker appointed as the special committee contemplated by Representative Miller's resolution calling for investigation into the status of insurance companies: Messrs. Miller, Fox, Newton, White and Tingle.

The following bills were introduced:

By Shamp.—To amend section 105, of chapter 16, of the compiled statutes, entitled railroad companies.

By Veach.—To provide for the assessment levy and collection of taxes from telegraph and telephone companies, providing the mode of procedure, and fixing penalties for a violation of the act.

By Ewing.—Defining the number of insertions of a legal notice in this state. Also—To repeal section 7, of article 3, of chapter 18, of the compiled statutes of Nebraska. Also—To provide for establishing an uniform rate for legal printing in this state.

By Bentley—For the relief of the heirs of Peter Campbell.

By Lord.—To provide for surveying lands and town lots, providing for payment of same and for making a lien on the town lot or lands so surveyed.

By Sullivan.—To amend section 241, of chapter 23, of the compiled statutes of the state of Nebraska of 1885, entitled miscellaneous officers.

By Peters—To relieve parties holding contracts for the purchase or lease of lands from this date without first having been offered for sale at public sale.

By Cameron—To prevent the fraudulent transfer of promissory notes and a penalty for violation of same.

By Raymond—To compel railroads in the state to furnish free transportation to members of the legislature and others therein specified. [This is after the Minnesota man's idea.]

By Miller—To repeal chapters 2 and 23 of the general statutes of Nebraska entitled "Insurance Companies," and chapters 16 and 43 of the compiled statutes of Nebraska entitled "Insurance Companies," and for their incorporation and the government of the same.

By White—To furnish full schedules in obtaining registration of cattle and other animals and to punish giving false pedigrees.

By Thornton—To amend sections 88 and 89 of chapter 12, compiled statutes of 1885, entitled "Injuries to Trees, Fruits and Vegetables."

By McCann—To establish a normal school at Chadron, Dawes county, Neb., and to provide for the building and maintenance of the same.

B. Fenton—To amend section 11 of chapter 18 of the compiled statutes of Nebraska entitled "Counties and County Officers."

By Cope—Providing for the establishment and government of the Nebraska Industrial Home and making appropriation therefor.

By Kenney—To abate public nuisances.

The committee on privileges and elections, through Mr. Russell, chairman pro tem., reported upon the contest of J. D. Snell for the seat in the house now occupied by Mr. McKenna of Sarpy county. The report was unanimously signed except by two members of the committee who were not present at the time of the investigation. Two of the committee signing it are democrats. It recommends that Mr. Snell be given the seat, as the committee found that he should have been accredited with 19 majority. By the returns by which Mr. McKenna was seated, his majority was 12. But the committee report that the best of evidence was presented to them showing that over thirty illegal votes were cast for him. The material question which came before the committee for determination was that of qualification of voters. Upon decisions by Justice Snow and Judge Story the committee reached the conclusion that the men who cast the alleged illegal votes were not residents of the county or state, being railroad laborers who had come from Illinois and Iowa and who had been in the state not to exceed forty days. They were challenged and swore in their votes, but subsequently refused to pay poll taxes upon the ground that they had paid them in other states and did not contemplate making Nebraska their place of residence.

Mr. Gafford moved that the report be referred back to the committee, alleging that he had been informed by Mr. McKenna that he was not present at the time the testimony was presented and the committee decided upon its action.

Mr. Russell said that it was true that Mr. McKenna was not present, but it was solely his own fault, because he had been notified by the committee, had once met with them and had then been told that the evidence would be taken on Friday night; whereupon he had remarked that he was ready to submit his case on the evidence which was already in the possession of the committee. Mr. Snell's attorney had been present before the committee, but had remained at their request, because they desired him to read the testimony, which was very voluminous. He made no argument and scarcely a statement of the case.

Mr. Newcomer here interposed, saying that very few members of the house had been aware up to that time that there was a contest for Mr. McKenna's seat. As he understood it, Mr. McKenna is a democrat and he (Newcomer) was recognized as one of the republicans who, because of their hide-bound characteristics, were known as "straights." But he was unwilling to do wrong even to a democrat (smiles), and he understood that Mr. McKenna had not been able to present his side of the case. The report of the committee sounded like a lawyer's argument. It had a far-away-Moses look. The house ought to know more about the case than it does now. He moved, therefore, as an amendment to the motion of the gentleman from Gage county (Mr. Gafford) that the report of the committee and the evidence be referred to committee of the whole, making it the special order of Friday.

This amendment was accepted by Mr. Gafford.

Mr. Miller favored the idea of presenting the subject to the whole house. He thought that it was unwise and dangerous to nullify the returns made by the local canvassers, when the alleged illegal voters had sworn in their votes.

Mr. Caldwell favored fair play and thought the whole house ought to investigate the matter.

Mr. Russell was glad that the gentlemen were desirous for a full investigation. The committee were not at all tender-footed. He only hoped the house would as thoroughly inquire into the matter as the committee had. Over four hours had been employed in hearing the testimony and deliberating on the question raised. A full and fair investigation would open the eyes of the house and the people to the infamous methods which had been practiced in Sarpy county and other counties, and by which men had been sent to the legislature who had been honestly defeated at the polls. It would show the legislature the necessity of an election law which would make it impossible for a few men to say to the people who should represent them.

Mr. Fox favored giving Mr. McKenna a hearing. That gentleman had been informed there was to be no meeting of the committee. A mistake existed somewhere.

The motion was carried without opposition.

The house adjourned.

NOTES.

The friends of a prohibitary amendment are busy in the endeavor to secure a majority for the submission bill. A number of lady lobbyists have invaded the house to-day.

The committe on claims will report favorably to allowing that of Maggie Primble for $2,000 to compensate her for loss of an arm in a washing machine at the penitentiary. The machine was not properly guarded, it appears, and the claimant, who has operated one before, asked for its repair before she was injured.

Senator Keckley's Grain Bill.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 7.—[Special to the BEE.]—When the senate took up in committee of the whole Mr. Keckley's grain bill, that gentleman made a strong argument in its behalf as he has done on previous occasions. He held that while it might be granted that no private corporation could be compelled to buy grain of a certain man or set of men, and at a certain price, at the same time it could be prohibited from saying to any man, "You must sell your grain to us at our price or we will make it impossible for you to sell at all." Such has been the action of the Nebraska Grain Dealers' association, and it was the intention of his bill to prevent such abuses. In support of his statements as to the irregular practices of the association he read from its constitution and by-laws where the design of the association was well illustrated, and it was made evident that this corporation was created to absolutely control the grain trade of the state, arbitrarily fix the prices, and ruin all dealers who would not submit to its demands. He showed that when an independent dealer attempted to operate at any of the railway stations he was blocked by the long delay in furnishing cars for his shipments, and in a majority of cases, the absolute refusal to provide such cars.

The strong lobby at work to defeat the measure had put its trust in the venerable senator from Dawson, Mr. McNamar, who asserted in his speech that he was a stock-raiser and grain-buyer, yet he felt constrained to oppose the bill. He forgot to say that he was also a lawyer, and forgot himself entirely when he admitted that the grain dealers of his district who opposed the bill were members of the association. He said: "This is a matter worthy of consideration. Taking for granted all that has been said in respect to the grain dealer; suppose that it is true that the grain dealers throughout the state of Nebraska have formed an association by which they can handle large quantities of grain, for which they, by means of handling large quantities, can get concessions in rates on railroads. Now is that found to be of any injury to the producer? While these statements show that there is an organization, it is but a concert of action between the grain dealers of this state in respect to the purchase of grain and the shipment of grain. Suppose that it is charged that they have an arrangement by which they notify each other of the prices of that association upon any given day or hour of the day—what they can afford to pay for grain at that time. That only fixes the price with that dealer on the market. It does not show that this board is governing prices of grain without regard to the market of that producer. If, as is stated, they rule that price arbitrarily without regard to the market price, then of course that cipher dispatch should be to the member to pay less than the market price. If, on the other hand, it does pay all the market price will justify, no point can be raised. There is reason for the presumption in favor of the market price. The bill says that they are organized. They can only succeed as an organization by the amount of business they do, and anything they telegraph in respect to the purchase is for the benefit of the individuals and all combined who are associated together in this grain deal. Now the reason for their paying the market price is for having the business to do, and their ability and facilities for handling the grain makes it fair to presume that they can buy more than any other person who is not so favorably circumstanced with respect to shipment of large quantities of grain. Now if it is true that this is an injury to the producer, it in no sense closes the market for the sale of his produce to any other person. He has still the right to sell to any other dealer who has the facilities of the single individual dealer for handling that grain and the shipment of it in this manner seems to be open to a kind of general partnership by which each individual member of the partnership has aided and assisted in getting a larger return for the money invested in the purchase of that grain by the cheaper mode of getting it to the seaboard than the single individual can have. That being true, and the volume of business which any institution does at a profit is the measure of its success, then it is reasonable that it would be to the advantage of this association to pay not only as much as any other person outside could, but more. If they pay more, then it makes a rivalry between the associated dealer and the non-associated dealer about the purchase of the product of the country, and that is just what the producer needs. He needs that kind of advantage so he may command the highest possible market price for the product of his labor. Then, instead of this association being an injury, it must result in benefit to the producer."

Mr. Keckley of York—"The senators will bear me out in the statement that they have been importuned and harrassed by men who are growing very tender in the interests of the producers of this state, and I undertake to say that the gentleman from Dawson knows entirely too much about the terms of that bill, should it become a law, to believe for one moment that a lower price of grain would be the result if this bill passes. The objection has been raised that men would be prevented by this proposed law from forming partnerships for the purpose of doing business. Now, that is not true. That bill will have no such effect, and I do not believe any gentleman on this floor believes it. There is nothing in the bill which would restrain any man in the transaction of a legitimate business. The objectionable feature of the constitution and by-laws of this association is that it establishes maximum rates to be paid for grain. I am aware of the fact that they are paying at the present time very nearly as much as they could possibly afford to pay for grain, for the reason that the grain could not be moved unless they should do so. I take this view of the question—if that committee should exercise the powers they have, they can hold prices down 3 or 4 cents, and it is human for men to make money in this way if they can. I ask that the bill be passed without amendment."

Mr. Higgins of Colfaxia—"I object to any man or class of men binding themselves together as an association and compelling me to ship or sell my produce through this channel. If I ship grain from Schuyler to-morrow I have to lose 2 cents per bushel. I am in favor of the bill."

Mr. Higgins of Cass—"I am in favor of this bill for the reason that I live in a portion of the country and represent a portion of the people who are interested in the passage of this bill. During the last year we have had only one railroad running through our county, and the elevator men have been building up elevators along that road. Just before the legislature met men came to Elmwood and commenced buying on the track and were paying 2 or 3 cents more per bushel than the elevator men were paying, but all at once the cars became scarce and they could not get any cars to move their grain. I had a lot of grain contracted for, but in order to get it had either to haul it in wagons or wait a week for cars. Finally, one of the track dealers was notified that the railroads could not handle his grain without it was shipped through the elevator. Hence the track dealers were crowded out. Down at Wabash there are two elevators. Another gentleman had the privilege of building a third elevator on the right of way of the railroad, had erected a foundation and had all the lumber on the ground, but because he refused to join this association the railroad cancelled his contract, and would not permit him to build. If three or five men can fix the price of grain in Omaha, under a bond of $500 to stand together, what chance has the producer to expect for any rise in the price of grain?"

Mr. Robbins of Valley—"When I first read this constitution and by-laws, I did not know the magnitude of the institution. I only want to call the attention of the senate to a few points and they can meet the others. It appears that this constitution was made to embody the sentiments and govern the actions of a secret organization. I am not opposed to secret organizations, but when it comes to a matter of this kind—of a business of large magnitude, members being bound down by restrictions for financial benefit in a line of action which seeks rather the restraint of the grain trade—I am in favor of some safeguard being placed around it."

Mr. Vandemark of Saunders made a rambling talk in opposition to the bill, introducing a written resolution upon the subject which was without point or effect.

Mr. McNamar said the legislature could not interfere with partnerships and could not legislate against private individuals—that would be outside the limits of the constitution with respect to what legislation is for.

Mr. Higgins of Colfax—"None of us are trying to hinder them buying grain. We want to stop them from hindering anybody else from buying grain."

Mr. McNamar—"But they are not trying to do that."

Mr. Higgins of Colfax—"When a set of men compel me to sell my grain to a certain man or not at all, I say that it is an outrage."

Mr. McNamar—"I say that if this legislature could legislate on that it could legislate to make you sell your grain to a certain man and at a certain price. It is beyond the reach of the legislature to lay its hands upon it and it is wisely so."

Mr. Meiklejohn of Nance—"Other states have taken up this question. I believe Illinois has regulated these grain associations and grain commissions. I do not know that I have sufficient knowedge to vote correctly on this subject. But I have given different grain men opportunity to talk with me on this question. They have been kind enough to show me statistics and records relative to this bill, and I have given them my time to get a fair understanding of the question, and, gentlemen, I may now draw my conclusions this far: That an association in the state of Nebraska having for its basis 1,500 elevators or thereabouts in the state, an association, whether they do it or not, which has the power to make prices on grain, is dangerous. I say that the power lies there—they may do it. Some of the gentlemen in this city showed me the comparative rates of 1885 and 1886, and I could not see a great difference, but the position I take is that that organization has the power to-day to fix the price of grain. Now I will not accuse the association in Omaha of having done that, but if the power lies there, that alone should be legislated upon."

Mr. Holmes, of Johnson—"I believe there is merit in this bill, but I desire to call the attention of the senators to this fact which has come to my knowledge—that the small grain dealers of this state are in favor of the maintenance of this grain dealers' organization. These small grain dealers are men who own single elevators. Every one of the men in our part of the state, so far as I know, have expressed themselves decidedly in favor of the maintenance of the organization."

Mr. Robbins—"Do they belong to the organization?"

Mr. Holmes—"Yes, sir; but they give their reasons." [Laughter.]

At this point the committee arose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again on the bill. It is next on general file, and will doubtless come before the committee of the whole Tuesday or Wednesday.

A FATAL FEUD.

Murder of a Benkleman Liveryman Over an Old Quarrel.

BENKLEMAN, Neb., Feb. 7.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Charles S. Richards shot and mortally wounded George McFarland. The shooting was the result of an old feud.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

McCOOK, Neb., Feb. 7.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—What will probably prove a fatal shooting affray took place at Benkleman to-day. An old man named Richards, and a livery man named McFarland, between whom bad blood has existed for some time, became engaged in a quarrel, and Richards shot the livery man, and it is thought that he is fatally injured. Richards was arrested and brought to Indianola for safe keeping, as Red Willow county has the only jail in this part of the state. A large crowd gathered and a lynching was imminent, but the sheriff got his prisoner safely on the train and to Indianola. Richards is also badly injured.

She'll Boom in the Spring.

STROMSBURG, Neb., Feb. 7.—[Special to the BEE.]—Stromsburg, always active, has every prospect of a regular boom with the opening of spring. Everything is in readiness to push the Kansas City & Omaha road south just as soon as the ground begins to thaw. Our business men will make strenuous endeavors to put in a system of waterworks, capitalists will be invited to consider our advantages for locating manufacturing interests, the railroad companies will build new depots, and everything put on a lively air. We are bound to grow. The elements are here that bespeak a prosperous city. Enterprise of the finest type, money fairly plenty, schools of the best, churches numerous and elegant, a people cultured, refined and energetic. We are bound to stand in the front of Nebraska's growing towns.

An Iowa Cleric Honored.

DAVENPORT, Ia., Feb. 7.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Bishop Terry has been invited by the Archbishop of Canterbury to preach the annual sermon before the venerable society for propagating the gospel in foreign parts at St. Paul's Cathedral on June 22. The venerable society was established in 1701, and for the greater part of the first century of its existence gave its special care to the introduction of the church into this country. The present year is the centenary of the sending of the first British colonial bishop, Doctor Charles Inglis, formerly of Trinity church, New York, to Nova Scotia, and the celebrating of this event will be a noticeable feature of the venerable society's anniversary. The only American bishop who has preached before the society on its anniversary is the bishop of Ohio.

Will Be Tendered the Place.

TAMA CITY, Ia., Feb. 7.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—It is reported here that on the retirement of Chancellor Ross of the law department of the State university next June, the place will be tendered to William G. Hammond of the St. Louis law school. Chancellor Hammond was the founder of the law school here and his return to his old place would cause much rejoicing.

Suffocated in a Well.

DES MOINES, Iowa, Feb. 7.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Mr. William Holm has been digging a well just outside of the city. This afternoon he was obliged to do some blasting, and after firing a blast went down in the bucket, but was overcome by foul gases and fell out of the bucket and suffocated before help could be secured.

Stormy Jordan Again Jailed.

OTTUMWA, Ia., Feb. 7.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Stormy Jordan is in jail again on a $1,000 fine for contempt.

Nebraska and Iowa Weather.

For Nebraska and Iowa: Generally fair weather; lower temperature.

They Want His Gore.

BALTIMORE, Md., Feb. 7.—Anderson Perry (colored), acquitted of participating in the murder of Emily Brown, an old white woman, was released from prison at 11 o'clock to-day and went to a house in Cedar alley, a short distance from the Maryland university of medicine, where he was employed. As soon as his appearance in the neighborhood was known the house where he stopped was surrounded by several hundred colored people, who threatened to take his life as soon as he had made his appearance on the streets. A squad of police soon dispersed the crowd, but the colored people are armed and for some time at least it will be dangerous for Perry to go out alone. They fully believe he has murdered many persons and sold their bodies for dissection.

Killed by Blasting Powder.

ST. PAUL, Feb. 7.—Yesterday morning while a crew of men were at work in an excavation near the stock yards in West St. Paul, a charge of blasting powder was prematurely discharged, which resulted in the death of two laborers, Henry Preston and Jence Monson, and a serious injury to Carl Monson.

Clothing House Failure.

STUART, Ia., Feb. 7.—Mr. P. Ryan, proprietor of the oldest clothing house in this city, has made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors. Liabilities, $16,000; assets, estimated from $20,000 to $25,000.

THE TWENTY MILLION TWINS.

Passage By the Senate of the Ordnance and Fortifications Bills.

NOT ONE WORD OF DISSENT.

A Very Pernicious Policy Persisted in By the House—Another Duel on the Tapis—National Capital News.

The Senate's Sensible Action.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The senate in about five minutes, without a word of debate and no questions asked, passed two bills this afternoon which appropriate $20,000,000 for the national defense. The money is to be expended for guns and fortifications, under the directions of the navy and war departments. It is a well considered measure, however, and is the result of the work of the joint commission appointed by the last con ress, of which Senator Hawley was chairman. They studied the question at length and took several hundred pages of testimony from experts. These bills were reported to the house and senate, both at the last session, but there is considerable doubt as to whether the former will agree to the amount appropriated. There is now a bill in conference which appropriates about $6,000,000 for rehabilitating our coast fortifications, and there is small prospects of agreement. The difficulty is, not whether we shall have coast protection, but what sort of a protection it shall be. There are half a dozen men with designs which they want adopted and no one of them can see merit in the plans of the other. They are clamoring around the committee room and simply trip each other up.

WAS IT ON DR. MILLER'S REPORT.

Consul General Porch, of Mexico, was removed to-day and E. C. Moore, of Missouri, appointed in his place. Porch is a young man about twenty-two or twenty-three years of age, from St. Joe, Mo. His father is a person of influence, and when Senator Cockrell's brother-in-law, Ewing, resigned the office the senator recommended young Porch. The latter is the man who telegraphed the secretary of state about the escapade of Sedgewick and afterward reported at headquarters about Minister Manning's grand drunk. General Jackson, of Georgia, late minister to Mexico, whose correspondence with Mr. Bayard has been called for by the senate and has not been furnished, as it probably will not be, is in the city and says that Mr. Porch is removed because he is his (Jackson's) friend. The facts about the matter, as nearly as can be ascertained from all sources, are that young Mr. Porch is too fresh. He lacks discretion. He was safe in telegraphing Mr. Bayard that Sedgewick was drunk and disgracing the government, but when he communicated the information about Minister Manning he said too much. Mr. Manning naturally does not want such a fellow about him, and the weaker vessel has to give way. But from all accounts Mr. Moore, who is appointed in the place of Porch, will be no improvement. He is a farmer, about fifty years old, living at Columbia, Mo., with some money and an ambition to come to congress. He has been a standing candidate for the democratic nomination ever since the war and has always failed to get it. The member from his district wants to kick him out of the way, so he is sent to the City of Mexico as secretary of legation. Those who know Moore say he is a pretty nice old fellow, but no more fit for the place than to be director of an astronomical observatory. He would make a fair inspector under the pleuro-pneumonia bill and knows what is good for hog cholera, but as secretary of legation he is very much out of his element.

FATED TO DIE.

Mr. Payson told me this morning that he did not think there could be any agreement between the house and senate on the bill to forfeit the lands of the Northern Pacific railroad. The house conferees insisted that all the lands west of Bismarck should be forfeited, and the senate wanted to confirm to the road everything but a few million acres on the Pacific coast. Neither would yield, and so the bill would go under.

The bill to repeal the pre-emption law will suffer the same fate. There is too much zeal on both sides, and curiously enough the fight is over what should not have been put in the bill any how. The measure simply should be a repeal of the pre-emption and timber culture act, but both houses have loaded on a lot of regulations for the conduct of the land office. The main question at issue is whether Sparks shall be an autocrat or whether there shall be an appeal from his decision to the courts.

A CALL FOR REFORM.

Some time ago Representative Taulbee, of Kentucky, introduced a resolution in the house calling on the secretary of the treasury to know if there were not employes in his department who secured substitutes at a less salary than they received. A reply was returned to the house which threw no light upon the subject, and if there is speculation in salaries at the treasury department, as is alleged, congress is powerless, in the light of affairs now, to act. It is charged by persons who claim to know what they are talking about that quite a large number of persons hold positions in the departments, and by hiring substitutes at one-half of the salaries do not have to perform the duties, and make half as much money as those who perform the labor. It is alleged that a system of this sort has been in operation for years, and that it is worse now than at any time in the past. An original appointee appears occasionally in his or her place and sees that things are going along smoothly, and some times does the work for a few days; but they have other business and make the official position one of speculation. "If Mr. Taulbee would introduce a similar resolution, calling upon the doorkeeper of the house, he would get some information which would be of value to him," said a gentleman at the capitol yesterday. "I know of my own knowledge of three or four places which have been filled by proxy for months, and I am not sure but that those months are years. The substitutes get about one-third or half of the salaries the positions pay. A resolution might develop a large number of these substitute places. But since these places are political ones it is no violation of law to do as is being done, and I am not surprised at its being winked at."

PUBLIC BUILDING CONTRUCTION.

"The passage of the Mexican pension bill and the demand for coast defenses and a new navy will cut off the practice of constructing government buildings throughout the country," said a member of the house committee on public buildings and grounds this morning. "Congress has been in the habit of making appropriations for public buildings at cities of about 23,000 inhabitants and sometimes under, but that will not be in the future. The president has been vetoing bills for cities which have not United States courts and other institutions maintained by the government; but the citizens of those places wanting public buildings have been instituting terms of court for the sole purpose of overcoming this presidential objection. I believe that the day is not far distant when all second-class postoffices, yes, third-class postoffices, will have buildings constructed by the government; but it will be after we have coast defenses and a navy. We can build these at a cost of a hundred millions, and recover from the outlay within a decade. Then the public building business, which is a popular way of making government investments, will begin anew."

There are on the calendar of the house a number of public building bills which are being urged for passage, but one hears on every hand just such protests and arguments as the above, and the chances are very slim for anything being done with them. The demand for defenses against a hostile nation is such now that it cannot be overlooked. Members of both houses realize that the next congressional campaign will take up as an issue the subject of defenses and that it will go hard with those who have record against it.

AN ELEVATOR FOR SENATORS.

It is announced to-day that the long talked of elevator on the east end of the capitol, on the senate side, will soon be in operation. With the announcement comes the assurance that the one at present used by senators, newspaper men and the general public will, after the new one gets going, be exclusively reserved for senators. This senatorially autocratic regulation is said to be the suggestion of the great American Mikado, the white-bearded Sullivan from Vermont, who at present has a private signal with which to summon the elevator. This signal is three quick rings of the electric bell-summons. It was discovered by an observant newspaper man the other day, and his discovery publicly proclaimed, and since its publication every newspaper man in the senate gallery duplicates the call and the elevator comes to him with the rapidity of a catapult. The Cæsarism of some of the senators is of a pretty thin quality. The faintest journalistic puncture withers it.

A PERNICIOUS POLICY.

It has been noticed for years that no matter which political party is in power in the lower branch of congress, the house invariably adopts the policy of cutting down the appropriations so as to make a deficiency certain, unless the senate adds to the original bill before it is sent to the president. There is no exception to the rule. The legislative bill which has just been perfected, for it should become a law, would certainly result in a heavy deficiency before the close of the fiscal year. It will no doubt be considerably amended by the senate and Mr. Randall, who controls all the appropriations knows this as well as any man. A senator who has been in congress for a great many years said to-day in speaking of this subject: "The time is coming when the senate will not be made a cat's paw for the house in raking the financial chestnuts out of the treasury. Within the past few months there has been a decided disposition on the part of my colleagues to take the opposite course from that which has been followed in the past, and I think that if the house in the next congress appropriates sums for the conduct of the government known to be inadequate the senate, instead of increasing them to something near to the estimates of the executive branch of the government, will instead inaugurate a policy of the so-called reform and will cut down each bill still more. This would be the most effective way of curbing Mr. Randall and his immediate associates, and you expect to see it debated during the existance of the Fiftieth congress."

PLEASANT LAWYERS.

The attorneys for the Bell telephone company are exceedingly jubilant over the success which they have thus far attained. They assert that the other companies have fortified the bill by the arguments of counsel, and not only have they injured themselves in the supreme court of the United States, but they have also given the Bell company points which will be invaluable in defending the government suit against the patent in Boston. The attorneys for other companies, however, are not disposed to take this view of the situation, but they feel confident that one or two of the opposing instruments will certainly be declared not to be infringed upon by the Bell patent.

BLOODTHIRSTY LEGLATORS.

Besides the expected fight between General J. Floyd King, of Louisiana, and Mr. Cuthbert B. Jones, of the same state, those who follow the believers of the code have now another affair to attract their attention. Some days ago a congressman from Glover, who has been at loggerheads with Senator Vest, wrote the latter a very severe letter in which he intimated that the august senator was the wearer of a senatorial toga which hangs loose upon him "like a giant's robe upon a dwarfish thief." Senator Vest refused to take any notice of the insult, and the congressman decided to rub it in upon him. He has therefore caused the letter to be printed in the form of a circular and has employed boys to distribute the circulars in all the public places and in the lobbies of the hotels here. Glover's friends say that he is anxious and ready to meet the senator whenever and wherever that gentleman may intimate, but they also intimate that Vest will not dare to notice the slur which he (Glover) has cast upon the fair name of the stubby little man from the wilds of Missouri. Still those who take great interest, and there are many of them, in affairs of this kind are on the qui vive for a bloodthirsty encounter if only the senator can be urged to notice his traducer.

PRIVATE CLAIM LEGISLATION.

An effort was made in the house to-day to pass, under suspension of the rules, a general bill referring to the court of claims all private claims against the United States for examination and findings of facts in each claim so presented, the same to be reported to congress on the first Monday of each December. The measure presented was a substitute for a bill now pending and objection was made to it upon the ground that the measure proposed had not been printed and its exact scope and meaning could not therefore be known to members who were thus summarily called upon to pass upon it. After unsuccessful efforts to have a day fixed for consideration of the bill the motion to suspend the rules was rejected. It is generally recognized that legislation is demanded to remove private claims from congress to the court where they can be judicially examined and their merits determined, but it was feared that the measure proposed to-day was too comprehensive and that it would remove all limitation upon claims barred by the statutes as well as those heretofore rejected by the courts and the accounting officers of the treasury. During the brief discussion to-day it was shown that in the past twenty-five years the cost of printing private bills introduced in congress and reports upon the same was over $400,000. Many of the private bills now on the calendars of the house have been introduced at every session since 1885. Aside from the expenses for printing these private bills, it has been stated that if the time spent by congress at every session in the consideration of private and domestic claims was reduced to dollars and cents, it would be found that these expenses are equal to the claims allowed, and probably to the sum claimed in those rejected. Something should be speedily done to relieve the treasury of this enormous annual expense, and at the same time give claimants an opportunity to establish in the courts the justice of their demands.

A SOLDIERS' BILL.

A bill was introduced in the house to-day which attracted a good deal of favorable comment, and the BEE correspondent believes it can be passed at the next session if it is introduced. It provides that any honorably discharged loyal soldier in any of our wars may purchase at $1.25 an acre 160 of land in the public domain and hold it without being obliged to live on it.

MILLER TO THE MORMONS.

It was stated upon very good authority here to-day that Dr. Miller, of Nebraska, was recently sent by leaders of the democratic party to Utah to make a political compact with the Mormon church.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC WORKS.

The house committee on public buildings and grounds to-day agreed to recommend the passage of a bill appropriating $100,000 for a public building at Hastings.

Murphy introduced in the house this afternoon a bill authorizing the Clinton and Illinois Bridge company to construct a wagon bridge over the Mississippi river at Clinton, Iowa.

PENSION MATTERS.

Pensions granted Nebraskans to-day: Avilla J., widow of Isaac N. Shaw, Tecumseh; Silas Sprague, Lincoln. Increase of Pensions: Calvin D. Smith, Newport; John Scanlin, Phillips; Robert J. Butts (reissue), Turner; Teptha D. Cook (reissue), Franklin; George R. Wilson, Solon; Hiram B. Holett (increase), Brainard.

Pensions granted Iowans: Amelia E., widow of James Bell, Bevington; Gilbert Usher, Battle Creek; Robert B. Bond, Malcom; Joseph D. Davis, Patterson; John H. Bella, Randalia; Charles H. Barr, Lamoni. Increase of Pensions: L. M. Doty, Le Mars; Henry Ruprecht, London; Amos Dewater, Elkhart; Isaac C. Allen, Attica; Elbert Spencer, Pittsburg; Moses Demarce, Delta; Joel Kelly (reissue and increase), Dumont; Nathaniel D. Rush, Ainsworth; John Gray, Ashton; Geo. W. Lyman, Corinth; James F. Holmes, Burlington; James E. Saunders, Guernsey; James P. Morgan, South Des Moines; Francis M. Kyte, Osceola; George A. Baker, Seimo.

POSTAL CHANGES.

The following Iowa postmasters were appointed to-day: Frederick Lanz, Franklin, Lee county, vice Mrs. C. Rancher, removed; Mrs. Emma Dennemtz, Jackson Centre, Webster county, vice Mrs. L. J. Hollingsworth, resigned; Wm. E. Clark, Oakland Mills, Henry county, vice E. O. Pinson, resigned; Mrs. Kattie J. Slucher, Primrose, Lee county, vice Elizabeth C. Buckels, removed; J. W. Stromberg, Rosco, Des Moines county, vice L. C. Hull, resigned.

The name of the postoffice at Schell, Nuckolls county, is changed to Lawrence.

MILITARY MATTERS.

First Lieutenant H. S. T. Harris, assistant surgeon, has been ordered from Texas for duty.

First Lieutenant John W. Summerhayes, quartermaster, Eighth infantry, has been ordered to Omaha by General Crook on special business.

In the department of Texas, Hospital Stewards Richard Dare, at Fort Davis; H. Leslie Haven, at Fort Clark, have been ordered to exchange posts.

Army leaves granted: Major C. M. Terrill, chief paymaster department of the Platte, one month from February 5 with permission to apply for one month's extension; Captain Thadeus S. Kirtland, Seventh infantry, Camp Pilot Butte, Wyoming, one month, with permission to apply for ten days' extension.

PERSONAL NOTES.

John C. Shea, of Omaha; William W. Quinvey, of Plainview, Neb.; Elmore P. Campbell, of Broken Bow, Neb., and Henry Mitchell, of Dubuque, Ia., were to-day admitted to practice before the interior department.

George H. Gedultez, of Falls City, has been appointed an internal revenue storekeeper for the Nebraska district.

CLEARINGS RECORD.

The Business of the Country as Shown by the Banks.

BOSTON, Feb. 7.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The following table, compiled from reports received from the managers of leading houses of the United States, gives the gross exchanges at each point for the week ending February 5, 1887, as compared with those of the corresponding week in 1886, as follows:

CITIES.	CLEARINGS.	Increase.	Decrease.
New York	$ 668,272,421	....	13.9
Boston	70,162,470	....	11.4
Philadelphia	60,773,520	7.9	....
Chicago	51,055,000	1.8	....
St. Louis	16,341,183	5.4	....
Baltimore	15,882,999	40.8	....
San Francisco	12,176,108	8.8	....
Cincinnati	11,755,265	23.1	....
New Orleans	10,610,000	4.2	....
Pittsburg	9,556,150	20.5	....
Kansas City	6,792,888	53.2	....
Louisville	6,132,870	2.0	....
Omaha	**4,836,027**	**48.6**	
Providence	4,348,100	3.1	....
Milwaukee	4,273,000	11.7	....
Denver	3,739,951	14.9	....
Detroit	3,680,631	11.9	....
Indianapolis	3,211,479	16.3	....
Cleveland	3,028,500	18.2	....
St. Paul	2,995,000	6.0	....
Minneapolis	2,883,515	17.0	....
Memphis	2,514,082	34.0	....
Hartford	2,016,221	7.7	....
Columbus	1,977,509	23.3	....
*Wichita	1,705,000	....	....
New Haven	1,593,862	1.6	....
St. Joseph	1,112,520	45.3	....
Galveston	1,109,115	....	20.4
Peoria	1,053,998	42.2	....
Portland	967,523	11.7	....
Worcester	908,819	14.8	....
Springfield	894,235	12.9	....
Lowell	655,933	31.9	....
Syracuse	591,223	....	5.3
Grand Rapids	400,150	1.4	....
Total	$ 966,475,016	....	8.4
Outside New York	328,202,595	5.5	....

*Not included in totals; no clearing house at this time last year.

THE STOCK MARKET.

A Strong Opening Followed By a Weak Close.

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The stock market presented a very strong appearance on the opening to-day. The London market was higher all around for American securities, and this circumstance was taken advantage of by the bulls, who easily advanced the active specialties ½ to ¾ per cent. The chief interest, however, centered in St. Paul, which was boomed by the clique formed a few days ago for the purpose of driving the shorts to cover. It was claimed that 75,000 shares of the stock had been bought by the pool and that the intention was to lift the price to 98. Notwithstanding all the bull talk, it was noticed that the market was full of stocks, although there was heavy selling pressure. Offerings, however, soon became too large for buyers and prices began to crumble away. Lake Shore, St. Paul, Reading and Louisville & Nashville declined steadily until about all of the early advance had been lost. The strike news was less sensational than for some time. The coal roads claimed to be doing an average amount of business with the new men. Richmond Terminal showed a good deal of activity and specialists in it said it would be the next big bull card. At noon the market presented a rather fixed appearance, but the bulls claimed that the scalpers on the long side would take money for the next six months without taking much risk. The market settled down materially during the closing hour. It was reported that all efforts to compromise with the strikers on the coal roads had failed and a general strike on the Reading was predicted for to-morrow. This made the dealers very weak. The whole market eased off in sympathy and closed at about the lowest point of the day. The total sales were about 358,000 shares.

CONGO FALLS' CAPTURE.

Captain Deane Tells of the Attack and Fight.

LONDON, Feb. 7.—From an interview with Captain Deane, who was in charge of Stanley Falls on the Congo river during the recent successful attack by the Arabs, and who is now in London, it appears that he and Lieutenant Dubois defended the place until their ammunition was exhausted. The Arabs then attacked the station with a rush and carried everything before them. When the whites found it necessary to fly, Deane ordered petroleum poured on the building and set fire. Their party escaped through the underwood. He and Dubois fell from a slippery rock into the river. Deane swam ashore, leaving Dubois clinging to the rock. While Deane was seeking assistance for Dubois the latter became exhausted and fell away from the rock and was drowned. Deane fled into a jungle, where he was hunted and tracked by the Arabs for a month. He was barefooted and all the time had only a blanket to cover him. He was wounded in the thigh and arm and lived on locusts and wild fruit until found and rescued by friendly natives.

Madrid Lunatics.

MADRID, Feb. 7.—Great alarm has been caused by the frequent murderous attacks upon pedestrians in the streets at night. Seven persons have been killed or badly wounded in less than a month. The victim is always attacked from behind with a knife and never recognizes the assassin. The police reject the theory of robbery as the mot